

# **RUMI SCIENTIFIC INC.**

## **FINANCIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY**

The Federal Public Health Service (PHS) has adopted regulations (42 CFR Part 50 Subpart F and 45 CFR Part 94) on Promoting Objectivity in Research. These regulations describe the actions an individual and an organization must take in order to promote objectivity in PHS-funded research. The regulations apply to all PHS funded grants, cooperative agreements, research contracts (but not Phase 1 Small Business Innovation Research or Small Business Technology Transfer program grants), and subawards where the originating sponsor is PHS.

### **DEFINITIONS**

#### **Financial conflict of interest (FCOI)**

A significant financial interest that could directly and significantly affect the design, conduct, or reporting of PHS-funded research.

#### **Institutional responsibilities**

An Investigator's professional activities on behalf of RUMI Scientific Inc. (e.g., administration, research, or consulting).

Designated Official is the individual, Allen A. Fienberg, Ph.D designated by RUMI Scientific Inc. to oversee the financial conflicts of interest process, including solicitation and review of disclosures of significant financial interests.

Investigator: the project director or principal Investigator and any other person, regardless of title or position, who is responsible for the design, conduct, or reporting of research funded by award, or proposed for such funding, which may include, for example, collaborators or consultants. RUMI Scientific Inc's Principal Investigator/Project Director, upon consideration of the individual's role and degree of independence in carrying out the work, will determine who is responsible for the design, conduct, or reporting of the research.

Research means a systematic investigation, study, or experiment designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge relating broadly to public health, including behavioral and social sciences research. The term encompasses basic and applied research (e.g., a published article, book, or book chapter) and product development (e.g., a diagnostic test or drug). For PHS-Funded Research, the term includes any such activity for which research funding is available from a PHS Awarding Component through a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract, whether authorized under the PHS Act or other statutory authority.

## **PHS**

The Public Health Service of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and any components of the PHS to which the authority involved may be delegated, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

## **NIH:**

The biomedical research agency of the PHS

## **Significant Financial Interest (SFI)**

1. A financial interest consisting of one or more of the following interests of the Investigator (and those of the Investigator's spouse and dependent children) that reasonably appear to be related to the Investigator's institutional responsibilities on behalf of RUMI Scientific Inc.
  1. With regard to any publicly traded entity, a significant financial interest exists if the value of any remuneration received from the entity in the twelve months preceding the disclosure and the value of any equity interest in the entity as of the date of disclosure, when aggregated for the investigator, investigator's spouse and dependent children, exceeds \$5,000. For purposes of this definition, remuneration includes salary and any payment for services not otherwise identified as salary (e.g., consulting fees, honoraria, paid authorship); equity interest includes any stock, stock option, or other ownership interest, as determined through reference to public prices or other reasonable measures of fair market value.
  2. With regard to any non-publicly traded entity, a significant financial interest exists if the value of any remuneration received from the entity in the twelve months preceding the disclosure, when aggregated, exceeds \$5,000, or when the Investigator (or the Investigator's spouse or dependent children) holds any equity interest (e.g., stock, stock option, or other ownership interest); or
  - (iii) With regard to intellectual property rights and interests (e.g., patents, copyrights), a significant financial interest exists upon receipt of income of greater than \$5,000 related to such rights and interests.
2. The term significant financial interest does not include the following types of financial interests:
  1. Salary, royalties, or other remuneration paid by RUMI Scientific Inc. to the Investigator if the Investigator is currently employed or otherwise appointed by RUMI Scientific Inc. including intellectual property rights assigned to RUMI Scientific Inc. and agreements to share in royalties related to such rights;

2. Income from investment vehicles, such as mutual funds and retirement accounts, as long as the Investigator does not directly control the investment decisions made in these vehicles;
  3. Income from seminars, lectures, or teaching engagements sponsored by a federal, state, or local government agency located in the United States (U.S.), a U.S. Institution of higher education, an academic teaching hospital, a medical center, or a research institute that is affiliated with a U.S. Institution of higher education; or
  4. Income from service on advisory committees or review panels for a federal, state, or local government agency located in the United States (U.S.), a U.S. Institution of higher education, an academic teaching hospital, a medical center, or a research institute that is affiliated with a U.S. Institution of higher education.
3. Investigators must disclose the occurrence of any foreign or domestic reimbursed or sponsored travel in excess of \$5000 (i.e., that which is paid on behalf of the Investigator and not reimbursed to the Investigator so that the exact monetary value may not be readily available) related to the Investigator's institutional responsibilities. The details of this disclosure will include at a minimum, the purpose of the trip, the identity of the sponsor/organizer, the destination, and the duration. The disclosure requirement does not apply to travel that is reimbursed or sponsored by the following:
- a federal, state, or local government agency located in the United States,
  - a United States Institution of higher education,
  - an academic teaching hospital,
  - a medical center, or
  - a research institute that is affiliated with a United States Institution of higher education.

The initial disclosure of reimbursed or sponsored travel should include income received over the previous twelve months.

Foreign Financial Interests – Investigators must disclose all foreign financial interests (which includes income from seminars, lectures, or teaching engagements, income from service on advisory committees or review panels, and reimbursed or sponsored travel) received from any foreign entity, including foreign Institutions of higher education or a foreign government (which includes local, provincial, or equivalent governments of another country) when such income meets the threshold for disclosure (e.g., income in excess of \$5,000).

## **Disclosure**

Prior to the submission of an application to the NIH Grantee for funding, the Principal Investigator and all other Investigators at RUMI Scientific Inc. must have disclosed to RUMI's designated official an up-to-date listing of their Significant Financial Interests [SFIs] (and those of their spouse and dependent children), as defined above. Any new Investigator, who, subsequent to the submission of an application to NIH for funding from NIH, or during the course of the research project, plans to participate in the project, must similarly disclose their SFI to the designated official promptly and prior to participation in the project.

Each Investigator who is participating in research under an NIH award must submit an updated disclosure of SFI at least annually, during the period of the award. Such disclosure must include any information that was not disclosed initially to RUMI Scientific Inc.' pursuant to this Policy, or in a subsequent disclosure of SFI (e.g., any financial conflict of interest identified on a NIH funded project directly as a NIH Grantee and/or indirectly through a subaward) that was transferred from another Institution), and must include updated information regarding any previously disclosed SFI (e.g., the updated value of a previously disclosed equity interest).

Each Investigator who is participating in research under an award from NIH must submit an updated disclosure of SFI (including reimbursed travel) within thirty (30) days of discovering or acquiring (e.g., through purchase, marriage, or inheritance) a new SFI.

## **Review by RUMI Scientific's Designated Official**

The designated official will conduct reviews of disclosures. The designated official will review any SFI that has been identified in a disclosure; these interests will be compared to each research award on which the Investigator is identified as responsible for the design, conduct, or reporting of the research to determine if the SFI is related to the award and, if so, whether the SFI creates a Financial Conflict of Interest (FCOI) related to that research award. The designated official has been designated as RUMI Scientific Inc.'s CEO Dr. Allen A. Fienberg, Ph.D. (allen@rumiscientific.com).

### **Guidelines for Determining "Relatedness" and Financial Conflict of Interest**

The designated official will determine whether an Investigator's SFI is related to the research under a NIH award and, if so, whether the SFI is a financial conflict of interest. An Investigator's SFI is related to the research under the NIH award when the designated official reasonably determines that the SFI: could be affected by the research conducted under the award; or is in an entity whose financial interest could be affected by the research. The designated official may involve the

Investigator in the determination of whether a SFI is related to the research supported by the award.

A financial conflict of interest exists when the designated official reasonably determines that the SFI could directly and significantly affect the design, conduct, or reporting of the NIH-funded research.

In determining if an Investigator's SFI is related to the research under a NIH award, and if so, whether

1. the relationship creates a FCOI, the designated official considers the role of the Investigator and the opportunity (if any), to bias the results, the nature of the research being proposed, and the value of the SFI in relation to the size and value of the entity. In addition, the designated official may also consider the following factors:

Whether the research is of a basic or fundamental nature directed at understanding basic scientific processes; or

2. Whether the degree of replication and verification of research results is such that immediate commercialization or clinical application is not likely; or
3. Whether the goal of the research is to evaluate an invention linked to the SFI (such as where the SFI is a patent, or an interest in a company that has licensed the invention).
4. Where the research involves human subjects, whether there are double blind conditions or the involvement of a data and safety monitoring board; or
5. Where the SFI is in a privately held company, whether the researcher's SFI could result in the researcher having influence over company decisions, or whether the research could have a significant impact on the company's business or financial outlook (excluding Phase I SBIRs and STTRs); or
6. The magnitude of the SFIs (e.g., the amount of consulting, or the percentage or value of equity); or
7. Where the SFI is in the sponsor of the research, and the sponsor is a licensee of the Discloser's technology, the amount of commercialization payments received by the Investigator from that technology, both currently or in the future; or
8. The number and nature of relationships an Investigator has with an entity. Multiple entanglements can create a relationship with an outside entity that is stronger than the sum of the parts; or
9. Whether the goal of the research is to validate or invalidate a particular approach or methodology that could affect the value of the SFI; or
10. Whether other scientific groups are independently pursuing similar questions; or

11. Whether sufficient external review of the research conducted, and the reporting of research results exist to mitigate undue bias; or
12. Whether the goal of the project is a comparative evaluation of a technology in which an Investigator has an SFI; or
13. Whether the project involves a subaward to an entity in which the Investigator has an SFI.

### **Management of Significant Financial Interests that Pose Financial Conflict(s) of Interest**

If a conflict of interest exists, the designated official will determine by what means – such as the individual’s recusal from decisions affecting the conflicting entity, abstention from the external activity, modification of the activity, and/or monitoring of the activity by a subcommittee – the conflict should be avoided or managed in order to mitigate undue bias. In making those determinations, the designated official will be guided by the principles discussed in this Policy the designated official will also take into consideration whether the Investigator’s ongoing role is necessary to continue advancing the research, based upon the factors such as the uniqueness of his or her expertise and qualifications. Examples of conditions that might be imposed to manage a financial conflict of interest include, but are not limited to:

1. Public disclosure of financial conflicts of interest (e.g., when presenting or publishing the research, to research personnel working on the study, to the Institution Review Board, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, Data Safety and Monitoring Board, etc.);
2. For research projects involving human subjects research, disclosure of financial conflicts of interest directly to human participants in the informed consent document;
3. Appointment of an independent monitor capable of taking measures to protect the design, conduct, and reporting of the research against bias resulting from the financial conflict of interest;
4. Modification of the research plan;
5. Change of personnel or personnel responsibilities, or disqualification of personnel from participation in all or a portion of the research;
6. Reduction or elimination of the financial interest (e.g., sale of an equity interest); g) Severance of relationships that create financial conflicts;
7. For research projects involving human subjects research, use of a data and safety monitoring board; i) Double-blind conditions;
8. Provisions to conduct the work simultaneously at multiple sites;

9. Written disclosure of the conflict to all individuals working on the research project; 1) Annual reports on the research progress to the designated official.
10. Disclosure at any presentation of information related to the FCOI.

If the designated official determines that a conflict exists, it will communicate its determination and the means it has identified for eliminating or managing the conflict, in writing, to the individual, to the relevant Principal Investigator/Project Director, and the appropriate direct supervisor. The designated official will keep a record of the disclosure and other relevant information for at least three years. If the designated official prescribes monitoring of the activity, it will describe what monitoring shall be performed and what records are to be kept.

No expenditures on a NIH award will be permitted until the Investigator has complied with the Disclosure requirements of this Policy and has agreed, in writing, to comply with any plans determined by the designated official necessary to manage the Conflict of Interest. The designated FCOI SO will submit the FCOI report to NIH via the eRA Commons FCOI Module. The designated official will keep a record of Investigator disclosures of financial interests and the designated official's review of, and response to, such disclosure and all actions under this policy. Such records will be maintained and kept for at least three years from the date the final expenditures report is submitted or, where applicable, from other dates specified in 45 C.F.R. 75.361 for different situations.

### **Public Accessibility to Information Related to Financial Conflicts of Interest**

Prior to the expenditure of any funds under a NIH award, RUMI Scientific Inc. Inc. will ensure public accessibility, by written response to any requestor within five business days of a request of information concerning any SFI disclosed that meets the following three criteria:

1. The SFI was disclosed and is still held by the senior/key personnel. Senior/key personnel are the PD/PI and any other person identified as senior key personnel by RUMI Scientific Inc. Inc. in the grant application, progress report or any other report submitted to the to the PHS by Rumi Scientific Inc.
2. RUMI Scientific Inc. has determined that the SFI is related to the research funded through an award; and
3. RUMI Scientific Inc. has determined that the SFI is a financial conflict of interest.

The information that RUMI Scientific Inc. will make available via a publicly accessible Web site or in a written response to any requestor within five days of request will include, at a minimum, the following:

1. The Investigator's name;



2. The Investigator's title and role with respect to the research project;
3. The name of the entity in which the Significant Financial Interest is held;
4. The nature of the Significant Financial Interest; and
5. The approximate dollar value of the Significant Financial Interest in the following ranges: \$0- \$4,999; \$5,000-9,999; \$10,000 – \$19,999; amounts between \$20,000-\$100,000 by increments of \$20,000; amounts above \$100,000 by increments of \$50,000), or a statement that the interest is one whose value cannot be readily determined through reference to public prices or other reasonable measures of fair market value.

If RUMI Scientific Inc. uses a publicly accessible Web site to comply with the public disclosure requirements of the NIH regulations, the information posted will be updated at least annually, and within sixty days of receipt or identification of information concerning any additional Significant Financial Interest of the senior/key personnel for the NIH-funded research project that had not been previously disclosed, or upon the disclosure of a Significant Financial Interest of senior/key personnel new to the NIH-funded research project, if it is determined by the designated official that the Significant Financial Interest is related to the research and is a financial conflict of interest.

Information concerning the SFI of an individual, as limited by this Policy, will remain available, for responses to written requests or for posting via RUMI Scientific Inc. 'publicly accessible Web site for at least three years from the date that the information was most recently updated.

### **Reporting of Financial Conflicts of Interest**

Prior to the expenditure of any funds under an award funded by NIH, RUMI Scientific Inc. will provide to NIH a FCOI report compliant with NIH regulations regarding any Investigator's Significant Financial Interest found to be conflicting and will ensure that the Investigator has agreed to and implemented the corresponding management plan.

While the award is ongoing (including any extensions with or without funds), RUMI Scientific Inc. will provide to NIH an annual FCOI report that addresses the status of the FCOI and any changes in the management plan.

For any Significant Financial Interest that is identified as conflicting subsequent to an initial FCOI report during an ongoing NIH-funded research project (e.g., upon the participation of an Investigator who is new to the research project), RUMI Scientific Inc. will provide to NIH, within 60 days, an FCOI report regarding the financial conflict of interest and ensure that RUMI Scientific Inc. has implemented a management plan and the Investigator has agreed to the relevant management plan.



## **Training Requirements**

Each Investigator must complete training on RUMI Scientific Inc.' Financial Conflict of Interest Policy Applicable to an Award Issued by Public Health Services prior to engaging in research related to any NIH award and at least every four years, and immediately (as defined below) when any of the following circumstances apply:

1. RUMI Scientific Inc. revises this Policy, or procedures related to this Policy, in any manner that affects the requirements of Investigators (training is to be completed within the timeframe specified in communications announcing such changes);
2. An Investigator is new to RUMI Scientific Inc. research under a NIH award (training is to be completed prior to his/her participation in the research); or
3. RUMI Scientific Inc. finds that an Investigator is not in compliance with this Policy, or a management plan issued under this Policy (training is to be completed within 30 days in the manner specified by the designated official). In fulfillment of the training requirement, RUMI Scientific Inc. requires its investigators to complete the National Institutes of Health's Financial Conflict of Interest tutorial located at:  
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/coi/tutorial2011/fcoi.htm> in accordance with the requirements and expectations of this Policy. All investigators must print a certification of completion at the end of training and retain it for audit purposes.

## **Failure to Comply with RUMI Scientific Inc. 'Conflict of Interest Policy Applicable to Public Health Service Funded Award**

When a FCOI is not identified or managed in a timely manner, including, failure by the Investigator to disclose a significant financial interest that is determined by the Institution to constitute a FCOI; failure by the Institution to review or manage such a FCOI; and failure by the Investigator to comply with a management plan; then RUMI Scientific Inc. will within 120 days:

1. Complete a retrospective review of the Investigator's activities and the research project to determine any bias in the design, conduct or reporting of research;
2. Document the retrospective review consistent with the regulation at 42 CFR 50.605(a)(3)(ii)(B);
3. Document RUMI Scientific Inc.' determination as to whether any research, or portion thereof, conducted during the period of time of the Investigator's non-

compliance with this Policy or a Financial Conflict of Interest management plan, was biased in the design, conduct, or reporting of such research.

If bias is found, RUMI Scientific Inc. shall notify NIH promptly and submit a mitigation report to NIH via the eRA Commons FCOI Module that shall address the following:

- Impact of the bias on the research project, and
- RUMI Scientific Inc.' plan of action or actions taken to eliminate or mitigate the effect of the bias.

Thereafter, RUMI Scientific Inc. shall submit FCOI reports annually to NIH, in accordance with the regulation and terms and conditions of the award agreement. Depending on the nature of the Financial Conflict of Interest, RUMI Scientific Inc. may determine that additional interim measures are necessary with regard to the Investigator's participation in the research project between the date that the Financial Conflict of Interest is identified and the completion of RUMI Scientific Inc.' independent retrospective review.

### **Clinical Research**

If HHS determines that one of its funded clinical research projects whose purpose is to evaluate the safety or effectiveness of a drug, medical device or treatment has been designed, conducted or reported by an Investigator with a Financial Conflict of Interest that was not managed or reported by RUMI Scientific Inc., RUMI Scientific Inc. shall require the Investigator involved to disclose the Financial Conflict of Interest in each public presentation of the results of the research and to request an addendum to previously published presentations.

### **Subrecipient FCOI Compliance**

A subrecipient relationship is established when federal funds flow down from or through RUMI Scientific Inc. to another individual or entity and the subrecipient will be conducting a substantive portion of a PHS-funded research project and is accountable to RUMI Scientific Inc. for programmatic outcomes and compliance matters. Subrecipients, who include but are not limited to collaborators, consortium members, consultants, contractors, subcontractors and sub awardees, are subject to RUMI Scientific Inc.' terms and conditions, and as such, RUMI Scientific Inc. will take reasonable steps to ensure that any subrecipient Investigator is in compliance with the federal FCOI regulation. RUMI Scientific Inc. will incorporate, as part of

a written agreement with the subrecipient, terms that establish whether RUMI Scientific Inc.' FCOI Policy or that of the subrecipient's institution will apply to the subrecipient Investigator.

If the subrecipient's FCOI policy applies to the subrecipient Investigator, the subrecipient institution will certify as part of the agreement with RUMI Scientific Inc. Inc. that it is in compliance with the federal FCOI regulation, and that the institution's portion of the project is in compliance with the FCOI policy. If the subrecipient cannot provide the certification, the agreement shall state that the subrecipient Investigator is subject to RUMI Scientific Inc.' FCOI Policy for disclosing SFI that are directly related to the subrecipient's work for RUMI Scientific Inc.. RUMI Scientific Inc. will, if applicable, submit an FCOI report to the NIH through the eRA Commons FCOI Module for any FCOIs identified for a subrecipient Investigator.

If the subrecipient's conflict of interest policy applies to the subrecipient Investigator, the agreement shall specify the time period for the subrecipient to report all identified FCOIs to RUMI Scientific Inc.. Such time period must be sufficient to enable RUMI Scientific Inc. to provide timely FCOI reports to the NIH as necessary, through the eRA Commons FCOI Module.

If the subrecipient Investigator is subject to RUMI Scientific Inc.' Investigator FCOI Policy, the agreement shall specify the time period for the subrecipient to submit all Investigator disclosures of SFI to RUMI Scientific Inc.. Such time period shall be sufficient to enable RUMI Scientific Inc. to comply with its review, management, and reporting obligations under the regulation. RUMI Scientific Inc. will submit any NIH FCOI reports for a subrecipient Investigator through the eRA Commons FCOI Module.

### **Maintenance of Records**

Records of financial disclosures and any resulting action will be maintained by the Institution for at least three years from the date of submission of the final expenditures report or, where applicable, from other dates specified in 45 C.F.R. 75.361 for different situations. RUMI Scientific Inc. will retain records for each competitive segment as provided in the regulation.

### **Failure to Comply with This Policy**

Whenever a person has violated this policy, including failure to make a required disclosure of financial interests or failure to comply with a requirement of the management plan, the CEO shall make decisions regarding the impositions of sanctions or other administrative actions to ensure investigator compliance (e.g. letters of reprimand, restriction on the use of funds, disciplinary proceedings

against the violating individual or other consequences of non-compliance). The CEO will review together with the employee or Investigator the specific behaviors and consequences that are determined relevant based upon review, and any other administrative actions to assure Investigator compliance, including but not limited to supervised research activities.

## **USEFUL FCOI AND NIH RESOURCES**

FCOI Regulation 42 CFR Part 50 Subpart F at eCFR :: 42 CFR Part 50 Subpart F — Promoting Objectivity in Research

FCOI Webpage at [Financial Conflict of Interest](#)

FCOI Training Webpage at [FCOI Training](#)

FCOI FAQs at [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)

NIH Guide Notices Related to FCOI at [NIH Guide Notices Related to Financial Conflict of Interest](#)

[Subscribe to the NIH Guide to Grants and Contracts at NIH Guide](#)

[Subscribe to Weekly TOC E-Mail with New NIH Guide Postings and Funding Opportunities](#)

[Foreign Grant webpage at Information For Foreign Grants](#) and

[Important Highlights of FCOI Regulatory Requirements for Foreign Institutions](#)

[NIH's Welcome Wagon letter at NIH "WELCOME WAGON" LETTER](#)

[Information for New Recipient Organizations](#) and

[FCOI information at NIH "WELCOME WAGON" LETTER Information for New Recipient Organizations](#)