

Independence of Research and Conflicts of Interest Policies

POLICY REGARDING INDEPENDENCE OF RESEARCH

PRACI is committed to the highest standards of academic quality and credibility for our research processes and procedures. We ensure these standards through rigorous internal review, peer review, and a transparent process for selecting and undertaking research projects.

While the credibility of the research any organization produces should stand on the quality and reliability of that research alone, other protocols or precautions are often necessary. PRACI strictly adheres to the following policies:

- PRACI engages in research and educational activities that advance the mission of the organization. This includes research and educational activities that may run counter to the opinions and interests of the organizations and individuals providing financial support to PRACI.
- Endeavouring to maintain a broad and diverse base of support, PRACI accepts financial support from numerous sources for research and educational activities that further its mission. All PRACI work product must be capable of withstanding rigorous peer review of its quality and reliability. Therefore, PRACI financial supporters have absolutely no influence or control over the research design, methodology, analysis, or findings of PRACI research projects, nor do they have influence or control over the content of educational programs. Offers of financial support predicated on such expectations are not accepted.
- PRACI will not engage in research or educational activities that are co-sponsored with non-academic organizations that support PRACI financially.
- To ensure that supporters understand our commitment to independent research, the following paragraph will be furnished to all organizations that provide or are considering providing PRACI with financial support:

PRACI is committed to the highest standards of academic quality and credibility, and to ensuring that our work stands up to rigorous peer review. PRACI scholars independently pursue a research agenda and educational activities that advance our mission. PRACI does not engage in research or educational activities directed or influenced in any way by financial supporters.

- This policy and PRACI practices will be reviewed annually to ensure that PRACI is in compliance with its provisions, transparent and faithful to its intent.

POLICY REGARDING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

PRACI facilitates the publication of research that meets rigorous standards of scholarship and seeks to avoid even the appearance of conflicts of interest.

This statement provides guidelines and procedures for the identification and resolution of real, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest, pecuniary or otherwise that may arise in the course of PRACI-supported research.

Definitions:

- An affected person is any author or researcher supported by PRACI who has a financial interest in the research in question, as defined below.
- An affected person has a financial interest if the individual has, directly or indirectly, any ownership, investment, or compensation arrangement such that he or she stands to benefit financially from the research in question.
- The term conflict of interest means any financial interest that could significantly impair the affected person's objectivity and/or undermine the academic integrity of the research in question. For a conflict of interest to exist, there must be a financial interest that may bias or appear to bias the affected person's research, as for instance might result from a consulting engagement on related topics, although this policy is not restricted to that particular instantiation of a conflict of interest.

Procedures:

- In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an affected person has a duty to disclose the existence of the financial interest prior to initiating the research in question, or at the earliest opportunity if the conflict was not known before the initiation of the research. The affected person must disclose all material facts to the PRACI Steering Committee.
- In order to determine whether a conflict of interest exists, the PRACI Steering Committee, shall review any disclosures regarding the financial interest of any affected persons who suspect they might have a conflict of interest while working with PRACI.
- After exercising due diligence the PRACI Steering Committee shall determine whether a conflict of interest exists. If one is found to exist, PRACI will not pursue the research in question with the affected person. This decision may be made even if there is a strong appearance of a conflict of interest but no actual conflict. If no conflict or relevant appearance of conflict is found, PRACI will memorialize the decision, and the research in question may proceed accordingly or with appropriate modified terms as agreed to by the affected person.
- If the PRACI Steering Committee has reason to believe an individual failed to disclose an actual or potential conflict of interest, the PRACI Steering Committee will seek corrective action. If a

determination is made that the individual did not disclose a possible conflict of interest before initiating the research in question, the PRACI Steering Committee may at its sole discretion terminate the project and sever professional ties with the affected person.

- In addition to PRACI's own requirements, PRACI requires that all research teams conducting research projects through PRACI adhere to the conflict of interest policies of the journals and outlets in which they publish.