



UKRIO Annual Conference 2014

HAND-OUTS FOR PARALLEL SESSION 1: 13:15 – 14:05

OPTION A: How can we better manage conflicts of interest?

Dr Richard Smith

1. George, a professor at your university, has a patent with a major company producing medical devices. He has an income of more than a million pounds a year from his patents. The journal he edits publishes many studies funded by the major company. A complaint is made to your university, as the employer of the professor, that he is behaving unethically. What do you do?
2. There are six people on an appointments committee. You discover that one of the candidates is the best friend of the husband of one of the members of the committee. Should you act?
3. Your university is a world leader in research into respiratory disease. Your business school has just been given a large donation from a global tobacco company. The staff in the respiratory disease department object vociferously. What should the university do?
4. One of the professors in your university has is a paid adviser to the Ministry of Transport. Your university is in dispute with the Ministry because of a road they want to drive through part of the campus. The professor offers to act as a go between. Should the university accept his offer?
5. You write a paper on influence of various factors on drug compliance. You are not writing about a specific drug, but a student who is working with you has a small grant from a drug company. Should you declare this as a conflict of interest?
6. The university student magazine has a major article on clothes from a new company. Somebody complains to you that the author of the piece is the founder of the company that makes the clothes. How should you respond to the complaint?

7. You are one of the world's leading researchers in bell ringing and have now been appointed as the editor of the world's most important journals on research into bell ringing. Should you continue to publish in the journal?

8. You are writing a commentary for a major journal on animal research. As you are writing the piece your rabbit is killed by a fox. You are very upset. Should you declare it in the piece you are writing?

9. A lecturer in the university, who sits on the university court (board) is passionately pro-Palestinian and campaigns on their behalf every Saturday morning in the town centre. The court is discussing whether to go along with an academic boycott of Israel. Should he be asked to step down when the decision is taken?