

Evidence-Based Toxicology Declaration of Interests Form

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Guidance Notes

Our approach at EBT to the declaration and management of interests is different from most other scientific journals: we ask authors to declare interests, identify conflicting interests, then explain how conflicting interests were managed. Please read the following carefully.

- (1) An *interest* is any commitment, obligation, duty or goal associated with a particular social role or practice. For example, the interests that relate to running a lab, owning a company, being a shareholder, representing a charity, or being a PhD researcher will in many ways be different.
- (2) Interests may be financial or non-financial in nature.
- (3) A *conflict of interest* arises when serving one interest could involve working at the expense of another interest.
- (4) Having an interest is not the same thing as having a conflict of interest. For example, to be qualified for a job it is usually necessary to have an interest in the work.
- (5) Whether a conflict of interest exists is a fact about a relationship between interests. It is not an indicator of intent or state of mind, and does not in itself indicate any lapse in judgement or moral error. The presence of conflicts of interest is independent of the occurrence of inappropriate behavior.
- (6) Conflicts of interest matter because they have the potential to disrupt or compromise decision-making in a research project - they put researchers in a position where they have to choose between their own interests and the interests of the project. Conflicts of interest therefore need to be identified and managed in order to preserve the integrity of decision-making when doing research.
- (7) The purpose of declaring interests is to provide editors, peer-reviewers, and readers of a manuscript the information they need to evaluate how effectively the authors of said manuscript have managed their interests in relation to their research goals.
- (8) Contributors to a research project should declare all the interests that a reasonable person would want to be aware of, in order to be confident that the interests that relate to the submitted work are known about, can be assessed for conflicts, and the conflicts then appropriately managed.
- (9) It is unlikely that someone with no interests in relation to a project would still be interested in being involved in a project. Declaring no interests is therefore unlikely to be a valid response to the questions in this form.
- (10) Interests that cannot contractually be declared need not be described in detail but their existence must be noted. If the contract specifies that not even the presence of a contractual limitation can be declared, the author should state they are unable to complete the form.
- (11) The authors' approach to managing any identified conflicts of interest should be described in the methods or other appropriate section of their manuscript. If the declared interests are determined not to be in conflict, the authors should make this explicit and state that no measures were necessary for managing the declared interests. If there are conflicts of interest that the authors have not managed, this should be explained in the limitations section of the manuscript.

Author information

Name:

Date: Date

Title of manuscript:

Contribution to the Publication

Please agree this with the senior authors and describe in CRediT format if possible

[Insert contribution here]

Interests

Please select "Yes" or "No" next to any interests below that are relevant to your situation

Financial interests		Non-financial interests	
Do you, your family, close relations or acquaintances, currently have, have had in the last 5 years, or expect to have in the next 2 years, any financial interests (potential gains or losses) that could be affected by your submitted publication?		Do you have any of the following interests that could potentially influence or be affected by your submitted publication?	
☐ ?	From employment or provision of services, such as directorships, consultancy, honoraria, etc.	☐ ?	Current and previous research findings or projects
☐ ?	From intellectual property, such as patents, copyrights, etc.	☐ ?	Commitments to specific standards or processes
☐ ?	From investments such as shares, stocks, other financial instruments, etc.	☐ ?	Publicly held positions or statements of public record
☐ ?	From litigation or legal cases	☐ ?	Personal relationships
☐ ?	From grants	☐ ?	Membership or active role in other organisations, e.g. societies, lobby or pressure groups, government agencies, etc.
☐ ?	Other financial interests	☐ ?	Position of authority in an organisation, such that you may be seen as upholding that organisation's views, standards, values, etc.
		☐ ?	Other non-financial interests

Please provide details about the financial interests you have indicated above

[Insert here]

Please provide details about the non-financial interests you have indicated above

[Insert here]

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