



## **AIRC Policy on Financial Conflict of Interest**

According to AIRC, a financial conflict of interest includes a financial association or relationship that could influence (actual), or could be reasonably perceived as capable of influencing (apparent), the objectivity and integrity in the design, conduct, and reporting of a research activity.

Such conflicts of interest include relationships with companies, corporations or any institution carrying out economic activity, whose products or services are related to the subject matter of the research proposal.

These relations may include employment, substantive ownership of stock (> 5% of shares in a company), membership on a standing advisory council or committee, service on the board of directors, public association with the company or corporations and its products.

Other areas of conflict of interest could include receiving travel reimbursement, revenues, consulting fees and/or supplies provided for free (> 10.000 € per year from a company or corporation in the twelve months preceding the disclosure), patent filings, serving as a paid spokesperson, or providing services in exchange of honoraria.

Principal Investigators (PIs) are required to disclose any financial interests, as described above, held by themselves or their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity. We do not require PIs to state the monetary value of their financial interests. However, failing to disclose financial conflicts of interest will cause the proposal to be excluded from the evaluation process.

Reviewers in charge of evaluating the project will be asked to determine if the conflicts declared may affect the objectivity and integrity of the proposed research plan. The reviewers may belong to a panel of international reviewers and/or to the AIRC Technical Scientific Committee.

Companies, corporations and institutions mentioned in the disclosure, and for which reviewers do not raise any concern, may provide supplies or services as long as they do it free of charge. If not free of charge, reviewers will evaluate the budget allocated for the supplies or services and state whether it is deemed appropriate. In any case, the intellectual property must be retained by the PI and the Hosting Institution.

AIRC reserves the right to request supporting documentation for all conflicts disclosed and to audit funded projects at any time. If a project where financial conflicts of interest have been disclosed is audited, the auditors will ask the Hosting Institutions to report on the implementation of the institutional policy on financial conflict of interests, if in place. If an institutional policy is not in place, a detailed financial

reconciliation of the amount transferred to the company will be requested.

Appropriate measures will be taken against applicants who have failed to disclose conflicts of interest or who transferred grant money to the third parties indicated in the financial conflict of interest declaration without providing proper documentation to justify the adequacy of the transferred amount. These may include the termination of the grant, the obligation to return grant money to AIRC, the ineligibility to apply to AIRC calls for proposals, and the exclusion from AIRC review panels and other bodies.

The AIRC Board of Director will decide which measures to apply based on the recommendations of the Scientific Director, who will summarise and report the reviewers' evaluations.

References for this document: PNAS editorial and journal policies; NIH grants policy statement; D.Lgs. 14 maggio 2019, n. 52, art. 6 "Indipendenza della sperimentazione clinica e garanzia di assenza di conflitti di interessi".

**Approved by the AIRC Board of Directors on June 25, 2021**