

PHSA Research Conflict of Interest

What is a COI?

A conflict of interest exists when your financial or external interest improperly influences, or appears to influence, your roles, responsibilities, or research outcomes. To find out if you have a conflict, ask yourself if **an independent observer would question your process, research outcomes, or clinical care because of these interests and actions**. If the answer is yes, then you need to manage the conflict so harm doesn't occur.

While it is easy to describe a conflict of interest, it's a hard thing to identify. Below are types of interests that can result in a conflict. Whether you have a conflict depends on the circumstances and your roles and research, not only the interest you have. The declaration process is designed to help you and your reviewer decide if you have a conflict that needs to be managed.

Types of Conflicts of Interests

Financial Conflicts of Interest and Non-PHSA External Conflicts of Interest

A financial interest is when you have something of monetary value given to you by a for-profit individual or industry. This includes:

- compensation (salary, bonuses, income, etc.)
- equity interests (stocks, stock options, convertible security, etc.)
- revenue or royalties from IP rights

An external interest is an outside relationship or activity, not related to PHSA, such as board membership, directorship, ownership, etc.

The interest itself is not a conflict. It is when you or a related person has this interest and it is with an individual/industry that:

- PHSA has a business relationship with,
- contradicts the values or mission of PHSA,
- relates to your area of research, or
- is connected to your PHSA role (procurement, HR decisions, etc.).

Scientific Conflicts of Interest

A scientific COI occurs when your background or interests influence how your scientific evidence, publications, testimony, or presentations are presented.