

Session Title: “Managing Conflicts of Interest: Building Trust and Improving Outcomes”

Session Duration: 1.0 Hours

Number of Required Questions: 6

Number of Speakers: 2

Speaker 1: Michelle Svatos

Presentation Title: Exploration and case studies of managing conflicts of interest in research and development

Synopsis:

AAPM as a professional organisation requires that its members “must strive to be impartial in all professional interactions, and must disclose and formally manage any real, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest.” Conflicts of interest arise in situations where a member is in a fiduciary relationship with one or more other persons, or when a member’s financial or professional self-interest differs substantially from the interest of others engaging in the same task. The concern with conflicts of interest in research and development arises because of the possibility that such conflicts may erode objectivity and engender the loss of public trust. This presentation will discuss the challenges in identifying and managing conflicts of interest when engaging in research and development, especially when this has ties in industry. Conflicts arising in areas such as funding, technology transfer and incentives will be discussed. Practical scenarios will be presented and analysed.

Question Set 1:

1: A conflict of interest is

- a. A situation in which one’s position of trust is compromised by virtue of relationships with other parties and/or by self interest
- b. A situation in which a person is using his position of influence to affect outcomes
- c. A situation in which one’s position is threatened by the interests of their peers
- d. A situation more likely to occur when working in industry

Answer: a

Reference: AAPM PP24-D

2: Examples of conflicts of interest include:

- a. Self-dealing, i.e. using one’s position for personal benefit alone
- b. Influence peddling, i.e. accepting benefits in return for using one’s position to advance the interests of a particular party
- c. Using confidential information, i.e. using information one is privy to due to their position for personal benefit
- d. All of the above

Answer: d

Reference: Ethics and Conflict of Interest by Michael McDonald, UBC 29/4/2019
<https://ethics.ubc.ca/people/mcdonaldconflict-htm/>

3: A good conflict of interest statement:

- a. Includes the value of the individual's monetary compensation
- b. Includes past and present funding and/or other resources related to the task/project
- c. Includes autobiographical information
- d. Excludes the end-of-year performance related bonus

Answer: b.

Reference: Institute of Medicine. 2014. *Conflict of Interest and Medical Innovation: Ensuring Integrity While Facilitating Innovation in Medical Research: Workshop Summary*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/18723>.

Speaker 2: K. Sunshine Osterman

Presentation Title: "Exploration and case studies of managing conflicts of interest in research and development"

Synopsis:

A conflict of interest is a situation in which one's position of trust with a party is actually, or potentially, compromised by virtue of relationships with other parties and/or by self-interest. This presentation focuses on the environment of clinical practice where motivations other than financial ones may present conflicts of interest. Such motivations are more difficult to identify, much less evaluate, than financial conflicts and hence less likely to be amenable to direct regulations. Resource allocation, patient prioritization, and clinical research are some areas where conflicts of interest may arise in clinical practice. Methods of identifying and models for managing these conflicts will be presented and discussed using practical scenarios.

Question set 2:

4: What is a perceived conflict of interest?

- a. All conflicts of interest are perceived
- b. A potential conflict of interest that appears substantial enough to compromise the ability of a professional in the fulfillment of their public duty
- c. A conflict of interest that has not been declared
- d. There is no such thing. Only actual conflicts of interest exist.

Answer: b.

Reference: Conflict of interest examples and actions guideline. Monash University. 29/4/2019 https://www.monash.edu/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/1248489/Conflict-of-Interest-Examples-and-Actions-Guideline.pdf

5: Conflicts of interest must be:

- a. Avoided
- b. Disclosed
- c. Managed
- d. All of the above
- e. B & C only

Answer: e

Reference: AAPM PP24-D

6: Which of the following are examples of conflict of interest in medicine:

- a. The provision of unnecessarily complex treatment for the benefit of gaining experience in a technique
- b. The prioritization of the treatment of a colleague's family member
- c. The delay of a medical procedure to attend urgent personal business
- d. All of the above

Answer: d

Reference: Institute of Medicine. 2009. *Conflict of Interest in Medical Research, Education, and Practice*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/12598>