



## Competing interests declarations - the challenges

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- 400 + journals in medicine and health
- Subscription, hybrid and OA models
- International readership and authorship
- Online submission system
- Submissions handled by journal editorial office, Editors-in-Chief, etc
- Mandatory Declarations policies



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## Declarations – the challenges



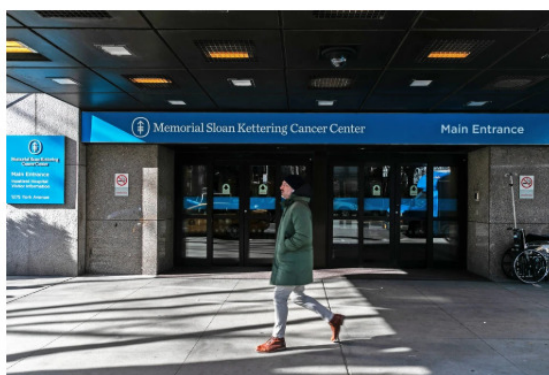
- Terminology can cause confusion (eg “conflict of interest” vs “competing interests”)
- Non-financial/personal competing interests can be overlooked
- How clearly do journals state their policies?
- Policies and checking processes are not harmonized across journals
- Are reviewers made aware of author declarations?
- Are reviewer and editor declarations compiled?
- How are transparency of declarations handled in blinded peer review models (single, double, triple)
- Data – how should it be stored and for how long?
- Whose responsibility is it?

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### *Memorial Sloan Kettering Leaders Violated Conflict-of- Interest Rules, Report Finds*



Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in Manhattan. The center announced an overhaul of its policies on Thursday after an outside review found that top officials repeatedly violated conflict-of-interest rules. Jeenah Moon for The New York Times

[The New York Times report](#) (April 2019)

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## ICMJE: Conflict of interest guidance

**Definitions.**

**Entity:** government agency, foundation, commercial sponsor, academic institution, etc.

**Grant:** A grant from an entity, generally [but not always] paid to your organization

**Personal Fees:** Monies paid to you for services rendered, generally honoraria, royalties, or fees for consulting, lectures, speakers bureaus, expert testimony, employment, or other affiliations

**Non-Financial Support:** Examples include drugs/equipment supplied by the entity, travel paid by the entity, writing assistance, administrative support, etc.

**Other:** Anything not covered under the previous three boxes


**Pending:** The patent has been filed but not issued

**Issued:** The patent has been issued by the agency

**Licensed:** The patent has been licensed to an entity, whether earning royalties or not


**Royalties:** Funds are coming in to you or your institution due to your patent

<http://icmje.org/conflicts-of-interest/>




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## Declarations – addressing some of practicalities

- Refine messaging for authors and keep definitions consistent with ICMJE
- Ask all authors at point of submission and confirm at revision/acceptance
- Have processes in place to proactively address issues
- Engagement with Editors-in-Chief, editorial board members to ensure the policies are clear and easy to access
- Research integrity and ethics team is in place to help editorial teams to address issues, and is responsible for refining editorial policies.



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# Questions



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