

**CIOMS**



# **Code of Conduct and Standards**

**Council for International Organizations of Medical  
Sciences (CIOMS) Geneva**

**Includes a Declaration of Interests**

**Adopted by the CIOMS Executive Committee 2011**



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## Background

### *History*

The Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS), as indicated in the Introduction to its Statutes, provides an international, multidisciplinary forum to study the impact on society of progress in the biomedical sciences and its implications in such fields as bioethics, health policy, medical education, and health services research. In that capacity, it brings together representatives of health authorities, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia, medical research, religion, ethics, philosophy and law, as well as lay persons. Its main fields of activity over the last few decades have been:

- to conduct across professional and political boundaries an international dialogue on ethics and human values in relation to health policy and biomedical research;
- to pursue means of representing human values, equity and ethics in the health policies and practices of different cultures and countries in different phases of development;
- to develop internationally harmonized terminology and classification of adverse drug reactions; and
- to promote international monitoring of medicinal product safety.

### *Resolution*

The CIOMS Executive Committee at its 77th Session on 30 November 2010 adopted a resolution on ensuring the independence of the work of CIOMS in which governance mechanisms are formulated to guarantee:

- o The independence of the work of CIOMS; and
- o The transparency of CIOMS activities to the public.

## Scope

The aim of this document is to describe the principles, rules and standards that guide the working procedures, systems and decisions of CIOMS. It will contribute to scientific independence and support the different stakeholders in this mission. Members of CIOMS working groups will be requested to acknowledge their adherence to the principles, rules and standards.

## **CIOMS Working groups and Bioethics**

By tradition the publications of CIOMS has included clear statements about the name and affiliation of participating experts as well as the organizations of financial contributions and of editorial leadership. To further stress the importance of transparency, a Code of Conduct and Standards document will be added to the previous policy as well as a Declaration of Interests. The goal of the CIOMS Code of Conduct and Standards is to assure experts and funders commitment to respect the integrity of CIOMS work and publications, to provide their highest quality expertise and to ensure their thorough objectivity in this work. By agreeing to the Code of Conduct and Standards, the participants agree to adhere to the following:

- To act with fairness, honesty and a high standard of ethical conduct in the work performed on behalf of CIOMS;
- To ensure broad public trust and confidence in the activities of CIOMS;
- To protect the reputation and integrity of the organization and its interests;
- To bring to the attention of CIOMS ethical issues which require clarification;
- To prevent the suggestion or occurrence of illegal or unethical behavior within working groups and to openly declare any conflict of interest;
- To acknowledge that the primary purpose of a working group shall be to generate generally applicable guidance of scientific or public health importance and within the area of drug safety not to promote the sale of a specific medicinal product;
- To acknowledge the fact that CIOMS publications will be used as teaching tools and thereby assure the responsibility of producing independent and objective documents;
- To work and plan in a mutually supportive manner to contribute to the development of the scope and procedure of the working group and enhance the performance of the group;
- Accept responsibility and be accountable for the quality of one's professional performance. Contribute one's ideas and share one's expertise and learning with other members of the group. Encourage and support one's colleagues to do the same;
- Confront and resolve scientific issues that develop between working group members in a professional, timely and competent manner;



- Agree to the fact that information on the outcome and results of the working group shall be publicly available and that a dissemination and communication strategy will be pre-defined during the initial meetings of a working group, supporting that any deviation be duly justified;
- Actively support the objectives of the CIOMS working groups as stated in the introductory background; and
- A declaration of interests will be submitted (appendix).

## Procedure

The CIOMS Code of Conduct and Standards has been developed with the support of the members of CIOMS Executive Committee who also participated in a review procedure leading to its adoption March 2011. The approval of this adoption procedure will be requested at the next meeting of the Executive Committee in November 2011.

I hereby declare that I shall follow the provisions of the CIOMS Code of Conduct and Standards:

Name of working group: CIOMS Working Group

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Name Ruth Macklin

Date: 24/08/12 (day/month/year)

Signature: *Ruth Macklin*

## Appendix

### DECLARATION OF INTERESTS FOR CIOMS EXPERTS

**Title of meeting or work to be performed, including description of subject-matter, substance (compounds and organisms), technology or process to be considered:**

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Revision of CIOMS International Ethical Guidelines

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The Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS), as indicated in the Introduction to its Statutes, provides an international, multidisciplinary forum to study the impact on society of progress in the biomedical sciences and its implications in such fields as bioethics, health policy, medical education, and health services research. In that capacity it brings together representatives of health authorities, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia, medical research, religion, philosophy and law, as well as lay persons. To assure the technical integrity and impartiality of CIOMS's work, it is necessary to avoid situations in which other interests might affect the outcome of that work.

Each expert is therefore asked to declare any interests that could constitute a real, potential or apparent conflict of interest within the last 5 years, with respect to his/her involvement in the meeting or work, between (2) commercial entities and the participant personally, and (3) commercial entities and the administrative unit with which the participant has an employment relationship. "Commercial entity" refers to any company, association (e.g., trade association), organization or any other entity of any nature whatsoever, with commercial interests.

Title\_\_\_\_Professor of Bioethics

Name\_\_\_\_Ruth Macklin

Company/Organization\_\_\_\_Albert Einstein College of Medicine

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 1300 Morris Park Avenue, Bronx, NY 10461 USA

1a/

Activity for company listed to a specific product or group of products

Position (employee, consultant, etc): \_\_\_\_\_

Time period: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional if needed



1b/

Activity for company listed to a specific product or group of products

Position (employee, consultant, etc): \_\_\_\_\_

Time period: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional if needed

1c/

Activity for company listed to a specific product or group of products

Position (employee, consultant, etc): \_\_\_\_\_

Time period: \_\_\_\_\_

2/ You or your partner has a current proprietary interest in a substance, technology or process (e.g. ownership of a patent), to be considered in - or otherwise related to the subject-matter of the meeting or work;

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_

No: \_\_\_\_\_  
NO

3/ You or your partner has a current financial interest, e.g. shares or bonds, in a commercial entity with an interest in the subject-matter of the meeting or work (except share holdings through general mutual funds or similar arrangements where the expert has no control over the selection of shares);

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_

No: \_\_\_\_\_  
NO

Information disclosed on this Form may be made available to persons outside of CIOMS only when the objectivity of the meeting or work has been questioned such that the Secretary-General considers disclosure to be in the best interests of the Organization and its activities, and then only after informing you.

I hereby declare that the disclosed information is correct and that no other situation of real, potential or apparent conflict of interest is known to me. I undertake to inform you of any change in these circumstances, including if an issue arises during the course of the meeting or work itself.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Ruth Macklin*

Signature  
Ruth Macklin

Date 24/08/12

CIOMS



Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Institution/Company

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Name