

**ESCMID guidance regarding conflicts of interests****1. General information**

ESCMID aims to actively prevent circumstances and situations that have the potential to undermine the impartiality of its representatives. The society promotes transparency on its representatives' relationships. All individuals involved in ESCMID's activities have to disclose their relationships with companies, organizations or societies, which may create a conflict of interest (Col). ESCMID publishes the declarations on its website.

Executives in ESCMID's committees and subcommittees and individuals responsible for ESCMID's congress, journals and guidelines should be without any bias and should not be involved in activities that may infringe upon the society's principles or interests.

This document does not include Col regulations pertaining to participants at ESCMID's congress ECCMID.

All issues related to the declaration of Col's are part of the Secretary General's portfolio.

**2. Definitions****2.1. Conflict of interest (Col)**

For the purpose of this document we define a conflict of interest as a situation where a person's personal benefits or involvements threaten to impact the exercise of his/her duties, his/her actions, or the integrity of his/her research or professional judgement.

Potential Col's may occur if an individual:

- acts as **advisor to a company**,
- received **research grants, honoraria** from a company,
- owns a **company's stock** (or stock options),
- owns **patents**,
- received **personal income** from a company, a speakers' bureau or official body,
- is a **member of a programme committee** of competing congress, or
- is an **executive of an international organization** (society, federation, association)

**2.2. ESCMID representatives:**

- members of the **ESCMID Executive Committee (EC)**
- **ad-hoc EC members**, including EUCAST chairman, the editor-in-chiefs of ESCMID's journals, guidelines director, ECCMID programme director, International Affairs director.
- members of **ESCMID subcommittees**
- executives of ESCMID's **study groups committees**

### 3. Col criteria applied

#### 3.1. ESCMID representatives

a) ESCMID representatives have to declare any relationships with pharmaceutical and diagnostic companies, which may include

- **board participation,**
- **shareholding,**
- **patent ownership,** or
- any other aspect that may conflict with ESCMID's mission and interests

b) ESCMID representatives have to disclose any

- **honoraria** in excess of EUR 2,500 per year related to
  - consultation fees,
  - expert testimonies,
  - speaker services,
  - grants and other research support

c) ESCMID representatives have to declare if they are involved in any activity that may compete with the society's products, events or publications. They must disclose if they serve as

- **board members** at other scientific societies,
- **programme committee members** of international scientific meetings,
- **coordinator/panel member for guidelines** published by other scientific society,
- **board members or executive editors of competing scientific journals**

#### 3.1 Stricter requirements for ESCMID executives

**ESCMID's President, President-elect, Guidelines Director, ECCMID Programme Director, committee chairs and Editors-in-Chief of ESCMID's journals** should be **free of any potential conflict of interest** related to ongoing commercial activities with pharmaceutical or diagnostic companies, including consultation fees or honoraria as speakers. Unrestricted research grants, participation in research projects approved by the competent institutional review boards, and participation in officially accredited educational activities may be permitted but have to be declared.

Other regular and ad-hoc EC members of should not participate as speakers/chairs in industry-organized events at ECCMID unless invited to participate on behalf of ESCMID. They may, however, act as co-chairs.

#### 4. Declaration process

1. The Executive Office will send the Col declaration forms to all ESCMID representatives at the end of January
2. ESCMID representatives have to declare all potential conflicts, which occurred over the past calendar year
3. EC members will review the Col declarations for representatives in their portfolio. The Secretary General will review those without responsible officers
4. The respective officers will report any activity that may represent a Col to the EC
  - **If after discussion in the EC, the activity is considered to be incompatible with ESCMID's interests, the EC will inform the ESCMID representative about a specific conflict.**
  - **If an ongoing activity is considered incompatible with ESCMID's interests, and if the representative is not prepared to disengage, the EC may decide to release the representative from his/her responsibilities within the society.**

ESCMID publishes all declarations of interest by ESCMID representatives on its website.