

An International Conference on Conflict of Interest

Forum for Institutional Review Boards (IRBs)/Research Ethics Boards (REBs) in Canada and the United States (FOCUS)

in collaboration with the
**UNDP/World Bank/WHO, Special Programme for Research & Training in Tropical
Diseases (TDR)**
Department of Health and Human Services, USA
National Council on Ethics in Human Research, Canada

June 4-5, 2004
Washington, DC USA

Conference Description

The Forum for REBs/IRBs in Canada & the United States (FOCUS) is one of five regional fora established as part of an initiative that began with the Special Program for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) of the World Health Organization. A major objective is to assist in the worldwide need for capacity building in the ethical review of biomedical research. Activities of the fora include regional workshops.

FOCUS identified a list of topics of mutual interest to those concerned with the ethical review of research in Canada and the United States. Quality improvement and performance evaluation in systems of human research protection was the topic of the first FOCUS Conference, held in Montreal in October, 2003. Key stakeholder organizations in the United States and Canada participated. Plenary presentations were of a high order. There was ample opportunity for discussion. The conference provided an opportunity to compare best practices, identify mutual needs and establish productive contacts. It received high marks from all who attended. A conference report is forthcoming.

Conflict of Interest (COI), especially institutional COI, is the topic of the second FOCUS conference. Attendance is by invitation. The workshop will consist of plenary sessions with presentations by experts who will outline the context, achievements and ongoing challenges arising primarily from institutional COI. Breakout sessions will provide an opportunity for closer examination of selected topics.

Conference Objectives

- A major objective of the workshop is to increase awareness among key stakeholders of institutional conflicts of interest, the perspective of different stakeholders and identification of problems and solutions.

- The workshop will help identify best practices in dealing with institutional COI and provide an opportunity to learn from the experience of others.
- Once again, the workshop will provide an excellent opportunity for networking and future collaboration at national, international and interdisciplinary levels.

Conference Outcomes

- Improved understanding of issues related to institutional COI.
- Improved understanding of similarities and differences in dealing with these issues at local and national levels as a basis for future action.
- Appropriate distribution of the proceedings and recommendations of the workshop.

Conference Format

- Participation by invitation.
- Plenary presentations by USA and Canadian experts.
- Breakout sessions to address specific topics.
- Protected time for general discussion following plenary and breakout sessions.

Conference Participants

- Representatives from stakeholder government, research funding, educational, professional and corporate organizations in Canada and the United States.
- Selected experts in workshop topics.

Conference Language

- The language of the conference is English. There will be no simultaneous translation offered.

**FOCUS Conference Programme
June 4-5, 2004**

Friday, June 4, 2004

Chaired by:

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| 18:00 - 19:00 | Registration and Refreshments |
| 19:00 - 19:10 | Welcome <i>Henry Dinsdale, Chair, FOCUS*</i> <i>Bernard A. Schwetz OHRP</i> |
| 19:10 - 19:35 | Opening Overview <i>David Korn, (AAMC)*</i> |
| 19:35 - 20:00 | <i>Jocelyn Downie, (Dalhousie)*</i> |
| 20:00 - 20:30 | Discussion |
| 20:45 - 22:00 | Evening Reception (Cash Bar) |

Saturday, June 5, 2004

Chaired by:

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| 8:00-8:30 | Registration and Continental Breakfast |
| | University/Institutional Conflict of Interest |
| 8:30-8:50 | <i>Marvin Parnes (Michigan)</i> |
| 8:55-9:20 | <i>Julie Gottlieb (Johns Hopkins)</i> |
| 9:20-9:45 | <i>Gordon Duval (Toronto)*</i> |
| 9:45-10:30 | Discussion |
| 10:30-11:00 | Refreshments |

Chaired by:

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| | Industry Perspective on Conflict of Interest |
| 11:00-11:20 | <i>Ginger Graham (Guidant Corp)</i> |
| 11:20-11:40 | <i>Roger Porter (Wyeth)</i> |
| 11:40-12:00 | <i>Marianne Vanderwel (Pfizer)</i> |
| 12:00-12:30 | Discussion |
| 12:30-13:30 | Lunch |

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| 13:00-15:00 | Breakout Sessions – Conflict of Interest |
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- 1. Government Conflicts of Interest**
 - *Facilitators – Glen Rivard (Health Canada)*
 - *Rapporteur – TBA*
- 2. Technology Transfer & Conflicts of Interest**
 - *Facilitator – Mark Crowell (UNC)*
 - *Rapporteur – TBA*
- 3. International Perspective**
 - Facilitator – Paulina Tindana (Ghana)*
 - Rapporteur – TBA*
- 4. Independent IRBs/REBs**
 - Facilitator – Trudo Lemmens*
 - Rapporteur – TBA*
- 5. Publication & Conflict of Interest**
 - Facilitator – TBA*
 - Rapporteur - TBA*

15:00 – 15:30 Refreshments

15:30 - 16:20 Reports from Breakout Sessions

16:20 - 16:45 Discussion

16:45 – 17:00 Conclusion

* accepted