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In the interests of transparency and to help readers form their own judgements of potential bias, Nature Portfolio journals' require authors to declare any competing financial and/or non-financial interests in relation to the work described. The corresponding author is responsible for submitting a competing interests' statement on behalf of all authors of the paper.

Definition

For the purposes of this policy, competing interests are defined as financial and non-financial interests that could directly undermine, or be perceived to undermine the objectivity, integrity and value of a publication, through a potential influence on the judgements and actions of authors with regard to objective data presentation, analysis and interpretation.

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It is difficult to specify a threshold at which a financial interest become significant, but note that many US universities require faculty members to disclose interests exceeding $10,000 or 5% equity in a company (see, for example, B. Lo *et al. New Engl*. J. *Med*. 343, 1616-1620; 2000). Any such figure is necessarily arbitrary, so we offer as one possible practical alternative guideline: "Any undeclared competing financial interests that could embarrass you were they to become publicly known after your work was published."

We do not consider diversified mutual funds or investment trusts to constitute a competing financial interest.

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Where an editorial board member or external editor is on the author list they must declare this in the competing interests section on the submitted manuscript. If they are an author or have

any other competing interest regarding a specific manuscript, another member of the editorial board will be assigned to assume responsibility for overseeing peer review. These submissions are subject to the exact same review process as any other manuscript.

Editorial board members and external editors are welcome to submit papers to the journal. These submissions are not given any priority over other manuscripts, and editorial board member or external editor status has no bearing on editorial consideration.

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Nature Portfolio journals' editorials

- Authors will now be asked to declare any interests that might cloud objectivity. *Nature*, Nature journals tighten rules on non-financial conflicts, January 2018.
- To promote transparency and honesty, it is important for corresponding authors to divulge any financial interests that may affect how their articles are perceived. *Nature Photonics*, Truth and transparency, *June 2013*.
- The US government has changed how biomedical scientists disclose their financial interests. The revised rules are welcome, but internet access to the identified conflicts should be a requirement, *Nature,* Accountable and transparent, 6 September 2012.
- Claims of conflicts of interest highlight the difficulties facing regulators participating in collaborations with industry. *Nature Biotechnology*. Conflicts and collaborations, November 2010.
- A one-size-fits-all policy on disclosure of competing interests may not be the way forward. *Nature Reviews Clinical Oncology*. Conflict of interest disclosures, January 2010.

- Not all financial interests in drug discovery are detrimental, and many are essential for its success. But focusing on perceived conflicts of interest may cause true scientific corruption to go unnoticed. *Nature Medicine*. A really serious conflict, May 2009.
- The distinction between actual and perceived competing interests. *Nature Medicine*. The doors of perception, February 2008.
- Scientific endeavours benefit from transparency and open declarations of real or perceived conflicts of interest. *Nature Chemical Biology*. Keeping it real, April 2007.
- Declaring competing financial interests when publishing a methods paper is essential to maintaining credibility and transparency. *Nature Methods*. Nothing to declare? November 2006.
- Researchers's disclosures of competing financial interests are undergoing a dangerous transformation from instruments of transparency to evidence of wrongdoing. *Nature Medicine*. Dealing with disclosure, September 2006.
- A competing financial interests policy adds transparency to the increasingly elaborate net of financial interests in research. *Nature Cell Biology*. Nothing to declare? June 2004.
- The journal extends its conflicting financial interests policy to include review articles. *Nature Neuroscience*. Financial disclosure for review authors, October 2003.

Introducing a competing financial interests policy for authors, 2001:

- *Nature Neuroscience*. A new policy on financial disclosure
- *Nature Immunology*. Competing financial interests
- *Nature*. Declaration of financial interests

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Application to publishing policy

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