



Organics Council®

Impartiality Management

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I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to ensure that impartiality is managed with respect to all scientific assessments and those funding approval activities (conduct) carried out by the Organics Council®.

II. SCOPE

Conduct impartiality of the Organics Council® is ensured by procedures and documents (rules) referred to herein. These rules apply to the Organics Council® Science and Audit Committees and other external science experts that may be part of the conduct and members of those committees. No Organics Council® member outside of those committees shall influence scientific decisions made by and on the behalf of the Organics Council®.

The Organics Council® employs a risk-based approach to guarantee its impartiality. The Organics Council® recognises potential risks to impartiality that can arise in the following areas:

- Research Funding
- Cooperation with external organisations
- Members' interests
- Data and methods

III. PROCEDURE

1. RESEARCH FUNDING

a) The Organics Council® establishes that an acceptable level of research directly funded by the private sector (private organisations representing industry interests, such as industry associations or Public-Private partnerships (PPPs)) shall not exceed 25% of the total budget. The rest of the budget shall be funded by internal resources or external, impartial public sources (e.g., public donors), providing it does not originate from vested interests of stakeholders, which may otherwise affect the conduct impartiality.

b) The funding of each research task is subject to audit on impartiality in accordance with point a) above. The research task leader shall perform the funding audit before the task commences. In case any breach is found, it shall be referred to the Organics Council® Science Committee Director for further decision on funding.

2. COOPERATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

a) The Organics Council® shall not allow industry organisations, including associations, to influence the Organics Council®'s conduct.

b) The Organics Council® may cooperate with external formal education and scientific organisations (e.g., universities, research institutions) aiming to employ external experts who possess relevant scientific knowledge for a specific scientific issue, subject to the Conflict of Interest Management policy.

c) External experts may be invited to contribute on a regular or ad hoc basis to the work of the Organics Council® Science Committee, subject to the Conflict of Interest Management policy.

d) When the Organics Council® Science Committee identifies the need for external experts in order to address specific scientific issues, the reasoning shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

e) External experts shall not be considered members of the Organics Council® Science Committee or entitled to voting rights in the Science Committee decisions or be chosen as Chair of the Science Committee, but External expert selection is nonetheless subject to the same and full procedure implemented to select the Science Committee members.

f) External experts shall be subject to these rules and all rules and procedures this document refers to, including the Conflict of Interest Management policy.

g) Appointment of external experts shall be approved by the Audit Committee after screening the expert's Dol.

3. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The members of the Organics Council® Science and Audit Committees shall act independently of any external influence related to the subject of the activity. Openness is essential to ensure public trust. Therefore, professionals involved in the conduct of the Organics Council® must reveal the interests they may have in the Organics Council®'s tasks in accordance with the Conflict of Interest Management procedure.

4. DATA AND METHODS

a) The Organics Council® guarantees that its Science Committee members and external experts operate with data and conduct substance assessments in an unbiased way. This is ensured through implementation of pertaining protocols as to data collection and processing developed by the Organics Council®.¹

b) The Organics Council® establishes the following credentials as requirements for Science Committee members participating in the substance assessment process:

- Primary Researchers shall have a Bachelor degree in chemistry or biochemistry or medicine from a nationally accredited education institution;
- Principal Investigators shall have a PhD degree in chemistry or biochemistry or medicine from a nationally accredited education institution.

The Organics Council® Audit Committee monitors compliance with the above requirements on a regular basis.

c) The Organics Council® only collects data from the authoritative sources listed below:

- Scientific articles from peer-reviewed journals. Normally they may be found on scientific article aggregators such as: PubMed, Scencedirect, SpringerLink, Wiley, Taylor & Francis, and Google Scholar, among others.
- Websites of government and statutory bodies, normally with domains ending with 'gov'.
- Websites of national government health protection authorities, such as The Food and Drug Administration of the USA, The European Medicine Agency, and The National Institute of Health and Care Excellence of the UK.

¹ Organics Council® ALS Protocol.

<https://organicscouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/ASL-Protocol.pdf>

4.1. Substance Assessment

- a) After a request for substance assessment has been received by the Organics Council® Science Committee, the Director assigns it to the competent experts to perform a primary assessment. The senior expert, the Primary Principal Investigator, is then entrusted with the full review of the assessment. The final review of the assessment is performed by the additional Secondary Principal Investigator. Primary assessment experts may be selected among Science Committee members, or an external expert can be appointed, although Principal Investigators shall only be members of Organics Council® Science Committee panel.
- b) All experts that perform assessment and review share a responsibility for the decision made.
- c) The Organics Council® makes all its outputs available to public. Substance assessment reports can be downloaded for free from the Organics Council® website and used for non-commercial purposes.

4.2. Social Campaigns

- a) The Organics Council® conducts social campaigns that are proposed and selected by public members on whatishealthy.info in accordance with the procedure described on the website² or directly by the Organics Council® Science Committee.
- b) The Organics Council® guarantees that social campaign implementation is impartial and overseen by impartial members of the Science Committee who are subject to DoI and whose credentials are checked by the Audit Committee.
- c) Once the new social campaign is selected, the Director of the Organics Council® Science Committee reviews the campaign plan, implements it and formulates conclusions on the results of the campaign.

² <http://whatishealthy.info/health-campaigns-how-it-works/>