

CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN CME/CPD

Dr. Martin Balzan MD FRCP(lond)



*UEMS Conference on CME-CPD in Europe
Brussels, 28th February 2014*

Declaration of conflict of interest

- **Financial** – none
- **Other** –
- President UEMS section of Pneumology
- Secretary EBAP European board of Accreditation in Pulmonology
- CPME Chair of the Environment Committee

- General Secretary Medical Association of Malta
- Vice President – Association of Physicians of Malta
- Vice president – Confederation of Malta Trade unions
- Member – Malta Council of Economic and Social development



Declaration of conflict of interest

- **Current Position**

- Consultant Physician in Respiratory Medicine – Mater Dei Hospital Malta
- Co-ordinator of training for Internal Medicine - core training
- Senior Lecturer in Medicine – University of Malta

- Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London
- Project leader – EU funded E-learning management system for post graduate medical training (ESF 1.19 Malta)
- Project leader – Respira Project – EU funded- Italia-Malta Indoor air quality and respiratory health in 11-14 year old -



Definition

- A conflict of interest is a set of circumstances that creates a risk that a **professional judgement or actions** regarding the primary interest will be **unduly influenced** by a secondary interest
(Thompson 1993)



EACCME - forms

- I have no potential conflict of interest to report
- I have the following potential conflict(s) of interest to report

Type of affiliation / financial interest	Name of commercial company
Receipt of grants/research supports:	
Receipt of honoraria or consultation fees:	
Participation in a company sponsored speaker's bureau:	
Stock shareholder:	
Spouse/partner:	
Other support (please specify):	



LEE UEMS rules

In accordance with criterion 24 of document UEMS 2012/30 “Accreditation of Live Educational Events by the EACCME”, **all declarations of potential or actual conflicts of interest, whether due to a financial or other relationship**, must be provided to the EACCME® upon submission of the application.

Declarations also must be made readily available, either in printed form, with the programme of the LEE, or on the website of the organiser of the LEE. Declarations must include whether any fee, honorarium or arrangement for re-imbursment of expenses in relation to the LEE has been provided.

-



Another Definition

“A conflict of interest occurs when an individual or organisation is involved in multiple interests, one of which could possibly **corrupt the motivation.**”

(Wikipedia)

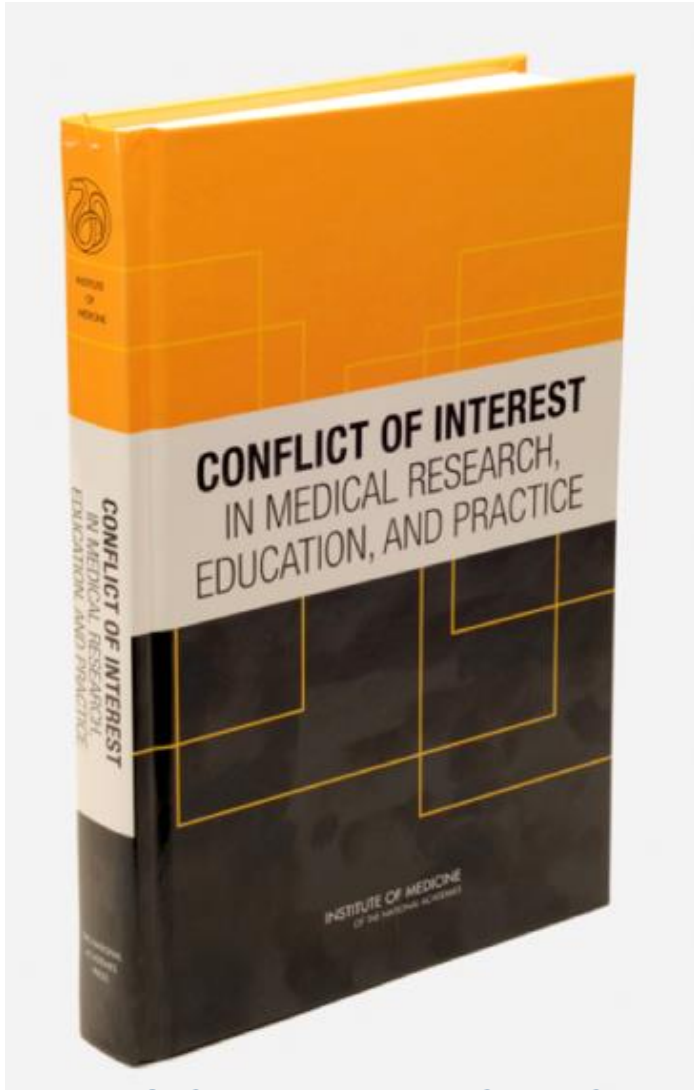


Conflict of Interest in Medicine

Conflict of Interest in Medical Research, Education, and Practice

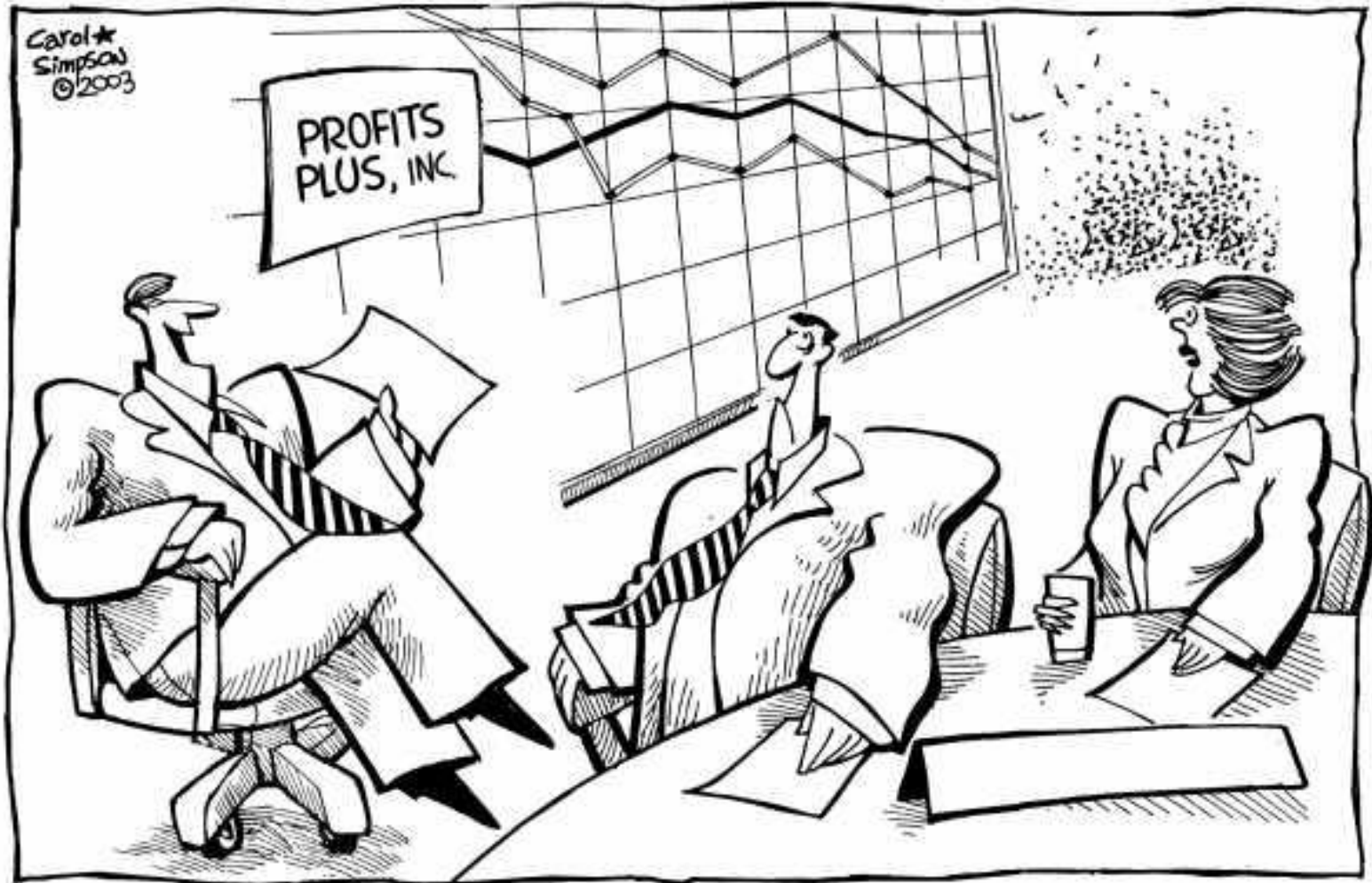
Edited by Bernard Lo and Marilyn J Field.
Institute of Medicine (US) Committee on
Conflict of Interest in Medical Research,
Education, and Practice.

Washington (DC): [National Academies Press](#)
([US](#)); 2009. ISBN-13: 978-0-309-13188-9



Conflict of interest report

- *“The central goal of conflict of interest policies in medicine is to protect the integrity of professional judgment and to **preserve public trust** rather than to try to remediate bias or mistrust after it occurs.”*
- *“The **disclosure of individual and institutional financial relationships** is a critical but limited first step in the process of identifying and responding to conflicts of interest.”*



*“OK, I violated the public trust.
But just how trustworthy is the public anyway?”*

How to reduce conflict ? (autonomously)

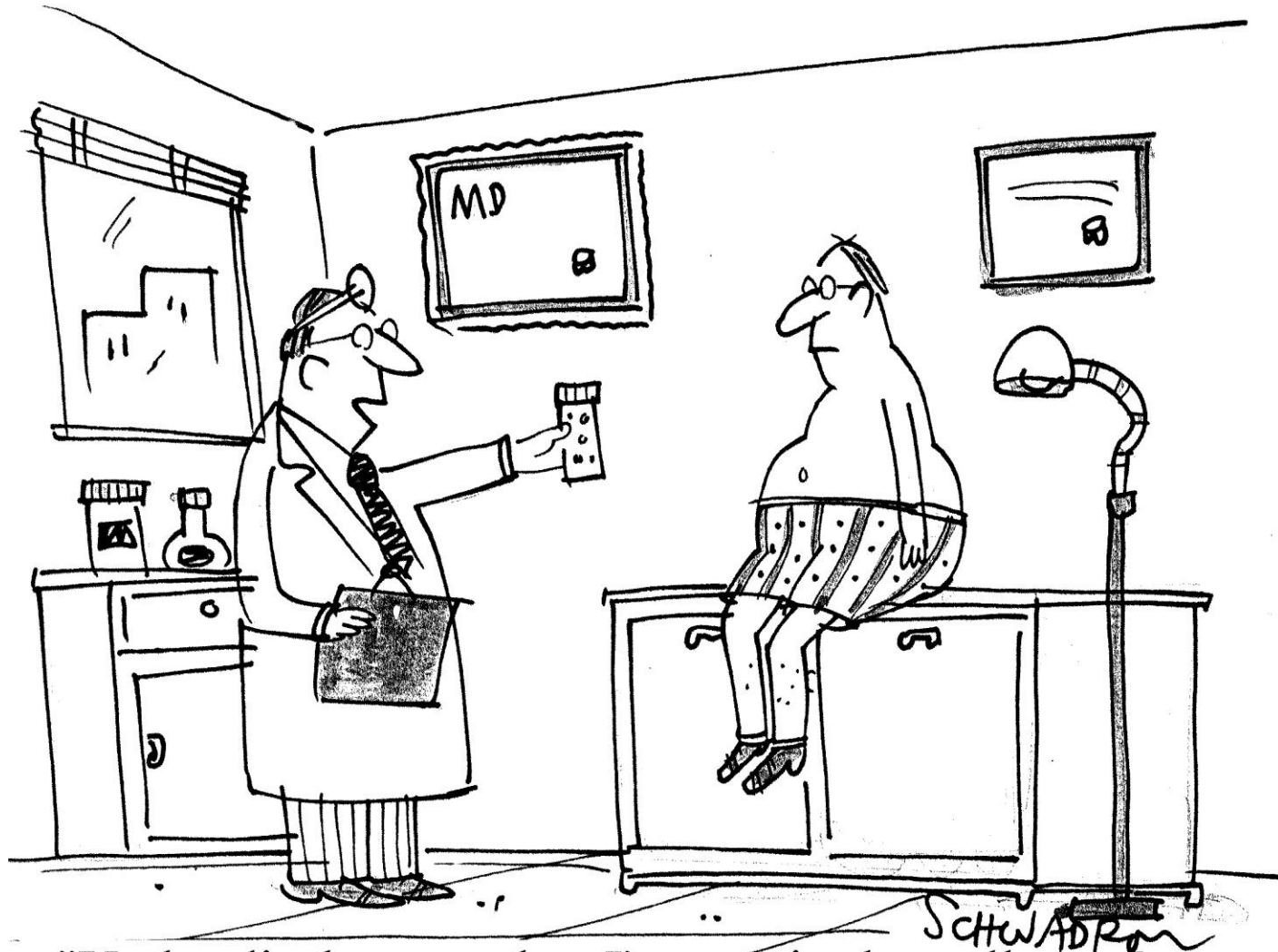
- “Conflict of interest *policies and procedures can be strengthened by engaging* physicians, researchers, and medical institutions in developing policies and consensus standards.”
- “A range of supporting *organizations—including accrediting groups and public and private health insurers—can promote the adoption and implementation of conflict of interest policies and promote a culture of accountability that sustains professional norms and public confidence in medicine.*”
- “Research on conflicts of interest and conflict of interest policies can *provide a stronger evidence base for policy design and implementation*”



If medical institutions do not act voluntarily to strengthen their conflict of interest policies and procedures,

- *the pressure for external regulation is likely to increase.*





"Under disclosure rules, I'm required to tell you I own stock in the company whose drug I'm prescribing."

Resolution (?) of conflict of interest?

- **Removal:** mostly (in particular non-financial) non-removable
- **Exclusion:** no legal basis for exclusion in CME/CPD
- **Recusal:** ethical duty, rarely practiced
- **Transparency:** mandatory basis for balanced judgement by participants



EACCME Lee criteria

- 24) *The Provider must ensure that all members of the Scientific and/or Organising Committee provide written declarations of potential or actual conflicts of interest.*
- 25) *The Provider must confirm that any actual conflicts of interest have been resolved .*
- 26) *The Scientific and/or Organising Committee must ensure that the LEE will provide a programme that presents a scientifically balanced perspective of the subjects included.*
- 27) *The Provider must ensure that all members of the Faculty provide written declarations of potential or actual conflicts of interest*

Funding rules

- 29) The EACCME® will only consider for accreditation LEEs that fulfil specific requirements related to their funding. Accordingly, **events provided by the pharmaceutical and medical equipment industries will not be considered for accreditation.**
- 30) *The **source(s) of all funding for the LEE must be declared, and be made available to Learners in a readily accessible manner.***
- 31) *The Scientific and/or Organising Committee must confirm that it has determined the content of all aspects of the LEE to be **free of any attempt by sponsors to influence the Committee's decisions.***



Conclusion

- There is neither person nor institution, neither provider nor participant **without** conflict of interest
- Since removal or exclusion will hardly be practicable, **recusal** should be more often encouraged, and **transparency** is mandatory
- It is time to implement **effective** declarations of conflict of interest





THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Martin Balzan

*UEMS Conference on CME-CPD in Europe
Brussels, 28th February 2014*



Examples

- A
- B
- C