

Conflict of Interest Policy for Stem Cell Research Oversight Committee Members

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to identify, evaluate and manage conflicts of interest of the Stem Cell Research Oversight Committee (SCRO) members that may affect decision-making by the member in the review of research protocols. This policy places restrictions on participation in the review process by SCRO members who have a conflict of interest, as defined in this policy.

Policy

- I. A SCRO member may not participate in the review of any research protocol in which the member has a conflict of interest, as defined in this policy, except to provide information at the SCRO's request.
- II. Any SCRO member with a conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest in a research protocol under review by the SCRO or in any SCRO business must disclose the conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest to the SCRO Chair and leave the room during the discussion of the protocol and the related vote, except if the member is providing information at the SCRO's request or unless the SCRO by majority vote determines that the individual does not have a conflict.
- III. When a disclosure of a conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest occurs, the minutes of the SCRO meeting will reflect the disclosure which was made, the nature of the conflict of interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, the committee's decision as to the disposition of the matter, the names of the members present for the discussion and vote, and the final determination of the matter.

Definitions

A. *A Conflict of Interest*

1. A SCRO member has a *conflict of interest* with respect to a protocol when:
 - a. A SCRO member, or an immediate family member of the SCRO member, is serving as a principal investigator or co-investigator in the protocol.
2. A SCRO member has a *potential conflict of interest* with respect to a protocol when:
 - a. A SCRO member, or an immediate family member of an SCRO member, has a personal relationship that may cause bias or creates the appearance of bias by the member in the review of the protocol.

b. A SCRO member, or an immediate family member of a SCRO member, has a financial interest in a business entity that (a) sponsors the study or (b) owns or licenses a technology tested in the study or has a leadership position in the business entity.

B. *A financial interest* is anything of monetary value as follows:

1. Compensation of \$5,000 or more in a calendar year from a business entity.
2. An ownership or equity interest valued at \$5,000 or more or a 5% or greater equity interest in a publicly traded business entity.
3. An ownership interest in a privately held business entity.

C. *A leadership position in a business entity* includes service as an officer, member of the board of directors, or in any other position of trust, confidence, and responsibility for a business entity, whether or not the investigator receives compensation for such service.

D. *A principal investigator* is responsible for the planning, design, or publication of research.

E. *A co-investigator* shares at least some of these responsibilities with a principal investigator.

F. *An immediate family member* includes spouse, domestic partner, and/or dependent children.

Procedure

- I. When a SCRO member receives materials before a meeting, the member has the responsibility to review the list of protocols with the issue of conflicts of interest in mind and disclose any potential issue to the SCRO chair in advance of the meeting when possible. Early disclosure permits the SCRO to seek to assure a quorum for review.
- II. The SCRO Chair will provide each SCRO member with guidance on the conflicts of interest policy applicable to SCRO members.