



The importance of disclosing the conflict of interest (CoI) in the era of open access publishing

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In pharmacological and biomedical sciences, most of the principle donators are progressively demanding open access as a condition in economical support, something which has already become common in various other areas¹.

The expression “open access” has been used since 2002: first in the Budapest Open Access Initiative (February 2002), then in the Bethesda Statement on Open Access Publishing (June 2003) and finally in the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities (October 2003). Open access was initially intended for scholarly journal manuscripts in order to provide an unrestricted online access to them. However, even though this term first appeared in the 2000s, free on-line access to journal manuscripts had started at least 10 years previously².

The European Review for Medical and Pharmacological Sciences (Eur Rev Med Pharmacol Sci) adopts an open access policy and it aims to provide an information exchange platform in several aspects of medical and pharmacological sciences publishing reviews, original articles, and results from original research in the field of medical and pharmacological practice. The purposes of the Journal are to encourage interdisciplinary discussions, thereby contributing to the advancement of medicine³.

We firmly believe that in the era of open access publishing a clear disclosure of conflict of interest may represent a valid tool in preserving and protecting the integrity of scientific literature from any conflictual personal interest⁴.

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The first three questions (Section A) relate to all types of articles submitted to Eur Rev Med Pharmacol Sci, whereas the remaining four (Section B) relate only to research/original articles. For research/original articles, authors, who do not have any CoI, must declare in the “Conflict of interest” section of the manuscript: the author(s) declare(s) no conflict of interest in accordance with Section A and B of CoI.

Section A:

- 1) Is there any undeclared aspect that would embarrass you or any of your co-authors that could emerge after publication?
- 2) Do you or any of your co-authors have any actual or potential conflict of interest (ethical, financial, patent, etc.)?

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- 3) Have you or any of your co-authors received funding (funding from academic institutions and government bodies do not need to be disclosed) for any aspect of the submitted manuscript?

Section B:

- 4) Did this research receive a grant from an entity at any level connected or potentially connected with the content of the manuscript (academic institutions and government bodies do not need to be disclosed)?
- 5) Has any entity (pharmaceutical companies, multinationals, commercial, etc.) reviewed the manuscript content before submission? If yes, please specify their relationship with the manuscript content and if their revision has at any level influenced the final manuscript content.
- 6) Did you or any of your co-authors have any commercial relationship during the previous 2 years with an entity (pharmaceutical companies, multinationals, commercial, etc.) at any level connected or potentially connected with the content of the manuscript?
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Conflict of Interest

The Authors declare that they have no conflict of interests.

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- 3) ERMFS - AIMS AND SCOPE. Available at: <http://www.europeanreview.org/aims-and-scope> Accessed on December 21, 2015.
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