



Confidentiality and Conflicts of Interest

Why

We know you share our desire to ensure that proposals receive a fair and thoughtful review

Confidentiality and Impartiality are important to maintaining the integrity of the review process

Some types of financial interests are considered conflicts

Confidentiality - 1

The contents of proposals are confidential

Reviews and reviewers are confidential

Ratings and recommendations are confidential

Panel membership is confidential

Do not discuss proposals, reviews, or any related business with others without the presence of an NSF official

You are welcome to share general information about the NSF reviewer/panel experience and process with colleagues

Confidentiality - 2

Principal Investigators will receive anonymous copies of reviews

NSF protects reviews from public disclosure to the extent allowed by law. (NSF does not usually disclose reviews in response to Freedom of Information Act requests.)

Copies of reviews may be shared with NSF funding partners, if any

Conflicts of Interest

- **Institutional**
- **Individual**
- **Family/Household**
- **Other**

WHAT TO DO: If you think you have a Col or other circumstance that could lead to questions about your impartiality, contact the managing program director before you submit a review.

Institutional Conflict - 1

You have an institutional conflict with a proposal when, for any institution involved in the proposed project, you:

Hold a current position at the institution, such as a professor, adjunct professor, visiting scientist, or similar position

Have a financial arrangement with the institution (such as consulting or a paid advisory arrangement)

Were employed by an institution within the last 12 months

Are seeking employment at the institution

Have a formal or informal reemployment arrangement with the institution

Institutional Conflict - 2

You have an institutional conflict with a proposal when, for any organization involved in the proposed project, you:

Serve on a Visiting Committee or similar body (Conflict is with the part of the organization advised by the committee)

Serve as an Officer, Councilor, Trustee, or on a Governing Board (a position with a fiduciary responsibility)

Received and retained money from the organization within the last 12 months – e.g. an honorarium or travel expenses

Own stock or other security in the organization that is worth more than the *de minimus* level (currently \$15,000)

Individual Conflict

You have an individual conflict with a proposal which involves a:

Spouse or family member

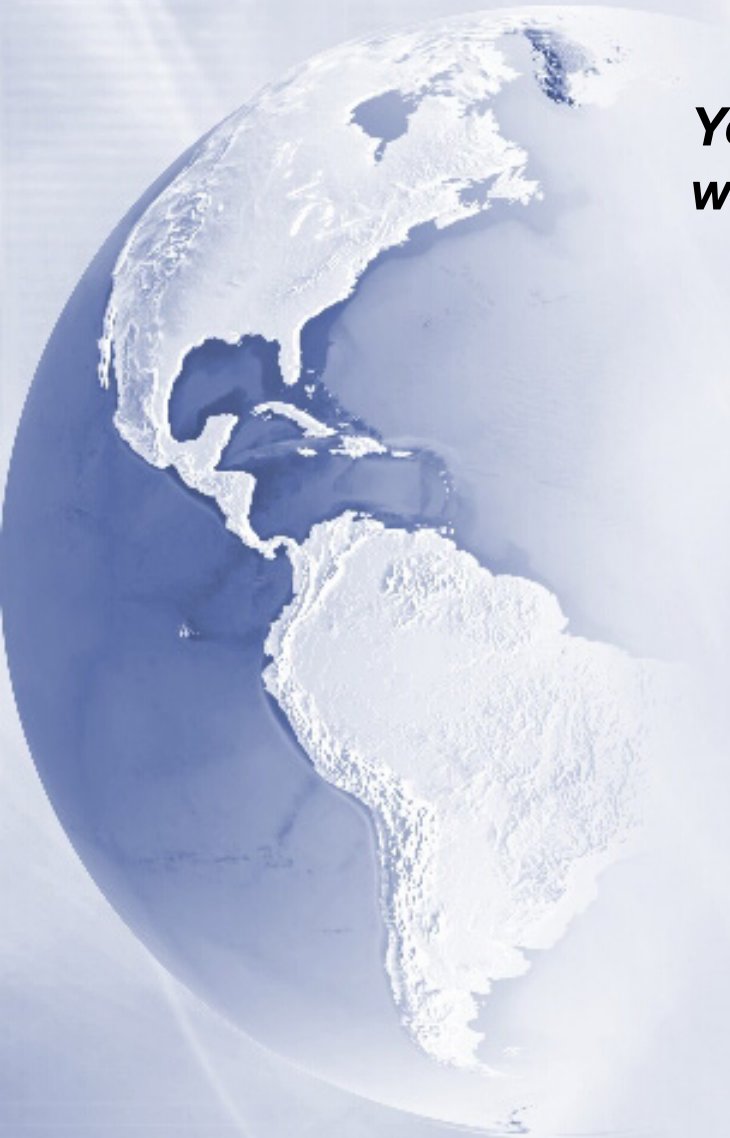
Business or professional partner

Former employer (within one year)

Present or past Ph.D. advisor or student (for M.Sc. or post-doc, see collaborator)

A collaborator within the past 48 months

A co-editor within the past 24 months



Family / Household

You may have a conflict of interest with a proposal which involves:

The employer or school of a spouse or child

A person living in your household

The employer of a person living in your household

Your parent's employer (but not if only financial connection was receipt of honoraria)



Other

You may have a conflict of interest:

If there are any other circumstances that could cause your impartiality to be questioned

- **Would a reasonable person, with all the relevant facts, question your impartiality?**
- **For example, do you share a close personal friendship or strong professional rivalry with one of the principals involved in the proposal?**

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