Conflict of Interest

A conflict of interest may exist when an author (or the author’s institution or employer) has financial or personal relationships or affiliations that could influence (or bias) the author’s decisions, work, or article. All authors should disclose all potential conflicts of interest, including specific financial interests and relationships and affiliations relevant to the subject of their manuscript. Authors should err on the side of full disclosure and should contact the editor if they have questions or concerns.

Following are a few examples of the many types of potential conflict of interest:

- Receiving consulting fees from a company while performing clinical research on the company’s technology.
- Involving students or post-doctoral students and trainees in work that could directly benefit a company in which the faculty member supervising the students has a personal financial interest.
- Giving a company preferential access to results of research while providing personal consulting services to that company.

In addition to the Author Agreement form that each author must sign, it is recommended that all such disclosures should be submitted to the editor as a separate, unsigned, attached page with the article. Authors without conflicts of interest, including specific financial interests and relationships and affiliations relevant to the subject of their manuscript, should include a statement of no such interests. Authors who do not submit this information can be informed that failure to do so may delay the review of the manuscript or its publication entirely.

Authors should be expected to provide detailed information about all relevant financial interests and relationships or financial conflicts within the past 5 years and for the foreseeable future (including, but not limited to employment/affiliation, grants or funding, consultancies, honoraria, speakers’ bureaus, stock ownership or options, expert testimony, royalties, or patents filed, received, pending, or in preparation), particularly those present at the time the work was conducted and through publication, as well as other financial interests (such as patent applications in preparation), that represent potential future financial gain.

Although many organizations and other institutions have established policies and thresholds for reporting financial interests and other conflicts of interest, editors may want to err on the side of complete disclosure of all relevant financial relationships and potential financial conflicts of interest, regardless of amount or value. If authors are uncertain about what constitutes a relevant financial interest or relationship, they should contact the editor. In turn, editors should contact their DPG/MIG Relations Manager should any questions arise.

Author Information/Statements of Conflict of Interest and Funding in Articles

Information should be published consistently and for every author. It is recommended that all authors of an article be clearly identified either at the beginning or end of the article. The information should indicate what the author does, their employer, and how they may be contacted for additional information.

Any conflicts of interest that the author(s) have, such as funding or affiliations with a company mentioned in the article or supplied products as part of a study discussed in the article should
be noted. If the author(s) are on a speakers bureau or serve as a consultant for a company referenced in the article this should be noted. If the potential conflict does not have a bearing on the topic in the article it does not need to be disclosed.

Any funding received for a research article must be fully disclosed. Some authors prefer to acknowledge people who assisted them in the preparation of an article.

Sample statements:

1. **If there is no conflict of interest:** The author(s) declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship and/or publication of this article.

2. **If there is a potential conflict of interest:** The author(s) declared the following conflicts of interest with respect to research, authorship, and/or publication of this article. The author is a Speaker Consultant for XYZ Company in the area of __________.

3. **If funding was received:** This article was funded in part by research funding from XYZ Company. OR The author disclosed receipt of the following financial support for the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article: This work was supported by a grant from __________ (e.g. USDA).

Examples from the *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*:

**AUTHOR INFORMATION**

S. A. Nelson is a graduate research assistant and doctoral candidate and S. M. Nickols-Richardson is professor and professor-in-charge of the Graduate Program in Nutritional Sciences, Department of Nutritional Sciences, and M. A. Corbin is associate director, Cooperative Extension, and state program leader for Children, Youth, and Families, all at The Pennsylvania State University, University Park.

Address correspondence to: Sharon M. Nickols-Richardson, PhD, RD, Department of Nutritional Sciences, 110 Chandlee Laboratory, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802. E-mail: smn13@psu.edu

**STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

S. M. Nickols-Richardson received research funding from General Mills Bell Institute of Health and Nutrition; The Hershey Center for Health and Nutrition, The Hershey Company; and Dairy Research Institute. No potential conflicts of interest were reported by the remaining authors.

Opinions expressed in this commentary do not reflect the opinions of these funding agencies. All authors were employed by The Pennsylvania State University at the time that this commentary was written.

**FUNDING/SUPPORT**

The current work was supported by a grant from the US Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture (award no. 2012-68001-19652).

**AUTHOR INFORMATION**

A. L. Mittelsteadt is a clinical dietitian, Department of Infectious Diseases, and S. R. Harris is an assistant professor, Department of Nutrition, both at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH. C. O. Hileman is an assistant professor, MetroHealth Medical Center and Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Cleveland, OH. At the time of the study, K. M. Payne was a registered dietitian, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH. B. M. Grlpshover is medical director, John T. Carey Special Immunology Unit, University Hospitals Case Medical Center, Cleveland, OH, and an associate professor of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH. G. A. McComsey is chief, Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Rheumatology and Global Health, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Cleveland, OH.

Address correspondence to: Grace A. McComsey, MD, FIDSA, Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Rheumatology and Global Health, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, 11000 Euclid Ave, Cleveland, OH 44106. E-mail: gam9@Case.edu

**STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

G. A. McComsey has served as a scientific advisor or speaker for Bristol Myers Squibb, GlaxoSmithKline, and Tibotec; has received research grants from Bristol Myers Squibb, GlaxoSmithKline, Merck, and Gilead Sciences; and is currently serving as the DSMB Chair for a Pfizer-sponsored study. No potential conflict of interest was reported by the other authors.

**FUNDING/SUPPORT**

Departmental funds were the sole source of funding for this research study.