Conflict of Interest in Clinical Research

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12 Noon, Friday, March 29, 2002
Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Room 207 (across from Library)

Conflict of interest, potential or actual, is a problem for clinical researchers. Some propose avoiding it altogether, while others assert that it can be managed with appropriate policies, acknowledgement and oversight. This presentation examines the nature of conflict of interest, illustrates its potential for damage and reviews current approaches to reducing its influence on clinical research.

Dr. Walker is an Associate Professor of Medicine at University of South Florida’s College of Medicine, where he directs the Division of Medical Ethics and Humanities and teaches medical ethics; he chairs the Ethics Committee at Tampa General Hospital. Dr. Walker’s articles have appeared in *JAMA*, the *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, the *Archives of Internal Medicine*, and *Academic Medicine*.

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