Conflict of interest disclosure backfires:
Trend analysis on restriction of act and psychological experiments

Takeo Saio 1) Chieko Kurihara 2)
1) Department of Internal Medicine and Psychiatry, Fuji Toranomon Orthopedic Hospital
2) National Institutes for Quantum and Radiological Science and Technology

Abstract
Background: Recently, conflict of interest disclosure (COID) has been specified as one of the essential prerequisites for academic activities, such as conference presentation and scholarly publication, assumed to sufficiently reduce the negative effects of conflicts of interest (COIs) on public interest. Although COID is ostensibly reasonable for protecting the integrity of science, its effectiveness in diminishing the negative effects of COIs is not sufficiently known yet.

Purpose: To verify the effectiveness of COID in decreasing the negative effects of COIs

Methods: Narrative non-systematic review on the effectiveness of COID

Results and Discussion: In Japan, apart from COID, restriction of act has recently come to be standardized. As for the effects of COID, we found the following results for psychological experimentation: Construing COI as a process of forming the structure of collision between parties (Andrew Stark’s tripartite taxonomy) might explain COID as an ineffective measure for reducing cozy relationships. Contrary to the expectation of mitigating the negative effects of COIs with COID, COID might increase the negative effects of COIs (perverse effects of COID). Perverse effects of COID were demonstrated by a number of psychological experiments and mainly consisted of strategic exaggeration, moral licensing, and insinuation anxiety.

Conclusion: Although COID might have perverse effects, it remains an ethical imperative of transparency and accountability of modern society. To address the ethical antinomy of the perverse effects of COID, researchers should abstain from any conduct that could lead to COIs. COID bears utility value in marketing because of its perverse effects.

Key words
ethical dilemma, paradoxical outcome, justice, counter measure