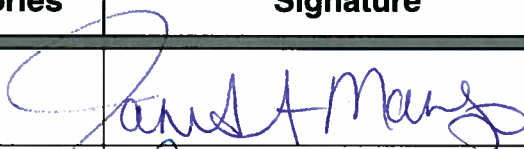



Policy Title	Conflict of Interest – OCREB Members
Policy Number	P _002
Supersedes	N/A - Original
Version Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	2008-02-21

Approvals

Name and Title of Signatories	Signature	Date yyyy/mm/dd
Janet Manzo Executive Director, OCREB		2008-02-21
Ronald Heslegrave Chair, OCREB		2008-02-21

Conflict of interest arises when an individual in a position of trust has competing professional or personal interests. Such competing interests may influence his or her professional judgment, objectivity and independence, and can potentially influence the the outcome of a decision, for personal benefit. A conflict of interest may exist even if no unethical or improper act results from it.

The REB must be perceived to be fair and impartial, immune from pressure either by the sponsor, affiliated institution or the investigators whose protocols are brought before it, or other professional and nonprofessional sources. REBs must therefore identify and manage conflicts of interest – real or apparent – to maintain the public confidence and trust and maintain the independence and integrity of ethics review. If a conflict of interest cannot be avoided, procedures should be in place to mitigate the conflict.

The standard that should guide decisions about determining conflicting interests is whether an independent observer could reasonably question whether the individual’s actions or decisions would be based on factors other than the rights, welfare, and safety of the subjects.

Accordingly, OCREB members do not participate in the initial or continuing review of any research project in which the member has a conflict of interest, except to provide information if requested by the Board. When there is a conflict of interest (including but not limited to when the member is a participating investigator), the member must recuse him/herself from the meeting during the deliberations and decisions regarding such projects.