

COI Management from a Virtue Ethics Approach that Can Lead to Sustainable Clinical Research

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Abstract

The development of new diagnostic, therapeutic, and preventive methods often requires enormous financial resources. Therefore, it can be difficult to conduct clinical research without funding from industry. On the other hand, as industry-academia collaboration has become more active, conflicts of interest (COI) have become a social problem. In particular, the Diovan scandal in 2013 highlighted the COI problem in industry-academia collaboration. There are still problematic research activities that allow funding companies to exert influence over the analysis and publication of research data, as well as research that is suspected to be conducted solely for the promotion of new drugs. Therefore, in this paper, after confirming the problem of COI from past cases, we examine the limitations of current COI management. In addition, we highlight the usefulness of COI management from a virtue ethics approach that can lead to sustainable clinical research.

Key words: Research integrity, Conflicts of interest, Clinical research, Virtue ethics