Editorial Disclosures for Biological Psychiatry: Cognitive Neuroscience and Neuroimaging

Biological Psychiatry: Cognitive Neuroscience and Neuroimaging (BP:CNNI) recognizes the importance of considering potential editorial conflicts of interest when processing and evaluating manuscript submissions. We therefore provide this policy to the scientific community as a means of offering transparency to the editorial policies of the journal. Editors of BP:CNNI will provide public disclosures of their financial interests over the last two years, and will differentiate those relationships by yearly monetary values of less than or equal to $10,000, and those greater than $10,000. The single exception to the monetary designation is research study support in the form of drug only (no other financial or material support). When only the study drug is supplied for a project, this will be listed in the minor conflict category. Editors will recuse themselves from evaluating or handling a paper according to the following rules:

1) In the event of a major conflict of interest (greater than $10,000), the editor having such conflict will not have any involvement in the editorial process, including but not limited to evaluating, reviewing, commenting on or otherwise participating in editorial decision-making, regarding any manuscript believed to be related to the source of the conflict in any way. By way of example, an editor will not involve him/herself with manuscripts where any of the authors are employed at the same institution as the editor, nor will an editor have any involvement in the editorial process regarding manuscripts investigating any drug manufactured by a company in which the editor has a major conflict (as listed and defined in this policy).

2) Also in relation to major conflicts (greater than $10,000), in cases where an editor has consulted with a company on a particular drug, the editor will recuse him/herself from involvement in the editorial process with regard to the entire class of agents, regardless of the funding source of the manuscript.

3) For minor conflicts of interest (equal to or less than $10,000) or those with drug support only, editors will recuse themselves from the editorial process in connection with manuscripts only in instances involving the specifics of their relationship (i.e., manuscripts that report on the specific drug with which the editor has a relationship).

4) Because not all potential conflicts of interest are financial in nature, editors shall recuse themselves from the editorial process regarding any manuscript in connection with which the editor believes he/she cannot provide an impartial, unbiased opinion. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to instances in which a personal relationship may exist, such as a mentorship or a scientific collaboration, or in cases where the scientific information may be in conflict with the editor’s own scientific reporting/data. In considering whether a basis for recusal exists, an editor shall be guided by the need to avoid the appearance of conflict.

5) For submitted papers where an editor is a co-author, the manuscript will be handled by a member of the Society of Biological Psychiatry (SOBP) Editorial Committee who does not have a conflict of interest with respect to that editor/author or the other authors of the paper.
6) Interests or relationships belonging to an immediate family member of an editor constitute a major conflict of interest for said editor to the same extent that it would if such interest or relationship belonged to said editor directly. Any editor having such a family-related major conflict of interest shall recuse him/herself from the editorial process relating to all manuscripts where such conflict exists.

7) An editor shall not use any confidential information obtained from his/her editorial activities with BP:CNNI to further his/her own or others’ financial interests or personal or professional gain.

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