

Cochrane Learning Webinar Handout. The nature and range of so-called “non-financial” interests

- Grief over death of a pet¹⁸
- Achieving fame,¹⁹ status,² reputation, prestige, influence, or power
- Fulfillment of a desire to do good
- Personal sense of worth¹⁹
- **Religious beliefs²**
- **Membership in a religious organisation**
- **Political views^{20,21}**
- Sexuality²¹
- “Exercises every day and is heavy into exercise”
- Dietary preferences or non-nutritional interventions “that are specific, circumscribed, and adhered to strongly”¹³
- Having a medical condition that may benefit from the drug being considered for subsidy⁵
- Personal antipathy
- Rivalry or cronyism
- History of collaboration
- Family members’ disease conditions including hereditary conditions
- **Personal relationships,² (e.g. working with spouse)**
- Concern for the well-being of family or friends²
- Defense of others with parallel or overlapping interests; “gangs”
- Familiarity and comraderie; “we are all part of the same club”²²
- **A “clearly expressed,” “published opinion,” or comment on the topic**
- **Advocacy or policy positions on the topic under study⁹**
- **Substantial career effort or interest within the guidelines or review topic area**
- **“Strongly held beliefs” related to a guidelines or review topic area**
- Fanaticism about a single issue²⁰
- “Excessive zeal of an investigator in trying to complete a study”²⁴
- Researcher allegiance to psychological therapy²⁷
- Disciplinary conflicts (among specialties or schools of thought)²⁸
- **Leadership role on a related guidelines panel or committee**
- **Authors of clinical practice guidelines on topic for which they’re now doing a systematic review**
- Authorship of a previous systematic review on the same topic⁹
- **Authorship of published primary studies included in a systematic review^{9,25}**
- Serving as a peer reviewer on a competing study or review
- Using editorial role to shape a study and its interpretation in favour of one’s views
- “Confluence of thinking” resulting from review leaders and technical experts being of the same speciality
- Bias towards pre-clinical animal models that are more accessible but less relevant to human health
- **Advocacy positions**
- **Membership in an advocacy organisation²⁰**
- Desire to align with other organisations (e.g. aligning guideline with the CDC)
- **Desire to maintain political power or leadership position**
- Influence of political actors, including lobbyists, over systematic review or guideline processes (e.g. systematic review not favourable to lobbyist’s position so review is “buried in the basement” when the reviewers won’t alter the findings)
- **“Careerism”²³ or career development**
- **Academic currency in the form of publications and grants,²⁴ prestigious prizes, or speaking invitations**
- Medical speciality^{25,26}
- Special qualification in a psychological therapy²⁷
- **Memberships of professional organisations**
- Conference attendance
- Invitations (or return invitations) to serve on committees or guideline panels
- Dual-role relationships (e.g. recruiting one’s own patients to a clinical trial)
- **Relationships with government or health care organisations (e.g. employees of Kaiser or the Veterans Administration are “believers”)**
- Geographic or affiliation bias²⁸
- Service to another organization that overlaps with the mission of the guidelines organization
- Acting as chair or unpaid consultant for relevant organization
- **Opportunity to publish in a peer-reviewed journal**
- **Future success in obtaining grant funding for research**
- Professional accolades for obtaining a positive outcome from a particular clinical trial¹⁹
- Long service to government committees or private insurers (e.g. a cost-limiting bias)²⁹

bolded text denotes the interest is covered in a conflict of interest policy

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- Global health philanthropy for a research program or review for a certain intervention (feels conditional)
- Consulting for pharmaceutical companies that manufacture medications you study at levels below the threshold for reporting or NIH definition of conflict of interest
- **Uncompensated relationships with companies**
- Receipt of industry-sponsored meals or gifts
- Academic is a company partner; directs support from the grant to company
- Evaluating one’s own proprietary (non-pharmacological) intervention (especially if you sell accredited training, books, or manuals)^{13,30}
- Sale of books or programs based on one’s nutrition or dietary research¹³
- Clinical income derived from a particular procedure or intervention^{25,29}
- Employment