

Righteous issues in medical research and publication:

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST



Dr Elora Afroz Leema

Assistant Professor

Dept. Of Radiology & Imaging

Dhaka Medical College

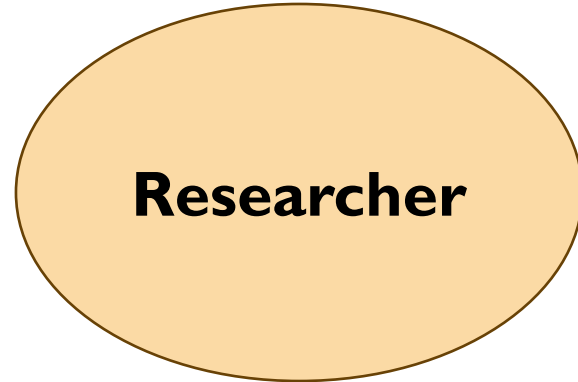
# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

---

- interest?
- conflict of interest (COI)?
- levels of conflict of interest?
- Management

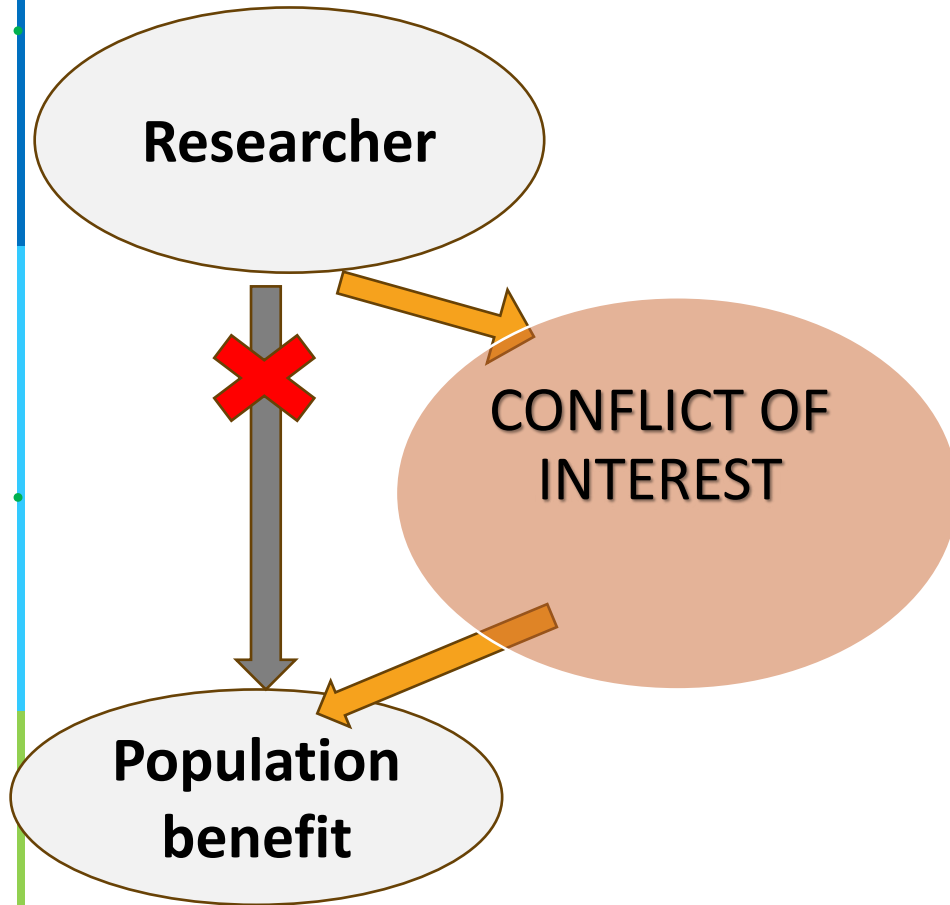
# INTEREST IN A RESEARCH-EXPECTATION

---



Conducting a medical research with a rationale that the result of the research will aid to the medical management of population.

# CONFLICT OF INTEREST



- **Primary interest** (such as a patient's welfare or the validity of research) tends to be **unduly influenced by a secondary interest** (such as financial gain).

— Dennis F. Thompson, The New England Journal of Medicine, 1993

# CONFLICT OF INTEREST

contd...

“A conflict of interest in research exists when the individual has interests in the outcome of the research that may lead to personal advantage and that might therefore, in **actuality or appearance** compromise the integrity of the research.”

Source : [National Academy of Science](#)

All secondary interests are **not treated as wrong** unless they have greater weight than the primary interests.

# Code of Medical Ethics

The Declaration of Geneva (1948, last revised 2017) The Physician's Pledge As a Member of the Medical Profession:

- I SOLEMNLY PLEDGE to dedicate my life to the service of humanity;
- **THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF MY PATIENT will be my first consideration;**
- I WILL RESPECT the autonomy and dignity of my patient;
- I WILL MAINTAIN the utmost respect for human life;
- I WILL NOT PERMIT considerations of age, disease or disability, creed, ethnic origin, gender, nationality, political affiliation, race, sexual orientation, social standing or any other factor to intervene between my duty and my patient;
- I WILL RESPECT the secrets that are confided in me, even after the patient has died;
- I WILL PRACTISE my profession with conscience and dignity and in accordance with good medical practice;

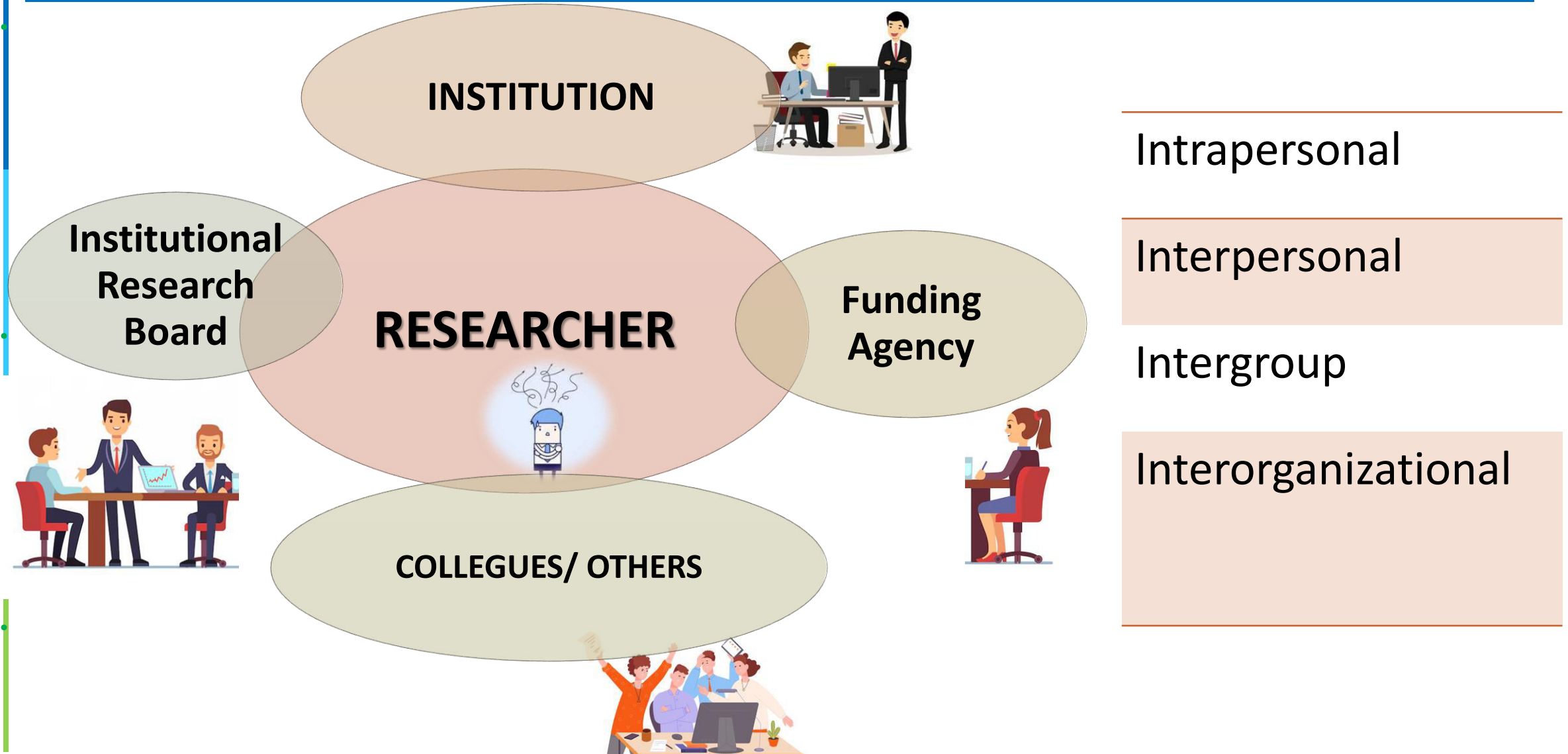
•

Contd....

- I WILL FOSTER the honor and noble traditions of the medical profession;
- I WILL GIVE to my teachers, colleagues, and students the respect and gratitude that is their due;
- I WILL SHARE my medical knowledge for the benefit of the patient and the advancement of healthcare;
- I WILL ATTEND TO my own health, well-being, and abilities in order to provide care of the highest standard;
- I WILL NOT USE my medical knowledge to violate human rights and civil liberties, even under threat;
- I MAKE THESE PROMISES solemnly, freely, and upon my honor.

References: WMA Declaration of Geneva (2017). Available at: [https://lnkd.in/g72E\\_eww](https://lnkd.in/g72E_eww)

# PERSONEL-LEVELS IN COI



# TYPES OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- **Financial**
- Intellectual , academic-Plagiarism
- Professional disagreements
- Personal or professional relationship
- Institutional influences
- Apparent-unbiased



I need a publication for promotion

I have so many publications



Help to family-friends

To promote own institution/company over other

# Institutional Research Board

---

- Assess the research rationale
- Assess researcher has any COI
- COI if any, assess the probable influence

## When IRB create COI?

- have direct academic collaboration with the researcher
- cannot work independently under the institution

# CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN REAEARCH

---

- Choice of research topic
- in awarding a grant
- in ethical reviews
- Sampling technique-purposive
- in data collection
- in data analysis
- Publication
- disclosure of probable COI/poor communication



# WHAT TO DO WITH COI

# WHAT TO DO WITH COI

---

- 1. Can research be done without-
    - Institution
    - Financial support
  - 2. Is any value of research without publication & implementation in population (government/other implementing organization)
- Can conflicts always be prevented or avoided in research?
- Having conflict is always punishable / unethical?

# Lets Explore A Popular Case-Dr Nancy Oliveiri

---

Research – trial on deferiprone in thalassemia patients  
-iron chelating agent that is only oral alternate substitute to subcutaneous deferoxamine.

Found potential risk in few sample-stopped & disclosed the adverse outcome.

She published her negative results.

She pointed out the adverse effect was found in patient having Hep.C liver fibrosis possibly from repeated intravenous blood transfusion .  
Other research studies on the drug showing no similar adverse effect.

## Cont.

---

Her research topic was rational.

She disclosed conflict properly and stopped further trial.

But :

Sponsoring drug manufacturer issued legal issue against her.

Her hospital/institution didn't offer her support against the drug company. Dismissed from her position.

After 7 yrs legal battle : she was free from allegation- got back her position

All apparent conflict happened as there was lack of MOU / proper structured COI disclosure.

# WHAT WE LEARN

---

Despite the research is rational

COI can appear , can be apparent

COI not always from biased intension

Proper management & disclosure can help to overcome

# STEPS IN MANAGING CONFLICTS

---



**Identify**

**Disclose**

## Researchers

**OBJECTIVITY**

- Intellectual
- Honesty
- Avoid known conflicts

**TRANSPARENCY**

- Report
- Willing to accept scrutiny & criticism

**ACCOUNTABILITY**

To all stakeholders

# MANAGEMENT

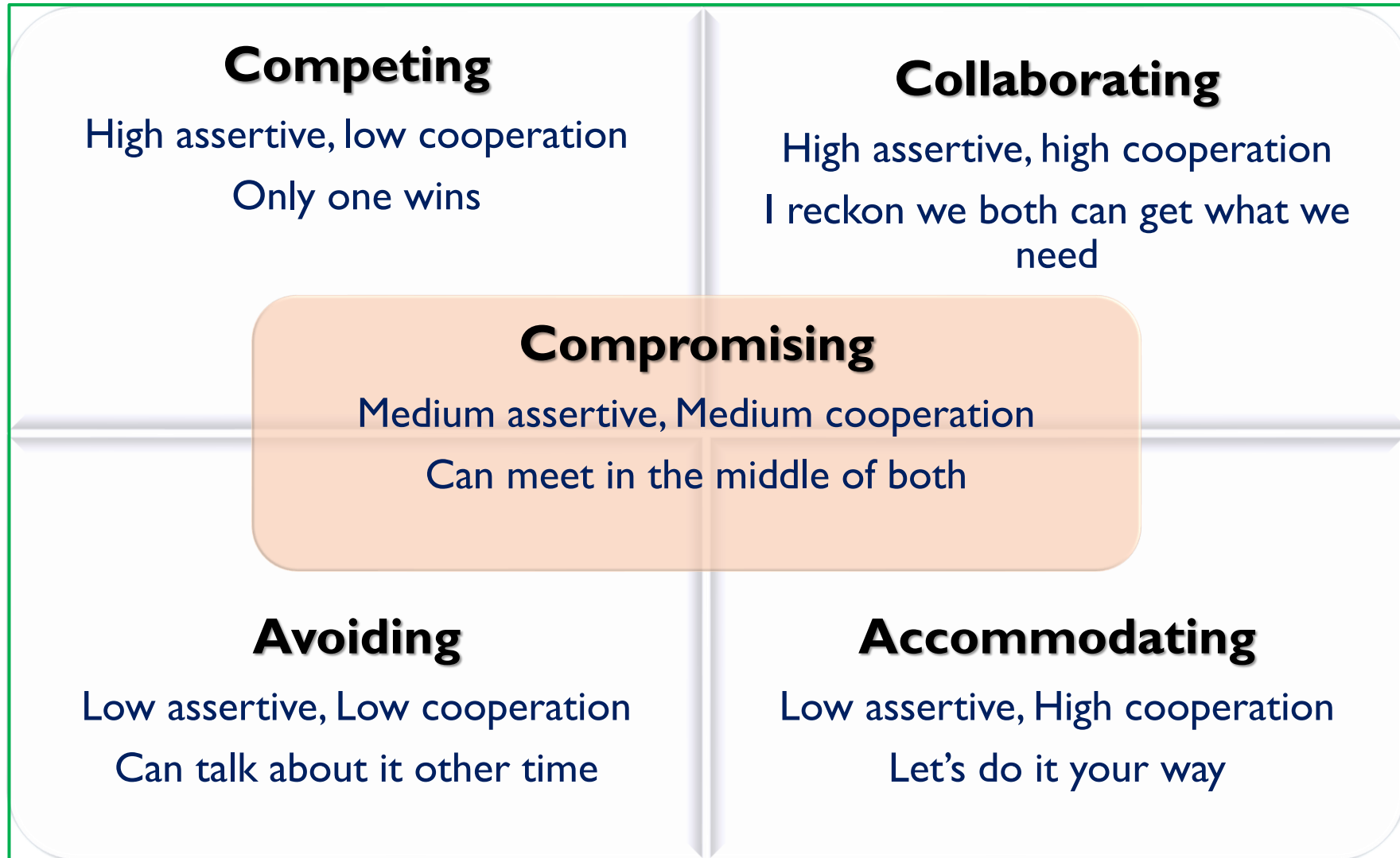
- Prevent known COI
- Avoid
- Resolve COI

## CONFLICT MANAGEMENT STYLES

- Thomas-Kilmann Conflict Mode Instrument
- Lewin's Change model
- Roger's Diffusion of Innovation

# Thomas-Kilmann Conflict Mode

## Assertive - Cooperation



# Recommendation & Policies

---

- COI is/are to be explored-research cannot be stopped.
- Publication of negative results also.
- Provide education prior to research to face COI (training, seminar, workshop.)
- Close scrutiny & detailed prior workout before a research-specially experimental studies having human participants.
- Safety monitoring tools.

# Recommendation & Policies

---

- Adopt & implement policies for :
  - Funding structured format for disclosure & agreement
  - COI disclosure policies, formats
- Develop proper digital data preservation system.
- Proper disclosure preserving patient data privacy & confidentiality
- Autonomy of the researcher, IRB for their respective works.
- Have a good intension with motivation for serving the community.

## **DECLARATION OF COI**

I have no conflict of interest to disclose in the research activity

I have received a research grant from organization ...

All authors declare no conflicts of interest with respect to the publication of this article

## TAKE HOME MESSAGES

- There is nothing wrong in having Conflict of interest
- One has to disclose it
- Proper action has to be taken to get rid of it
- “Knowing is not enough ; we must apply....Willing is not enough; we must do,”- Goethe

**THANK YOU**

**Topic : “Effective Delivery of Lecture [ Teaching Materials]”**

**a] Concepts of Lecture**

**b] Ways to Deliver a Standard Lecture**

**c] Challenges and Solutions**

**Participating Disciplines:** Department of Cardiology  
Department of Neonatology  
Department of Neurosurgery

**Date : 6<sup>th</sup> October , 2025**

**Time : 08.00 am**

**Venue : Medical Education Unit ( 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, College building, DMC)**

**All respected Faculties are cordially invited**

**Medical Education unit**

**Dhaka Medical College**