

**2012 Disclosure of Actual or Potential Conflict of Interest  
Psychiatric Times**

The aim of the *Psychiatric Times* is to provide our readers with accurate, balanced, and objective scientific information. Commentary/Op-Ed pieces, though they may adopt a particular stance or point of view, are also expected to be fair, accurate, and balanced. To these ends, members of our Editorial Board, as well as contributors to PT, are asked to disclose actual or potential “conflicts of interest” (COIs). A COI is generally understood to mean *a situation in which financial or other personal considerations have the potential to compromise or bias professional judgment and objectivity*. A COI by itself does not signify any wrongdoing or breach of faith. However, it is important for the *Psychiatric Times* and its readers to be informed of actual or potential COIs, in order to assess articles and commentaries objectively. We therefore request that you respond to the following queries pertaining to COI.

With respect to the *past 12 months*, have you or your spouse/partner:

1. had any enduring financial relationships with any proprietary entity producing *health care goods or services* (with the exception of non-profit or government organizations) that might create a conflict of interest? Examples would include participating on speakers’ bureaus for a pharmaceutical or medical device company; serving as a paid consultant to such companies; receiving regular stipends from such companies; or receiving research funding from such companies.

Yes\_\_\_ No\_x

If you answered yes, please indicate the specific relationship that might present a conflict of interest, with respect to your activities with or responsibilities to Psychiatric Times:

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2. been a major stock shareholder (> \$10,000) in any proprietary entity producing *health care goods or services*, such as a pharmaceutical company or manufacturer of medical devices?

Yes\_\_\_ No\_x

If you answered yes, please indicate the specific relationship that might present a conflict of interest, with respect to your activities with or responsibilities to *Psychiatric Times*:

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3. had any personal contacts, relationships or conflicts that have the potential to compromise or bias your professional judgment and objectivity with respect to the activity in question (article, commentary, interview, etc.)? Examples would include a close personal or collegial relationship with the author of an article you have been asked to review; or substantial personal / professional conflicts with such an individual.

Yes \_\_\_ No

If you answered yes, please indicate the specific relationship that might present a conflict of interest, with respect to your activities with or responsibilities to *Psychiatric Times*:

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I certify that the above is correct, complete and accurate, to the best of my knowledge.

Signature \_\_\_ Richard Balon, M.D. Date \_\_\_ 02/04/2012 \_\_\_

Thank you very much for your cooperation. –The *Psychiatric Times*