



Every person has interests. Every organization has a mission. This is as it should be.
Some people are driven by money, others by altruism.
Some groups are spiritual, others are not.
Interests can include financial, emotional, social, or legal outcomes.
Investigator interests may compete with family interests.
Interests can be evidenced by needs for time, space, publication, security, fame or fortune.
Financial interests are most easily identified and are specified in regulation and on our form.
An absence of interest can be cause for concern. An investigator without an interest in the study outcome has little investment in the process.

Interests have a habit of coming into conflict, as do missions.
Conflicts make life interesting.
I want to work late to finish a document - I want to go home.
I want to be svelte - I want chocolate.
The hospital mission is to treat patients - The hospital must break even to operate.
The company must satisfy shareholders - The sponsor needs time to do good research.

Sources of Interests leading to bias or possible harm.
Strong beliefs or allegiance → bias observations.
Completion bonuses → undue influence put on a subject to complete despite misgivings.
Bonuses for rapid enrollment → Eligibility requirements may be tenuously met.
Promise of shares → interest in a positive outcome and rapid FDA approval.
Need for laboratory space → disapproval of a competitor's study
Desire for fame → taking on too many studies or misconduct

Conflicts of interests must be evaluated.
Interests cannot be avoided - they must be identified and examined.
Conflicts cannot be avoided - they must be examined and minimized.
Identified conflicts of interests may be evaluated, eliminated, or managed.

THE GOAL - Effective management of conflicts (Interest equipoise)
Minimizing and managing interests is like risk minimization.
Management is possible through, divestment, disclosure, addition of objective measures, or external monitoring.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND IRC REVIEW
Our investigator application form has one screening question.
If there are **any** interests financial or otherwise, they can be addressed at greater length on the supplemental form, **4.21A** that has more specific information.

