Note
To avoid future problems, always get signed statement of CoIs from all authors and reviewers before publication. Ensure journal guidelines include clear definition of CoI.

READER INFORMS EDITOR OF AUTHOR’S UNDISCLOSED CONFLICT OF INTEREST (CoI)

Thank reader and say you plan to investigate

Contact author(s) and express concern

Author(s) supplies relevant details

Thank author(s) but point out seriousness of omission

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Explain journal policy/CoI definition clearly and obtain signed statement from author(s) about all relevant CoIs (if not obtained previously)

Consider whether a CoI exists (contact author(s)’s institution(s) if needed)

Col found

Reassess article based on undisclosed CoI

No Col found

Consider whether CoI unduly affected article or peer review

PUBLISH CORRECTION TO COMPETING INTEREST STATEMENT

PUBLISH RETRACTION OR PUBLISH CORRECTION TO COMPETING INTEREST STATEMENT AND ARTICLE TEXT

CONSIDER POST-PUBLICATION CHANGES AS APPROPRIATE; CONSIDER INFORMING RELEVANT INSTITUTIONS

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PUBLICATION STANDS

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