

Conflict of Interest in Research - February Quandary

Case Scenario 1

Dr. Smith is a world-renowned physician and researcher in the field of dermatology. Dr. Smith has conducted several clinical trials sponsored by SkinSolutions, a big pharmaceutical company which focuses on skin disorders. Dr Smith is a paid consultant for SkinSolutions.

Dr. Smith applied and received approval for her consulting activities and she has received about \$4,000 in consulting fee payments during the last 12 months. She is also a stockowner, holding \$3,000 of SkinSolutions in stock.

Dr. Smith is going to start a Phase III clinical trial on a new therapy drug for a very rare skin disease. Although she is a paid consultant for SkinSolutions, her consulting services are for another group of drugs manufactured by SkinSolutions that are totally unrelated to the new therapy drug she will be testing in her research.

Question 1:

Does she need to include the consulting compensation and equity from SkinSolutions in her annual individual financial disclosure in research?

Yes, the regulations and UCHC policy requires the disclosure of any significant financial interest (SFI) possibly related to her institutional responsibilities.

Question 2:

Is this financial interest a SFI?

Yes, by definition compensation of any kind when bundled together totaling more than \$5,000 is a SFI.