



Conflict of Interest Panel – Responsibilities & qualifications

The Conflict of Interest Panel arbitrates on potential breaches of the Cochrane Conflict of Interest Policy for Cochrane Library Content and provide general guidance on how the policy should be applied. The panel will be appointed by the Editor in Chief (EIC), in consultation with the Senior Research Integrity Editor. The panel will have a maximum of four persons including the panel chair.

The panel members will select a chair from among the membership of the panel. The Chair will be the main contact person for the panel, will convene virtual or face-to-face meetings of the panel, and consult with the panel as needed.

Responsibilities

The duties of the panel are as follow:

- Review cases and make decisions on individual cases referred according to specified time frames.
- Respond to queries about the COI policy generally
- Comment on revisions of the COI policy
- Provide advice when the Editorial & Methods Dept conducts an audit of compliance to the policy
- Prepare an annual report of Panel activity for the EIC
- Participate in training activities that support those creating Cochrane Library content to adhere to the policy
- Assist in the development of supporting materials (e.g. FAQs)

Qualifications

Applicants must have no financial conflicts of interest. In addition the following knowledge and/or experience are desirable:

- Experience serving on or chairing a COI committee or its equivalent (or similar committees. such as academic-industry relations committees)
- Experience with drafting and / or implementing conflict of interest policies (ideally related to research or health policies, such as guidelines)
- Familiarity with the literature on identifying, managing and impact of conflicts of interest in health
- Familiarity with journal policies related to conflicts of interest
- Experience as a Cochrane member or knowledge of Cochrane