Title: SARMC Institutional Review Board: Conflict of Interest

Policy Statement: Conflict of Interest (COI) can be defined as any situation or relationship that biases or has the potential to bias the conduct or outcome of a research study or IRB review.

Procedure:

I. Persons Affected: Research personnel, IRB members, research administration officials, the CEO, designee, investigators, and research sponsors may all have potential conflicts of interest. These COI may arise because of the intellectual property involved in research discoveries or industry-academic partnerships, from the incentives offered by research funding agencies to researchers, staff or physicians for conducting trials or enrolling subjects, or due to particular role relationships within or between particular institutions.

   A. Research Personnel: Payment or other incentives (including but not limited to salary or other payments for services, equity interests or intellectual property rights) may negatively impact the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data, scientific objectivity and integrity, and ultimately the public trust in the research enterprise. In addition, if an investigator is also the treating physician, he or she may unwittingly exert coercion or undue influence on patients to participate in research.

   B. IRB Members: Members may find themselves in situations that present conflicts of interest, such as:

      1. the IRB member is listed as an investigator in the research;
      2. an investigator must report to, or is under the supervision of, an IRB member or vice versa;
      3. the IRB member competes for research grants or contracts in the same or similar field as an investigator whose research is scheduled for review.
      4. IRB members who have a COI must disclose this conflict before participating in the initial or continuing review of research, and while the IRB member can answer questions about the research from the IRB, he or she must not take part in the voting of such research.

   C. Research Integrity Staff: will not serve as members of the IRB.

   D. Institutional Officials: the CEO or designee and members of his/her staff will not serve on the IRB.

II. IRB’s Role in Monitoring COI: The IRB is responsible for monitoring all
aspects of the conduct of research, which includes any possibilities for coercion or undue influence.

III. **Investigator Significant Financial Interest Disclosure:** For each new study application submitted, the involved researchers must complete and include a Financial Interest Disclosure Form. Each investigator shall disclose all significant financial interests that would reasonably appear to be directly and significantly affected by the research activity. “Significant Financial Interest” means anything of monetary value exceeding $5,000.00, including, but not limited to, salary or other payments for services (e.g., consulting fees or honoraria); equity interests (e.g., stocks, stock options, or other ownership interests); and intellectual property rights (e.g., patents, copyrights, and royalties from such rights). This information will be retained in the IRB files.

**Related Policies:** None.

**Related Forms:** Financial Interest Disclosure Form.

[http://www.saintalphonsus.org/forms-and-resources](http://www.saintalphonsus.org/forms-and-resources)

**References:**
