

Harvard Medical School
Guidelines for Conflicts of Interest

<http://www.hms.harvard.edu/integrity/guide.html>

[Items of special pertinence to DMS have been bolded on this page.]

MENTORS' OBLIGATIONS TO STUDENTS AND TRAINEES IN INDUSTRIAL SPONSORED RESEARCH

- (a) Trainees (medical students, **graduate students** and post doctoral fellows) **must always** be encouraged to **conduct research in areas that optimize their training. Special care must be taken to assure that a trainee's research is not designed to (and does not appear to) enhance their mentor's Financial Interest, and is not adversely affected by that interest or by contractual aspects of the Sponsored Research agreement that inhibit scientific communication or that commit intellectual property rights to the industrial sponsor.**
- (b) **Before embarking on a research project, a trainee must be provided by the mentor with a clear description of 1) any corporate support of the research to be undertaken, 2) any personal Financial Interest the mentor has in a sponsoring Business, and 3) any restrictions that might be imposed on the scientific communication of the data.**
- (c) **Written approval must be obtained before a trainee can be assigned to conduct research which is sponsored by a Business or which involves a Technology to which the Business has license rights, and in which the mentor has any Financial Interest.**

In the case of graduate students (Ph.D., M.D./Ph.D., M.P.H., and D.M.Sc. candidates), permission must be given by the chairperson (or designated Faculty member or committee) for the graduate program and by the mentor's department chairperson.

In the case of medical and dental students (M.D., and D.M.D. degree candidates), permission must be given by the mentor's Medical School department chairperson. Additionally, for research in the Quadrangle departments, permission must be given by the Executive Dean for Academic Programs. For research in the Hospital, permission must be given by the appropriate Faculty Dean.

In the case of postdoctoral fellows, permission must be given by the mentor's Medical School department chairperson.

- (d) **A trainee may appeal his/her involvement in any industrially Sponsored Research or research which involves Technology to which a Business has license rights when the trainee believes that he or she is being adversely affected by any conflict of interest (real or apparent) resulting from the mentor's relations with the sponsoring Business or with any Business that may benefit from the trainee's research or from the Sponsored Research agreement. The appeal should be made as appropriate to the Executive Dean for Academic Programs, the Hospital's Faculty Dean, and or the School's or Hospital's Ombudsperson.**

Faculty in the Division of Medical Sciences should provide the information on the other side of this form to all students doing dissertation research. The completed form should be discussed by the student's Dissertation Advisory Committee (DAC) to ensure that students work on research which can contribute unimpeded to their dissertation. The DAC will require that any updates are disclosed to the student and to the committee. The DAC will also be responsible for item (c) above.

DMS students can contact David Cardozo or Thomas Roberts in DMS or Margaret Dale, J.D., Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, HMS, to discuss interpretations or concerns.

We have discussed the information below: Dissertation Advisor Name: _____ Advisor

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Student Name: _____ Student

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Faculty advisors should list all (names but not dollar values):

a) sources of support for research in the laboratory:

b) names of significant holdings of stock or income in a sponsoring Business, as reported to HMS:

c) names of companies for which the advisor consults:

d) any other constraints, such as sharing agreements, which could affect the student's research progress and completion of the dissertation:

If your institution has a substitute for this form, please check this box and attach a copy in its place.

PLEASE RETURN TO PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR:

**BBS Program Administrator
Gordon Hall Rm. 005
Harvard Medical School
617-432-4035**