

Harmonizing COI Disclosure

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ASCO®

ASCO's role in COI disclosure and management

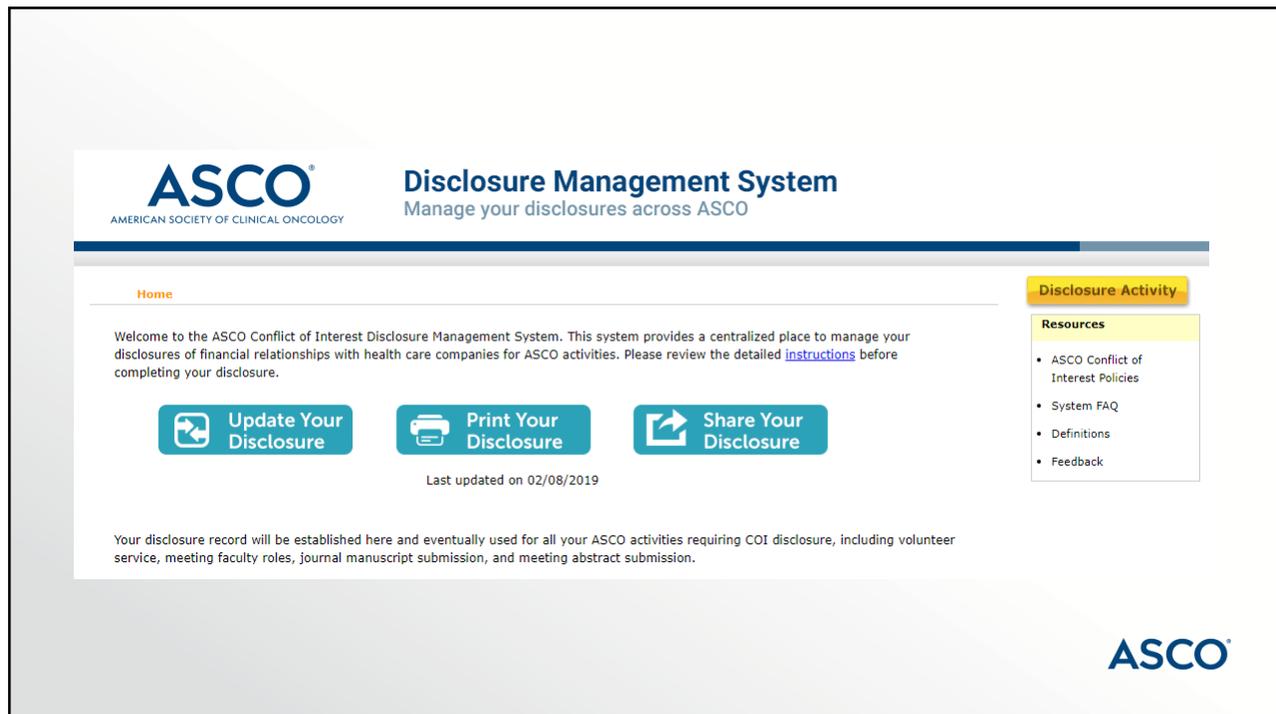


- Professional Membership: > 45,000 physicians, researchers, members of oncology care team
- Publisher: 5 journals including flagship *Journal of Clinical Oncology*
- Producer: major scientific meetings



Authors' and editors' challenge: It is hard to do this right and easy to do it wrong!

- Most authors intend to accurately disclose outside interests
- Lack of disclosure standards make authors' and editors' tasks more difficult, time-consuming, and open to "errors"
- Open Payments has become a default "source of truth"
- Even accurate disclosures may appear incomplete
- A system setting authors up to fail is a disservice to the scientific community
- Discordant disclosures may decrease trust in the integrity of our publications

The screenshot shows the ASCO Disclosure Management System homepage. At the top left is the ASCO logo (AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY). To its right is the title "Disclosure Management System" with the subtitle "Manage your disclosures across ASCO". Below this is a navigation bar with "Home" on the left and "Disclosure Activity" on the right. The main content area contains a welcome message: "Welcome to the ASCO Conflict of Interest Disclosure Management System. This system provides a centralized place to manage your disclosures of financial relationships with health care companies for ASCO activities. Please review the detailed [instructions](#) before completing your disclosure." Below the message are three buttons: "Update Your Disclosure" (with a refresh icon), "Print Your Disclosure" (with a printer icon), and "Share Your Disclosure" (with a share icon). Below these buttons is the text "Last updated on 02/08/2019". At the bottom of the main content area is a paragraph: "Your disclosure record will be established here and eventually used for all your ASCO activities requiring COI disclosure, including volunteer service, meeting faculty roles, journal manuscript submission, and meeting abstract submission." On the right side of the page is a "Resources" sidebar with a list of links: "ASCO Conflict of Interest Policies", "System FAQ", "Definitions", and "Feedback". The ASCO logo is also present in the bottom right corner of the page.

“We heard from a lot of researchers who were very frustrated that different journals have different rules. Some go back two years. Some go back three years. They have different rules about what’s considered relevant...**better streamlining of what their rules are for disclosure across these journals would be good.**”

“**Create uniform reporting standards.** Doctors might have an easier time abiding by the rules if they were the same everywhere.”

“...the disclosures aren’t necessarily omitted in bad faith, but standards for disclosure vary from one conference or publication to another.”

Doctors Failed To Disclose When Drug Companies Were Paying Them [Science Friday Podcast]. (2019, January 25). *National Public Radio (NPR)*
Medicine’s Financial Contamination [Editorial]. (2018, September 14). *The New York Times*
Medical studies often omit authors’ financial conflicts (2018, August 16). *Kaiser Health News*



Opportunity to harmonize financial disclosure in science

- Multiple stakeholders agree that harmonization is both feasible and desirable
- Develop a common disclosure framework to standardize categories, definitions, questions, timeframes
- Tackle “relevant” vs. general disclosure – a challenging distinction
- A shared responsibility – not journals alone

