

# INTERNATIONAL LIAISON COMMITTEE ON RESUSCITATION

**(ILCOR)**

**INTERNAL RULES**

**INTERNAL RULES OF THE INTERNATIONAL LIAISON COMMITTEE ON RESUSCITATION (ILCOR) (hereafter “THE ASSOCIATION”)**

## Article 8: CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY AND PROCEDURES

1. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the Association manages real and potential conflict of interest situations in an open and effective manner, in order to ensure preservation of the public trust in the integrity of the Association’s process and products. It is not always possible (nor prudent) for such situations to be avoided, since the best experts in a clinical area will often have relationships that could pose a real or potential conflict of interest in that area. What is essential is that these potential conflicts are disclosed and managed effectively. The mainstay of effective management of potential conflict of interest situations is through disclosure.
2. Conflict of Interest procedures apply to all the Association’s delegates, observers, editors, Task Force members, domain leaders, systematic reviewers, working group members, content experts and others working on the Association’s projects.
3. The conflict of interest policies will be overseen by one or more COI chairs. Appointment of COI Chairs and determination of funding of expenses related to fulfilling their duties will be made by the Board with ratification by the General Assembly
4. Procedures for each participant to follow:
5. At each business meeting of the General Assembly and Board and all meetings at which resuscitation science is discussed, each participant must disclose all relationships that could pose a direct or indirect conflict of interest. For most meetings, this can be done at the time of introductions. The Association will keep written records of these disclosures via the minutes. At large meetings, this disclosure can be accomplished by speakers forwarding a conflict of interest disclosure form to the meeting organizers before the meeting. A listing of the participants with their commercial relationships (commercial entity and type of relationship) will appear in the agenda/program for the meeting. At large conferences where resuscitation science is discussed, a disclosure slide should be projected for every speaker (presenter or participant) during the entire time they speak.
6. Each participant will abstain from any vote in which the individual has a relationship that could pose a direct and indirect conflict of interest. Such abstentions will be recorded in the minutes.
7. Each participant will bring conflict of interest concerns or issues to the Chair(s) of the relevant group for investigation and resolution. If the issue involves a Chair, the issue will be raised with the other (Co-)Chair or the Vice-Chair.
8. Whenever possible, an individual with a substantial relationship to a particular topic or area should not be selected to lead a group related to that topic, to serve as an evidence reviewer or writing group member for that topic, or as a representative from a task force or CEE/SAC related to that topic. The Co-Chairs will review the disclosures of those proposed for such roles to ensure that any commercial relationships are understood and that potential conflicts are limited and manageable. This shall not prevent an individual with a substantial relationship regarding a topic from contributing to the discussions and deliberations on that topic, provided the individual has disclosed the relationships during that meeting.
9. At least annually, each participant must complete a disclosure form (attached), and updated it if substantive changes occur. The Co-Chairs will review the forms. Co-Chairs or Chairs and Vice-Chairs will review each other’s Co-Chair’s form. Difficult issues that cannot be handled by the Chairs will be brought to the whole group for discussion and resolution. If required, advice can be sought from the COI cochairs.
10. Further COI information can be found at ilcor.org under COI guiding principles

Notes:

1. ILCOR should be especially sensitive to potential conflict of interest issues regarding individuals who are selected for a leadership role with oversight or responsibility to review the science for a particular area or topic. These situations must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, as noted in the procedures. The Association may decide that the risk to the integrity of the process from the individual’s relationship is not significant and that the individual still represents the best choice, taking into account the risks and benefits. If an individual already playing a leadership role develops or is discovered to have a sufficiently significant conflict that it poses a significant risk to the integrity or credibility of the process, then another qualified person without such potential conflict should replace the individual. Such a substitution shall not imply any impropriety on any person’s part, but rather indicate a preventive step to avoid any perceived or real conflict from endangering the integrity of the process. A position of leadership can include the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson of any committee, subcommittee, Task Force, working group, ad hoc group assigned to work on an issue, evidence panel or evidence collection process. The fact that such perceived conflicts are usually without any improper intent does not protect the individual, the Association, or its work from the potential consequences of inadequate management of such a situation.
2. In addition to financial relationships, other bases of potential conflicts of interest must be considered, such as in-kind support, intellectual collaboration or intellectual investment in one’s own ideas, or a long-term research agenda in which an investigator has invested substantial time. Although these situations will be considered on an ad hoc basis, financial relationships are more likely to adversely affect the credibility of the Association and the integrity of its process and products.