

Expert reviewers are selected on the basis of their expertise and having no known conflict of interest with the proposed researcher(s). Expert reviewers should declare any potential conflicts of interest prior to reviewing an application. If an expert reviewer is unsure whether a situation is a conflict of interest, they should get in contact with the Charity as soon as possible to discuss the matter. The Medical Research Committee will take into account any potential conflicts of interest when discussing applications.

Automatic exclusion

An individual should be automatically excluded as an expert reviewer if any of the following apply:

- The individual concerned is a named researcher on the grant application (Principal Applicant, Co-applicant, co-supervisor, Collaborator or Proposed Researcher).
- The individual is a named researcher (Principal Applicant, Co-applicant, co-supervisor, Proposed Researcher) on a grant application in the same grant call. A collaborator on an application within the same call may be acceptable.
- The individual has collaborated or published with an applicant (Principal Applicant, Co-applicant, Co-supervisor or Proposed Researcher) within the past three years.
- The individual concerned works in the same research institution as the Principal Applicant or Co-applicant.
- The individual is a relative (including, but not limited to, spouse (current or past), siblings, children and parents) of the Principal Applicant or Co-applicant.
- An applicant on the proposal is a business partner of the individual.
- The individual concerned serves on the board of a pharmaceutical, biotech or other company that may have an interest in the grant being discussed.

- The individual has equity interests in any enterprise that may have a real or perceived interest in the work of the charity.

Exclusion at the discretion of the Charity

In certain situations, an individual may be excluded from being an expert reviewer at the discretion of the Charity. Examples of such situations include:

- The individual concerned can be seen as a direct competitor of the applicant; i.e., they are currently being funded or are currently applying for funding on a project of a similar nature to the proposal under discussion.
- The individual has acted as an external reviewer, or sat on a funding panel/committee in respect of the proposal under discussion, at a time when the proposal was being discussed by another funding body.
- The individual is aware of any other issue that might reasonably be expected to give rise to, or give rise to the perception of, a conflict of interest.

If any of the above situations exist, the expert reviewer should contact the Research Manager or Research Officer at the Charity. They will discuss the matter with the individual as necessary and make a decision about their suitability as an expert reviewer.

If a decision is made for the individual to perform a review, any conflicts of interest must be declared on the form so that the Medical Research Committee can take the information into account when discussing the grant applications.