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Conflicts of Interest: Setting the Limits

N. Sartorius¹

¹AMH, Association for the Improvement of Mental Health Programmes, Geneva, Switzerland

The declaration of conflict of interest is an important tool helping to understand the results of studies and opinions expressed by authors of scientific publications. In recent years it has become obligatory to declare any conflict of interest in publications as well as for oral presentations at scientific meetings. The idea is excellent yet the form which is currently used for the declaration is faulty: it is usually required and sufficient to declare connection with (in various forms – from honoraria to share ownership) in pharmaceutical companies. There are however many other conflicts of interest that have to be taken into account when interpreting presentations.

In the contribution to this symposium various possible conflicts of interest will be discussed and suggestions will be made about ways to improve the declaration.