

Manuscript Title: _____

Authors: _____

Manuscript number (if known): _____ **Submitted to (check one):** ☒ JEI ☐ eiRxiv

A Conflict of Interest (COI) occurs in scientific publishing when an author, or someone they're connected with, directly or indirectly financially benefits or appears to financially benefit from the publishing of a manuscript.

COIs can be concerning in science because external pressure or motivation could cause the author, their results, and their interpretation to be consciously or unconsciously biased – which can make a study less reliable. Researchers are expected to declare any and all possible COIs so the reader can have all the facts necessary to determine whether the research can be trusted.

Example COIs include (but are not limited to):

- A soda manufacturer publishes a blind taste test showing participants preferred their soda over a competitor's
- Student authors are testing how effective a new antibiotic is; the antibiotic is produced by a company one of the adult authors works for
- The research on a new antiviral medicine was funded by a pharmaceutical company developing new products
- The senior author's spouse is on the board of directors for a company that developed the location-tracking software a student author used in their research
- One of the authors on a study about the safety of a certain medical device was paid by the device's manufacturer to be an expert witness during a trial

According to the Center on Publication Ethics, **failure to disclose a conflict of interest is a form of publishing misconduct and may warrant sanctions against the author(s) or the manuscript. Please make sure your declarations below are truthful and complete.** If you are not sure whether your situation counts as a COI, please reach out to submissions@emerginginvestigators.org.

If this manuscript is accepted, all authors will also be asked to sign a Consent for Publication form to verify that any COIs that may exist have been declared in this form and in the submitted manuscript.

1. **List below any authors who DO NOT have any conflicts of interest** (real or perceived affiliations with any commercial organization that has a direct or indirect financial interest in any matter included in the manuscript; personal associations or involvement with such an organization as a director or officer; or service as or affiliation with an expert witness for such an organization):

--

2. **List below any authors who DO have any conflicts of interest** (real or perceived affiliations with any commercial organization that has a direct or indirect financial interest in any matter included in the manuscript; personal associations or involvement with such an organization as a director or officer; or service as or affiliation with an expert witness for such an organization):

Author Name	Describe the COI: Who is the author affiliated with, how are they affiliated, and how does this relate to the manuscript?

****If you have declared a Conflict of Interest in this document, please make sure it is also briefly declared in the “Conflict of Interest” section of your manuscript, following the instructions in our manuscript template.****

By signing below, the Coordinating Adult attests on behalf of all authors that these above declarations are truthful and complete, and that failure to truthfully disclose may result in sanctions against the author(s) and/or manuscript.

Coordinating Adult Name: _____

Coordinating Adult Signature: _____ **Date:** _____