Conflict of Interest Policy for
JAACAP Editorial Board Members

Background

In order to preserve the integrity of the publication and maintain the confidence of its readers and the public, the Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (JAACAP) strives to avoid any real or apparent conflict of interest in the reviewing and editing of manuscripts. With this same intention, disclosure of potential conflict of interest as pertains to authors’ affiliations and financial support of projects and research upon which manuscripts are based is required. Every effort will be made to avoid conflicts of interest in the review and editorial process, taking into consideration that the field of child and adolescent psychiatry is relatively small, and that many of the professionals working within the field are familiar with each other as well as with each other’s work.

Policy

1. All editorial team members (Editor-in-Chief, Associate, Deputy, Assistant, Contributing, at-Large, or ad hoc Editors, and Editorial Board members) will fill out and sign the Journal’s Editorial Board Form. This form will be kept on file by the Editorial Office. Forms will be updated on an annual basis as a precondition of ongoing appointment to the Journal. Editorial team members are responsible for reporting significant changes related to conflict of interest to the Editorial Office at the time they occur. Per AACAP policy, the JAACAP Editor-in-Chief must be free of pharmaceutical industry ties.

The Editorial Office will make every effort not to send manuscripts to reviewers who would have a real or apparent conflict of interest. If a reviewer receives a manuscript that he or she recognizes as presenting a real or apparent conflict of interest, even though blinded, the reviewer should decline to review it.

2. If one of the action editors (Editor-in-Chief, Associate, or Deputy Editors) is an author/coauthor on a manuscript submitted to JAACAP, another well-qualified individual will be selected to serve as ad hoc action editor for such manuscripts so as to avoid the appearance of conflict of interest. The Editor-in-Chief or Associate Editor will assign that individual, preferably from within the Editorial Board ranks. Should that manuscript be published, an acknowledgment will be included in the article stating who served as ad hoc Editor.

3. Authors: When submitting a manuscript of any type, authors are responsible for recognizing and disclosing potential financial or other personal conflicts of interest that might bias their work. In all situations, a statement in the affiliations and acknowledgments section of the manuscript is required, including funding of the research. If deemed necessary by the Editor-in-Chief, further explanation may be required in the text of the article, as a footnote, or as written correspondence with the Editor-in-Chief.
A financial disclosure statement pertaining to relationships other than support specifically for the item in question is required for all items published in *JAACAP*.

Disclosed information is printed after the text and before the references of the published item under the heading “Disclosure”. If there is nothing to disclose, as reported by the author, it will be explicitly stated. The Manuscript Submission Form is used to request the disclosures. By completing and signing the form, each author certifies the following statement:

To my knowledge, all of my possible conflicts of interest and those of my coauthors, financial or otherwise, including direct or indirect financial or personal relationships, interests, and affiliations, whether or not directly related to the subject of the paper, are listed in the appropriate sections of this manuscript. Disclosure includes, but is not limited to, grants or research funding, employment, affiliations, patents (in preparation, filed, or granted), inventions, speakers’ bureaus, honoraria, consultancies, royalties, stock options/ownership, or expert testimony. If an author has no conflicts of interest to declare, this must be explicitly stated. For example, Dr. Stearns reports no biomedical financial interests or potential conflicts of interest.

4. Real or apparent conflict of interest should also be considered and reviewed by the Editor-in-Chief or Associate Editor if any of the following questions are answered in the affirmative.

   a. Is the editor (or reviewer) an author of the manuscript or does s/he have any other designated role in the project that generated the manuscript?

   b. Does the editor (or reviewer) have a relationship with any of the authors of the manuscript that in his/her judgment would compromise his/her objectivity? These considerations may include:

      i. Recency, frequency, and strength of working relationship as reflected, for example, in joint publications;

      ii. From the same institution?

      iii. Recent student of?

   c. Is the editor (or reviewer) a spouse, parent, or child of any of the manuscript authors?

   d. Does manuscript represent work from which the editor (or reviewer) might obtain financial gain?

   e. Does the editor (or reviewer) have any significant self-interest in the publication or rejection of said manuscript?

   f. Is there any other reason for appearance of conflict of interest?

**Sources Consulted:**
1. American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology Conflict of Interest Policy.