

# Conflicts of Interest



Purdue University and Purdue Research Foundation support and encourage faculty/researchers and students who want to be entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurial activities may result in real or apparent financial conflicts of interest when individuals with outside financial interests are in a position to influence the university's business, research (including the design, conduct and reporting of research), or procurement decisions in ways that could directly or indirectly lead to financial gain for the employee or the employee's dependents.

Conflicts of interest for Purdue employees, whether real or perceived, must be disclosed and managed in accordance with Purdue's policy on Individual Financial Conflicts of Interest (III.B.2) ([purdue.edu/policies/ethics/iib2.html](http://purdue.edu/policies/ethics/iib2.html)). For faculty/researcher/student entrepreneurs, the bias resulting from such

conflicts may conceivably affect research activities such as the collection, analysis and interpretation of data, the hiring of staff, procurement of materials, sharing of results, choice of research protocol, involvement of human subjects, use of statistical methods, and the use of university facilities, personnel, equipment, IT Resources, confidential and proprietary information and other resources.

Disclosure and transparency are crucial to successful management of conflicts of interest. For example, if a Purdue faculty or researcher is named as an inventor/innovator of a Purdue technology that is the subject of a patent application filed by and at the expense of OTC and the Purdue employee/innovator decides to start a company to realize commercial aspirations for the Purdue invention, what is the next step?