**Significant Financial Interest Disclosure Statement to Students and Trainees**

As your advisor it is important that I make you aware of my significant financial interest(s):

*[insert disclosure statement, including a description of the financial interest]*

I have reported the significant financial interest(s) to Brown’s Conflict of Interest Review Board. The Board has recommended disclosure of the significant financial interest(s) to all students and trainees in my lab/ my research group.

If, at any time, you have concerns about the impact of my significant financial interest(s) on you and your research, I hope that you will feel free to talk with me about it. If you would prefer to speak with someone else who is not in my lab/ part of my research group, but has familiarity with my financial interests and the review thereof, please contact Juliane Blyth or Rebecca Haworth in the Office of Research Integrity (juliane\_blyth@brown.edu, tel. 401 863-3295; Rebecca\_haworth@brown.edu, tel. 401-863-2041).

Regards,

[Investigator]

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□ I acknowledge receipt of the disclosure statement

Print Name:

Signature/Date:

**Significant Financial Interest Disclosure Statement to Students and Trainees Additional Information**

***Why am I receiving this disclosure statement?***

You are receiving this disclosure statement because your supervisor/mentor, Professor [Name], reported outside financial interest(s) to Brown University as part of the required Conflict of Interest (COI) reporting under the University’s COI policy. Upon review of the reported interest(s), the University determined that in the interest of open communication and full transparency, the financial interests should be disclosed to Professor [Name]’s students and trainees.

***Why does Brown University require that the financial interest(s) is/are disclosed to me?***

Brown University faculty and investigators engage in a variety of scholarly, research, and consultative activities that may take them outside the realm of the University. Engaging in such activities and/or establishing relationships with outside commercial and non-commercial entities can provide important support to the University's core mission of conducting cutting edge research, student training, and education. Nonetheless, relationships with outside entities raise the concern that financial, fiduciary, and other aspects of these relationships may create real or perceived conflicts of interest or commitment with University duties and responsibilities, including research efforts and mentoring/supervising students.

The University recognizes that a trainee’s research work may be dictated, in part, by their mentor’s research interests and areas of focus. Trainees are not necessarily privy to their mentor’s financial interest(s) in or relationship(s) with outside entities; they may not have the information or leverage to recognize potential COIs such as an emphasis on research projects designed to enhance the mentor’s financial interest(s), or object to their own involvement in projects in which a potential financial COI exists.

For these reasons, the University seeks to ensure that students and trainees are provided with complete information about their mentor’s outside financial interest(s) that relate(s) to research projects the student/trainee may be asked to undertake or participate in. Further, Brown University seeks to put in place a neutral process through which the student’s or trainee’s interests may be protected.

***To what extent can a mentor’s financial interest(s) affect students/trainees?***

In general, the mentor’s financial interests should not adversely affect or otherwise influence guidance, supervision, or selection of research projects. When choosing academic assignments, mentor and trainee should ensure that the assignments principally serve the interests of the trainee in his/her academic advancement.

When faculty members report outside financial interests, the COI Review Board (COIRB) reviews each interest for potential conflicts of interest. If the faculty member is engaged in mentoring and supervising students, the COIRB will review the following:

* to what extent will students/trainees have any role in the research that is sponsored by or related to the financial interests?
* to what extent might the financial interests adversely limit student/trainee choice of research topics?
* to what extent might the financial interests result in restrictions on student work?
* to what extent might the significant financial interests impede student publication process (inclusive of the submission of abstracts and public presentations)?

In this specific instance, the COIRB reviewed Professor [Name]’s reported interests and determined that any student/trainee who conducts research with him/her be informed about the nature of any financial interests or relationships with outside entities that may have the potential to influence research and supervision of trainees.

***Who can I talk to if I have concerns about my mentor’s financial interest(s) and its/their impact on my research efforts and academic advancement?***

In accordance with the [grievance procedures](https://www.brown.edu/academics/gradschool/grievance-procedures) established by the Graduate School, you should always attempt to first discuss your concerns directly with your mentor. If this has not been fruitful or if you do not want to discuss this or raise it directly with your mentor, there are a number of neutral parties you can approach with your concerns.

* As outlined in the Graduate School’s grievance procedures, you can also raise your concerns with the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) in your department.
* You can also contact the [Office of Research Integrity](https://www.brown.edu/research/office-vice-president-research/offices/research-protections-office/research-protections-office) (ORI). ORI, together with the University’s Conflict of Interest Review Board (COIRB) reviewed your mentor’s financial interests and recommended disclosure to students/trainees.