
POLICY:	Conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest
POLICY NO:	002/2001
DATE:	18 August 2001
AMENDMENTS:	
CROSS REFERENCES:	1. University of Adelaide Policy on Conflicts of Interest

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1. Overview

A conflict of interest must be disclosed to the Convenor of the IBC to ensure:

- the responsible conduct and integrity of decisions made by the IBC membership;
- to protect the IBC membership and the University from unnecessary and avoidable litigation;
- to ensure compliance with the Gene Technology Act 2000 and hence maintain ongoing access by staff to GMO research; and
- to ensure the IBC membership complies with any agreement entered into with third-party organisations for whom the IBC approves facilities or research projects.

2. Definitions

What is a conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest

- 2.1 affiliation with any organisation, company, venture or other body with whom the member has a direct financial interest;
 - 2.1.1 this includes any financial benefit in the subject matter or materials of a research proposal they are considering in their role as an IBC member. One example of this would be that equipment required to conduct the research will be purchased from a company in which they have a significant shareholding and as a consequence of the purchase of the equipment, a substantial dividend would be paid to them.
- 2.2 they are related, by blood or marriage, to a person who is a principal researcher or researcher undertaking a proposal they are considering in their role as an IBC member;
- 2.3 they are affiliated with or are related, by blood or marriage, to a person who has an affiliation with any organisation, company, venture or other body with whom they are likely to receive an indirect benefit, this includes any indirect advantage in the subject matter or materials of a research proposal they are considering in their role as an IBC member. One example of this would be that equipment required to conduct the research will be purchased from a company in which their partner has a significant shareholding and would, consequently, receive a substantial dividend.

3. Scope

This policy and the associated procedures apply to members of the Institutional Biosafety Committee.

4. Policy

- 4.1 A committee member is obliged to disclose, as soon as it comes to their attention, any conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest.
- 4.2 If a committee member is unaware of any conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest at the time they sit in a meeting in which they later discover they are in a conflict situation, they should let the Convenor of the IBC know immediately the conflict comes to, or is brought to, their attention.
- 4.3 If a committee member is in any doubt about whether or not they are in a conflict or potential conflict situation they must draw this to the attention of all IBC members at the commencement of the meeting.
- 4.4 A committee member must be excused from any IBC meeting in which a GMO proposal is considered where the member's consideration of the proposal could give rise to an allegation that they were in a situation of conflict or potential conflict.

5. Responsibilities

In addition, a member may have signed a Declaration as a condition of employment, that they will not accept any benefit (either, financial or in-kind) from a third party such as to give rise to the allegation that any decision they have made in the course of their employment may have been influenced by a benefit to themselves or a member of their family.

6. Procedures

The IBC Conflict of Interest policy prevails over the University of Adelaide Council policy but in the event that the IBC policy is silent on a point, the Council policy will fill the void.

7. Related Documents

- 7.1 University of Adelaide 'Policy on Conflicts of Interest' Approved by Council: 25 October 1999: <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/policies/?mode=browse;catid=1>
- 7.2 University of Adelaide 'Guidelines for Responsible Practice in Research': <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/ari/researchers/responsibleresearch.html>
- 7.3 University of Adelaide 'Outside Research Grants, Contracts and Consultancies': <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/hr/policies/consult/consult.html>
- 7.4 University of Adelaide 'Academic Staff Involvement with Outside Organisations': <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/hr/policies/consult/outorgans.html>