



## **Declaration and conflicts of interests**

Part of our commitment to being a fair and transparent funder of research is that those involved in funding decisions do so in an independent manner and do not have conflicts of interest that might see them benefit personally or academically from a funding decision. Therefore, Alzheimer's Society has a conflict of interest policy to maintain its position as a transparent funder and to protect those who freely provide their time to the charity to be Grant Advisory Board members from accusations of bias.

### **Principles of the conflict of interest policy**

Board members should declare, to the Research team in advance or to the Chair on the day of the meeting, anything which they feel could constitute a conflict of interest.

If a Board member is an applicant/co-applicant they can participate in the Board meeting, but will be asked to leave the room when their application is discussed or if their application is being directly ranked against others for funding.

If an application is from the same University or Institute as the Grant Advisory Board member then they should usually leave the room. However, it is recognised, due to the concentration of dementia research at particular universities, which this rule is not absolute and may be disregarded on occasion in agreement with the Chair.

Board members, including the Chair, should consider leaving the room for discussion of a particular application if:

- They have supervised a student, Fellow, or applicant associated with the application in the last 3 years
- They considered themselves to have a close collaboration with the applicant. Being an author on a publication which included any of the applicants would not automatically require the Board member to leave the room, as there were many types of co-authorship

The Vice-Chair would take the chair for any item involving the Chair.

The Chair of each Grant Advisory Board along with the staff secretariat has the responsibility of ensuring that the conflict of interest policy is adhered to. Grant Advisory Board members have the responsibility of declaring anything that they feel might constitute a conflict of interest.

Alzheimer's Society staff are observers and therefore do not abide by this policy. However, staff have the right to declare a conflict of interest with an application and if so they will be required to adhere to this policy.