

Conflict of Interest Disclosure for Peer Reviewers



The Brain Tumour Charity is a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities and fully endorses their Guidelines on Good Research Practice. A downloadable copy of these is available from: www.amrc.org.uk. The Charity believes it is important to manage conflicts of interest in all area of its activity. This document details conflicts of interest for peer reviewers.

The Integrity of Peer Review

Peer Reviewers should be honest in respect of their own actions and in their responses to the actions of other reviewers. This applies to the whole range of work associated with the assessment and review of grant applications.

Peer reviewers should declare and manage any real or potential conflicts of interest both financial and professional before accepting to undertake any review. These might include:

- Where a reviewer works in the same institution as the grant applicant(s).
- Where a reviewer or a member of their department has an application in the grant round in which they are invited to act as a reviewer.
- Where there is an existing or potential financial interest in the outcome of the review or research.
- Where a reviewer has a personal relationship with any grant applicant on any application in a grant round of whom they are aware in which they are invited to act as a reviewer.
- Where a reviewer has published with the grant applicant(s) within the past two years.

Instructions for Declarations

If an External Peer Reviewer believes there may be a Conflict of Interest as described above, he/she should declare it to The Charity when invited to review, to allow The Charity to decide whether it is appropriate for them to act as a reviewer. If he/she does undertake a review, the conflict should also be declared so that the Scientific Advisory Boards are aware of this. A Conflict of Interest may not disqualify a Peer Reviewer from actively participating in the review process but will ensure that comments made are assessed in the light of this disclosure.

If a member of the Scientific Advisory Board believes there may be a Conflict of Interest as described above, he/she should declare it at the Review Board Meeting to ensure that any comments made are assessed in the light of this disclosure.