

West Virginia University
Institutional Biosafety Committee
Conflict of Interest Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) policy is to provide information regarding how the IBC will identify and manage potential conflict of interest when reviewing IBC protocol applications.

General Policy

All Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) members and ad hoc members shall disclose to the IBC all conflicts of interest for themselves and their spouses/domestic partners and dependent children. For purposes of this policy, a conflict of interest may be identified as either financial in nature (such as when an IBC member or ad hoc member holds an economic interest in the research) or non-financial in nature (such as when an IBC member or ad hoc member participates in the research or will be included as a co-author on a publication from the research), either of which could affect or appear to affect the design, conduct, oversight, or reporting of the research project.

The IBC may request information from a member in conflict whose expertise would be helpful during the discussion of a motion. In such case, the presence of the member during the discussion and subsequent absence during later discussion and voting shall be noted in the minutes.

Examples of conflicts of Interest

- The IBC member is currently engaged, or expects to be engaged in the research project under review.
- The IBC member has a direct financial interest in the PI or the entity funding the research proposed by the PI.
- The IBC member and the PI of the application under review share a familial relationship.
- The IBC member has other reasons to feel that he/she cannot render an independent assessment of an application.

The IBC member shall disclose the conflict of interest at the following time:

- When the IBC member is contacted to participate in the review of a project from a PI with whom the IBC member has a conflict of interest.
- Prior to discussion at a convened IBC meeting of a project for which the IBC member has a conflict of interest.

An IBC member shall be recused from participating in the final disposition vote on an application for which he/she has declared a conflict of interest.

- Although an IBC member shall be recused from voting on the final disposition of projects for which he/she has a conflict of interest, the IBC member shall remain eligible to provide information related to the review of the project to the IBC.