

## Faculty of Medicine's Policy on Conflicts of Interest and Commitment

Dear Colleagues,

HMS has traditionally reviewed key aspects of the Faculty of Medicine's Policy on Conflicts of Interest and Commitment (HMS COI Policy) every four to five years. As we enter 2015, it is time to again assess our COI Policy to ensure that it remains optimally constructed and relevant to the current environment and practices, striking an appropriate balance between ensuring the integrity of our work and permitting our faculty the maximal opportunity to improve human health through the discovery, evaluation and eventual introduction and use of new drugs and devices.

The HMS COI Policy was originally adopted in 1990, and most recently was revised in 2010 through a lengthy and deliberative faculty committee process. The current policy provides guidelines and rules intended to protect the interests of the public and the integrity of our faculty and institutions, while simultaneously permitting effective interactions between our faculty and industry that are essential to our mission of improving human health. The current HMS COI Policy can be found on the website of HMS's Office for Academic and Research Integrity.

Today I have asked the Faculty of Medicine's Standing Committee on Conflicts of Interest and Commitment, in consultation with colleagues across our community, to review the HMS Policy, and, in particular, to examine the current restrictions defined by the Clinical Research Rule and the Research Support Rule.

I encourage faculty to share thoughts about your experience with this COI policy, in particular the Clinical Research Rule and the Research Support Rule, and your views of the impact of the policy both on our community and on our ability to effectively conduct biomedical research. Please send your suggestions to Gretchen Brodnicki, Dean for Faculty and Research Integrity, and Jennifer Ryan, Associate Director of Academic and Research Integrity at [outsideactivities@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:outsideactivities@hms.harvard.edu) so that the Standing Committee can benefit from your input during its review.

I look forward to sharing with you the results of this important initiative in the coming months.

Sincerely,  
Jeffrey S. Flier  
Dean of the Faculty of Medicine  
Harvard University