



International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) Conflict of Interest Policy and Disclosure Statement.

1. Background

It is essential that the IFCC has open discussion and decisions on all matters relating to its activities and to the member societies. Those discussions should not be inhibited by undeclared conflicts of interest.

Therefore, all members of the Executive Board, Division Chairs and members, Committee Chairs and members, Task Force Chairs and members, and Working Group Chairs are required to read this policy and sign the disclosure statement at the end of it..

The disclosure statement should be signed when someone first joins an IFCC group and should be renewed formally after three years if the individual is still involved in IFCC activities. In the interim the responsibility for identifying and reporting conflicts of interest lies with the individual.

2. What is a Conflict of Interest?

This exists when an individual participates in a specific task or is involved in the discussion and resolution of a policy for IFCC, yet at the same time has other professional, personal or business interests, or volunteer activities outside IFCC, that might influence that person to favor an outcome or decision that might not be in the best interests of the Federation.

3. Do Such Conflicts of Interest Preclude an Individual From Participation in IFCC Business?

They do not automatically exclude such participation. However, since honesty and trust are fundamental to all Federation activities, it is the duty of each individual to declare the possibility of any potential conflict of interest on each occasion when it may occur.

4. Examples of Potential Conflicts of Interest.

These are some examples and they may arise because of your personal, professional, or business activities.

- Work or travel-related payments from a diagnostic or pharmaceutical company, or receipt of fees as a consultant, member of an advisory board, lecturer, speaker, or expert witness.
- Grants, either financial or reagents, received from governmental sources, foundations, non-profit granting agencies, diagnostics or pharmaceutical companies.
- Patents or royalties received or pending.
- Ownership of, or income from, stocks or shares, excluding mutual funds.
- Any involvement in similar discussions, activities, or publications with another national or international professional organization in addition to the IFCC.

5. Disclosure Statement.

If an occasion arises during any discussion or activity with respect to which I may have, or may reasonably be perceived to have, a potential conflict of interest, I will declare this. While it is not my obligation to declare all the details of the nature of the conflict I will present at least a short and accurate explanation.

Having declared any conflict of interest I accept that the Chair of the meeting and others present shall determine if I may continue to participate in discussions or voting or both

I will not, without appropriate authorization, disclose any confidential information or any document to which I receive access by virtue of my service to the IFCC.

I have also read and accepted the IFCC Statement on Publication Ethics (Appendix A).

Signature

Date (Day/Month/Year)

IFCC Statement On Publication Ethics

As an International Organization the IFCC is involved in scientific, educational and standard-setting activities. This work is done by volunteers from many national societies of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine. They bring their professional and scientific talents, combined with a wide scope of cultural and linguistic experience, to the service of IFCC. It is the expectation of the IFCC and of these volunteers that documents will be created and published from this work. These documents must first have IFCC permission before being submitted for publication in one or more media, including peer-reviewed scientific and medical journals, approved by the IFCC.

All participants in IFCC activities must have read and signed their acceptance of the Federation's "Conflict of Interest Policy and Disclosure Statement". Additionally, all participants in publications agree to conform to the disclosures required by the biomedical journals, one example of which is provided by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. [JM Drazen, MB Van der Weiden, P. Sahni et al. JAMA 2009;306:1289-1395, (doi: 10.1001/jama.2009.1542)]. Available at: <http://jama.ama-assn.org/content/303/1/75.long>.

It is recognized and accepted that as leaders in our profession individual IFCC volunteers may have many areas of overlap in national and international committees, including scientific committees. It is essential for all individuals to respect the confidentiality of all acquired information and not to break that trust placed in them by the IFCC or any other organization. An individual's expertise may result in that person being involved in similar committees for more than one national or international organization, each with the goal of publishing scientific or educational documents. Data obtained or documents arising from one committee must not be transferred to the attention or to the work of another group without the permission of the organization where the data or document were first developed. The potential of any individual being in conflict must always be declared to the members of the committee or working group. There must be complete transparency about the participation of any committee member as an author in any publication arising from similar work in another national or international committee. The Chair of the IFCC Committee, the Chair of the Division, and where necessary, the President of IFCC, should be fully informed of such publication, and will decide on the appropriateness of such an individual's continued involvement in the publication or in the related IFCC activity. It is probable that such transparency will most frequently result in continued involvement of the volunteer but the openness will have prevented misunderstandings and will enhance the credibility of the individual volunteer, the IFCC and its committees.