

Policy and Guidelines of the Japan Oncoplastic Breast Surgery Society regarding Conflict of Interest

Oncoplastic breast surgery is a relatively new diagnostic area aimed specifically to completely cure breast cancer, and to pursue an aesthetically satisfying outcome. While an industry-academia joint clinical research is vital for advancement in this area, it is subject to occasional conflict of interest (COI). A COI is any situation where a benefit to one side becomes a disadvantage to the other, and specifically in our environment, is a situation where researchers, staff and faculty are subjected to both public and private interests. Situation of this nature may possibly distort the research results and may even prevent appropriate results of the studies from a fair evaluation. Therefore, it is essential to disclose the status of COI upon the announcement of any research results. This policy and the guidelines are in accordance with the criterion regarding COI set forth by The Japanese Association of Medical Sciences, the details of which should be referenced therein.

1. **Fundamental policy:** Announcement of the results of clinical researches must be conducted based on the scientific judgment and public interest, and the research results and announcements thereof should not be intentionally influenced in any forms by the benefit of the financial contributor, nor be subjected to such suspicions. It is the policy of our Society to require all directors and faculties, as well as the members involved in the announcement of the research results, to disclose all potential COI as set forth hereunder.
2. **Disclosure of COI relationships**....is required in case any of the COI relationships listed below exists among directors and presenters, as well as among entities sharing common assets with the directors and presenters;
 - ① Directors and Advisors of corporations or for-profit entities (hereafter corporations/ organizations)
 - ② Shareholders of corporations/organizations
 - ③ Patent royalty beneficiaries from corporations/organizations
 - ④ Per Diem fees (such as lecturer's fees) paid for participation (presentation) in the conference from corporations/organizations
 - ⑤ Compensation for manuscript of pamphlets/brochures paid by corporations/organizations
 - ⑥ Research fees contributed by corporations/organizations
 - ⑦ Other remuneration from corporations/organizations (such as travel expenses and gifts not related to the research itself)
3. **Procedure for violations:** In the event where a member in a COI fails to make an appropriate disclosure

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of activities within the Society, or when such a disclosure is found to be false, Conflict of Interest Committee shall review the case and report the violation to the board of directors. The board of directors shall issue a warning to the violator and shall levy a penalty pursuant to the Society regulations in the event the violation is not rectified, subject to an allowance for the penalized member to file a complaint.

4. **Establishment of by-laws:** The Conflict of Interest Committee shall establish detailed by-laws required to enforce this policy and make needed amendments as they arise. This policy and by-laws shall be publicized to the members in the Society's home page.
5. **By-laws:** All members conducting lectures and presentations at academic meetings and workshops sanctioned by the Society, and members acting as directors of the Society, shall disclose any potential COI during the preceding 1 (one) year period, based on the following criterion.

If:

- 1) a remuneration for directorship, advisory position at any single for-profit entity (hereinafter corporation/organization) exceeds 1 Million Yen per year;
- 2) any gains (total of dividends, capital gains) from the equity ownership of a single corporation/organization exceed 1 Million Yen per year, or an equity ownership exceeds 5% of the outstanding shares of such corporation/organization;
- 3) any patent royalty(ies) from a single corporation/organization exceeds 1 Million Yen per year;
- 4) a total compensation (such as, lecturer's fees) paid by a single corporation/organization for participation in conferences exceeds 1 Million Yen per year;
- 5) a total compensation for manuscripts of pamphlets/brochures paid by a single corporation/organization exceeds 1 Million Yen per year;
- 6) R&D costs and donations contributed by a single corporation/organization exceed 2 Million Yen per year;
- 7) trip expenses and gifts not directly related to the research paid by a single corporation/organization exceed 50,000 Yen per year.