Prostate Cancer UK
Conflicts of Interest Code of Practice

All members of the Prostate Cancer UK Research Advisory Committee and any external peer review must actively adhere to and support this Conflicts of Interest Code of Practice.

External peer reviewers will only be approached if the Research Team at Prostate Cancer UK does not identify any conflicts of interest based on the criteria identified below. All external reviewers must disclose any potential conflict of interest, and if a significant conflict comes to light then that reviewer shall not be used.

The Prostate Cancer UK Research Team will endeavour to identify all potential conflicts of interest prior to allocation of applications to RAC members and will notify all RAC members of their conflicts in advance of the meeting. The aim of circulating conflicts in advance is to give RAC members an opportunity to discuss any conflicts of interest that they believe to be incorrect well before the RAC meeting. Any disputes about the conflicts of interest identified must be raised with the Research Team no later than 4 weeks after this list is circulated. Members must disclose any additional conflict of interests (not identified by the Research Team) in advance of the RAC meeting at which the application in question is to be considered, or as soon as the member’s interest in the application becomes apparent. Any declaration of interest in a grant application by an RAC member shall be duly recorded in the minutes of the relevant Committee meeting.

Where a conflict of interest exists, the RAC member will not have access to any of the documentation for that application, nor will they be permitted to participate in the discussion, scoring or final outcome of the application. The RAC member will be required to leave the meeting while discussion and scoring takes place.

An RAC member may attend and participate at a meeting when a grant application they have submitted is to be considered. Any such member shall, however, be required to leave the meeting during the consideration of their grant application and shall not participate in the scoring or final outcome of their application. The same shall apply to RAC members for meetings at which a grant application is to be considered upon which they are considered to have any other type of Conflict of Interest (as outlined below).

The Chair of the RAC shall be independent, but in the event of any of the below circumstances applying to the Chair, they will be subject to the same Code of Practice.

Definition of a Conflict of Interest:

Prostate Cancer UK considers a Conflict of Interest to arise if the potential reviewer of RAC member:

- Is a named party on the grant application, either as PI, co-applicant, collaborator, mentor, referee or Head of Department.
- Has a recent collaboration with any of the grant applicants: a recent collaboration is defined as a funded grant, joint publication or other active working collaboration normally during the previous 5 years.
- Has a personal relationship with any of the named parties on a grant application, such as spouse, family member or close friendship.
- Is at the same Research Institute as the lead applicant or co-applicant of the grant application. If the individual is at the same Research Institute as a collaborator on the grant, this may also be considered a conflict of interest; however, this may be relaxed if the person in question has no working relationship with the collaborator.