Research Compliance and Regulatory Affairs
Office Spotlight:
Conflict of Interest & Conflict of Commitment
The Team!

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Pop Quiz: Conflict or No Conflict?

1. Conducting research at Emory sponsored by Merck while providing consulting services to Merck
Pop Quiz: Conflict or No Conflict?

2. Launching a start-up company and serving as CEO
Pop Quiz: Conflict or No Conflict?

3. Coaching your child’s high school soccer team
4. Owning a company that sells technology you study in your research
Mission: Ensure Research Objectivity

1. Design, conduct, and reporting of research must be objective

2. Multifaceted relationships between Emory Investigators and industry exist and often complement research

3. Must follow federal rules as stewards of federal money

4. Primary commitment of time and intellectual energy owed to Emory by employees
What is a Financial Conflict of Interest?

Determination that an individual’s financial interest could significantly alter the design, conduct, or reporting of research.
Policy 7.7 Requirements

**Who:** Investigators & Key Personnel

**What:** Disclose Significant Financial Interests

**When:** Within 30 days of hire, within 30 days of receiving new SFI, annually, with sponsored awards

**Where:** Emory’s electronic disclosure system

Disclosures reviewed by COI Office & COI Committee

FCOIs must be managed or eliminated
What is a Conflict of Commitment?

Determination that an individual’s intellectual energy, time, or effort to external activities interferes with Emory responsibilities

13.3 Conflict of Commitment

Guiding Principle: Emory faculty owe their primary professional allegiance to the university; their primary commitment of time and intellectual energies is to the education, research, and other programs supporting the university’s mission. The specific responsibilities and professional activities that constitute an appropriate and primary commitment will differ across schools, but they should be based on a general understanding between the faculty member, department chair (if applicable), and dean.

13.3.A POLICY REGARDING TEACHING, RESEARCH, AND OTHER SERVICE OUTSIDE THE FACULTY MEMBER’S SCHOOL AT Emarketing OR OTHER INSTITUTIONS (FULL POLICY)
Policy 13.3.A & 7.3 Requirements

Who: Faculty, Postdoctoral Fellows or Trainees, Research Staff

What: Seek approval for paid or unpaid external research, teaching, service, other professional activities from academic unit

When: Prior to the start of the activity

Where: Emory’s electronic disclosure system

Policies in final stages of review. No changes anticipated.
# eDisclose Benefits

## Improved User Experience
- Skip logic eliminates irrelevant questions
- Faster system speed
- Future integration with eIRB
- Easy to amend help text and instructions (we can be responsive to community needs)
- User-friendly interface
- Ability to save information and return later to submit

## Reduce Inefficiencies
- Eliminates redundant disclosure forms
- Reviewers only receive disclosures that meet defined thresholds
- Streamlined workflow for COI staff & other users (faster processing time)
- PFIRR process amended to reduce administrative burden (no need to submit new disclosure at proposal stage if active COI disclosure on file)
- No re-entry of data needed

## Compliance with New U.S. Government Regulatory Requirements
- Enables expanded questions about external activities & foreign engagement
- New DOE COI certification language embedded
- Enables required activity tracking and reporting
- Easy to create reports to share information (e.g., Report for OSP to verify that Biosketch/Other Support documents matches disclosure)