

IBC Conflict of Interest Policy

(Adopted 01/23/2014, 6/19/2024)

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) policy is to provide information regarding how the IBC will identify and manage potential conflict of interest when reviewing IBC protocol applications.

2.0 Scope

This policy applies to all members of the MU Institutional Biosafety Committee, MU-EHS Biological Safety, MU Principal Investigators, and MU employees and staff.

3.0 Related Documents

- University of Missouri Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) Resource Book
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health (NIH) - NIH Guidelines

4.0 General Policy

All Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) members and ad hoc members shall disclose to the IBC all conflicts of interest for themselves and their spouses/domestic partners and dependent children. For purposes of this policy, a conflict of interest may be identified as either financial in nature (such as when an IBC member or ad hoc member holds an economic interest in the research) or non-financial in nature (such as when an IBC member or ad hoc member participates in the research or will be included as a co-author on a publication from the research), either of which could affect or appear to affect the design, conduct, oversight, or reporting of the research project.

The IBC may request information from a member in conflict whose expertise would be helpful during the discussion of a motion. In such case, the presence of the member during the discussion and subsequent absence during later discussion and voting shall be noted in the minutes.

5.0 Examples of conflicts of Interest

5.1. The IBC member is currently engaged, or expects to be engaged in the research project under review.

5.2. The IBC member has a direct financial interest in the PI or the entity funding the research proposed by the PI.

5.3. The IBC member and the PI of the applicaiton under review share a familial relationship.

5.4. The IBC member has other reasons to feel that he/she cannot render an independent assessment of an application.

5.5. The IBC member shall disclose the conflict of interest at the following time:

- 5.5.1. When the the IBC member is contacted to participate in the review of a project from a PI with whom the IBC member has a conflict of interest. Although this generally applies to settings where the IBC member is asked to serve as a primary reviewer under the review process, this policy shall apply to all settings of project review where a final recommendation for disposition of an application is promulgated.
- 5.5.2. Prior to discussion at a convened IBC meeting of a project for which the IBC member has a conflict of interest.

5.6. An IBC member shall be recused from participating in the final disposition vote on an application for which he/she has declared a conflict of interest.

- 5.6.1. Although an IBC member shall be recused from voting on the final disposition of projects for which he/she has a conflict of interest, the IBC member shall remain eligible to provide information related to the review of the project to the IBC.

5.7. When it is not clear whether a possible conflict of interest exists, the following consultation process will be used to make a final determination.

- 5.7.1 Members of the IBC will consult with the IBC Chairman.
- 5.7.2. The IBC Chair gathers as much information as necessary to make the determination. The information may come from the person with the possible conflict of interest, from colleagues, a company or organization, documents or any other source of information.