Harmonizing COI Disclosure

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ASCO’s role in COI disclosure and management

- Professional Membership: > 45,000 physicians, researchers, members of oncology care team
- Publisher: 5 journals including flagship *Journal of Clinical Oncology*
- Producer: major scientific meetings
Authors’ and editors’ challenge:  
It is hard to do this right and easy to do it wrong!

- Most authors intend to accurately disclose outside interests
- Lack of disclosure standards make authors’ and editors’ tasks more difficult, time-consuming, and open to “errors”
- Open Payments has become a default “source of truth”
- Even accurate disclosures may appear incomplete
- A system setting authors up to fail is a disservice to the scientific community
- Discordant disclosures may decrease trust in the integrity of our publications

Disclosure Management System
Manage your disclosures across ASCO

Welcome to the ASCO Conflict of Interest Disclosure Management System. This system provides a centralized place to manage your disclosures of financial relationships with health care companies for ASCO activities. Please review the detailed instructions before completing your disclosure.

- Update Your Disclosure
- Print Your Disclosure
- Share Your Disclosure

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Your disclosure record will be established here and eventually used for all your ASCO activities requiring COfI disclosure, including volunteer service, meeting faculty roles, journal manuscript submission, and meeting abstract submission.
“We heard from a lot of researchers who were very frustrated that different journals have different rules. Some go back two years. Some go back three years. They have different rules about what's considered relevant…better streamlining of what their rules are for disclosure across these journals would be good.”

“Create uniform reporting standards. Doctors might have an easier time abiding by the rules if they were the same everywhere.”

“…the disclosures aren’t necessarily omitted in bad faith, but standards for disclosure vary from one conference or publication to another.”

Opportunity to harmonize financial disclosure in science

- Multiple stakeholders agree that harmonization is both feasible and desirable
- Develop a common disclosure framework to standardize categories, definitions, questions, timeframes
- Tackle “relevant” vs. general disclosure – a challenging distinction
- A shared responsibility – not journals alone