

Conflict of Interest Policy

Introduction

The Myrovlytis Trust seeks to ensure that funding decisions are fair and objective, and all reviewers are completely impartial.

The purpose of this policy is to minimise the potential for conflicts of interest arising during the review process.

This policy relates to all external reviewers, members of the Scientific Advisory Board and other funding panels of the Myrovlytis Trust, their chairs and other members, including trustees of the charity.

Declaration of interest

It is your responsibility to notify the Myrovlytis Trust of any potential conflicts of interest. A conflict of interest can occur with a lead or co-applicant, and will be considered relevant in the following circumstances:

- A reviewer (or other listed above) is a friend or relative of the applicant.
- A reviewer (or other listed above) is directly involved in the research the applicant is seeking to fund.
- A reviewer (or other listed above) has collaborated with the applicant in the last 5 years.
- A reviewer (or other listed above) works at the same institution as the applicant.
- A reviewer (or other listed above) has also submitted an application in the same funding round as the applicant.
- A reviewer (or other listed above) has a financial or commercial interest and will benefit (directly or indirectly) from the research.

Managing conflicts of interests

- Where a declaration of a conflict of interest has been made the reviewer is usually asked to excuse themselves from the review process, depending on the nature of the conflict.
- If a member of the scientific advisory board or trustees are approached by an applicant for technical advice on an application, advice may be given but must be reported to the Myrovlytis Trust. They may be subsequently asked to excuse themselves from discussion of the application concerned.
- If a member of the scientific advisory board or trustees are listed as lead or co-applicants on an application they must withdraw from any consideration of that application and will not receive any further information regarding the application, including names of reviewers, reviewers comments or any discussion pertaining to the application.
- Any members of the review panel who are considered direct competitors of the applicant may be asked to withdraw from the meeting for that application, or may be allowed to stay, but not vote, on the application.

Updating the Conflicts of Interest Policy

The Myrovlytis Trust will review and, if necessary, update this policy every two years.