



CAS Research Advisory Committee Conflict of Interest Guidelines

All Members of the Research Advisory Committee of the Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society (CAS) and its Grant Standing Subcommittee will be advised of the CAS Research Advisory Committee Conflict of Interest Guidelines, and instructed to bring any potential conflicts of interest to the attention of the Chair of the Committee. The Committee Chair will make a decision on dealing with conflicts of interest. The Chair will then inform the CAS Executive about all such conflicts, and the proposed manner of dealing with them, so that the Executive has direct input into this process.

Members of the CAS Research Advisory Committee participate in reviewing applications for the Research Program. Members of the Research Grant Standing Subcommittee attend the annual grant adjudication meeting. The Subcommittee is established each year as the applications are being received and each Subcommittee member acts as a lead reviewer of assigned application(s) in addition to attending the annual grant adjudication meeting.

In any year that a Committee Member submits an application to the CAS Research Program, he/she will not be eligible to be selected for the Grant Standing Subcommittee. That Member may continue to function in the same fashion during the review process for that year, subject to the limitations specified in these Guidelines, but cannot participate in the grant adjudication meeting.

Any Committee Member who applies for an Award will not participate in the review process of any of the applications eligible for that Award. He/she may review applications for other CAS Research Awards.

For other conflicts of interest between an applicant and a Committee Member, the Committee Member will not participate in the review process for that application. Examples of such conflicts for Committee members include:

- Being a member of the applicant's Department.
- Having a significant ongoing academic relationship with the applicant, such as being a co-investigator with the applicant.
- Potential conflicts of interest related to participating as an investigator in a multi-centre trial deserve specific comment:
 - Relationships between principal investigators. For these Conflict of Interest Guidelines, principal investigators of multicentre trials are those investigators that comprise the central group responsible for overall management of the trial, including analysis of the data and preparation of any manuscripts to be submitted for publication). Co-principal investigators of multicentre trials would generally be considered to have conflicts of interest as far as assessing applications to the CAS Research Grants, Career Scientist, and Fellowship Program is concerned.

- Relationships between principal investigators and site investigators. For most multicentre trials, the relationship between principal investigators and site investigators is defined by formal agreements between the site investigators & their institutions, and the principal investigator(s). These agreements typically define the roles and obligations of each of these parties prior to a site joining a multicentre trial, especially with regard to financial arrangements, and the roles of the parties in data analysis and preparation of manuscripts. Given the controls inherent in this type of agreement, being a site investigator would usually not be considered to have conflict of interest with principal investigators.
- Relationships between site investigators. These relationships typically do not involve any potential influence of one site investigator over another. Therefore, a site investigator would usually not be considered to have a conflict of interest with other site investigators.
- The Chair shall be advised by the Committee Member involved of any participation as principal or site investigator in multicentre trials, to ensure that any related potential conflicts of interest are identified and appropriately managed.

Many different relationships may generate real or potential conflicts of interest. The importance of dealing with these conflicts by bringing them to the attention of the Chair of the Research Advisory Committee will be emphasized to all Committee Members.

Approved by the Executive Committee of the CAS Board of Directors, July 19, 2011