



SOCIETY OF DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY

2745 N Dallas Pkwy Ste 350, Plano, TX 75093-8730
(214) 473-8057 | (800) 229-9506 | (214) 473-8563 FAX | sdms.org

JDMS CONFLICTS OF INTEREST POLICY

Conflicts of interest arise when participants in positions of responsibility have personal, or outside financial, business, or professional interests or responsibilities that conflict with their duties to JDMS. The immediacy and seriousness of various conflicts of interest situations can differ. Of basic importance is the degree to which the interest would tend one toward bias or pre-disposition on an issue or otherwise compromise the interests of JDMS.

A conditional, qualified, or potential conflict of interest may arise when the outside interest is not substantial in size or does not relate significantly to any contemplated action of JDMS. For example, a person might hold a minor financial interest in a sponsor company wishing to do business with JDMS. Disclosure is ordinarily sufficient to deal with this type of conflict of interest, provided that there is no expectation that one's duty of loyalty to JDMS would be affected.

A direct conflict of interest arises when an individual holds a position of responsibility with JDMS and also holds a material interest in the issue at hand. Direct conflicts of interest arise, for example, when an individual has confidential knowledge of JDMS plans, policies or practices and holds a material interest or position of responsibility in a competing organization. Such a situation places the person in the impossible position of attempting to represent both the interests of JDMS and those of the other organization. The appropriate and necessary course of action in such cases is to disclose the conflict and recuse oneself, i.e., to remove oneself from the deliberations and the vote on the issue.

In rare circumstances, an individual may have such a serious, ongoing, and irreconcilable conflict, where the relationship to an outside organization so seriously impedes one's ability to carry out the fiduciary responsibility to JDMS, that resignation from the position with JDMS or the conflicting entity is appropriate.

In the publishing world, it is extremely important that public trust in the scientific process is protected and that findings are deemed credible. Examples of conflicts while serving in a volunteer role with JDMS include:

- Holding decision-making roles in competing publications
- Partnerships (especially financial) with study sponsors
- Professional rivalries or academic competition
- Recommendations based on personal intellectual beliefs

It is important to note that conflicts can be either real or perceived, and that transparency is often the safest way to avoid conflicts in advance. If you feel that you have a conflict of interest, please contact the SDMS staff at jdms@sdms.org. Many conflicts can be handled through recusal or other methods and do not require resignation.