



**EMBnet Journal copyright and licence agreement**

In submitting a work, in the form of an abstract, to EMBnet Journal (“EMBnet.journal”) for the publication of a “Meeting abstracts” Supplement I certify that:

1. I am authorised by my co-authors to enter into these arrangements;
2. I warrant, on behalf of myself and my co-authors, that:

2.1 the abstract is original, has not been formally published in any other peer-reviewed journal, is not under consideration by any other journal, and does not infringe any existing copyright or any other third-party rights;

2.2 I am/we are aware of the Competing Interest (CI) Policy adopted by EMBnet.journal (see attached **Competing Interest Guidelines**) and declare that I/we have:

Competing Interests: \_\_\_\_\_(use the word “none” if no CI are declared; “yes” if one of the following conditions is true, and provide your CI in **a**) or **b**) according to **Competing Interest Guidelines**).

**a.** financial competing interests<sup>(1)</sup>:

---

---

---

---

**b.** non-financial competing interests (professional and/or personal)<sup>(1)</sup>:

---

---

---

---

---

(1) Authors must declare any financial competing interests but also any non-financial competing interests that may cause them embarrassment were they to become public after the publication of the abstract.

2.3 I am/we are the sole author(s) of the abstract and have full authority to enter into this agreement and, in granting rights to EMBnet.journal, are not in breach of any other obligation;

2.4 the abstract contains nothing that is unlawful, libellous, or which would, if published, constitute a breach of contract or of confidence or of commitment given to secrecy;

2.5 I/we have taken due care to ensure the integrity of the abstract. To my/our - and currently accepted scientific - knowledge all statements contained in it purporting to be facts are true and any formula or instruction contained in the abstract will not, if followed accurately, cause any injury, illness or damage to the user.

And I agree to the **EMBnet Journal Open Access licence agreement** (<http://journal.embnet.org/index.php/embnetjournal/about/submissions#copyrightNotice>)

---

---

(Article title)

---

(Name: print and sign)

---

(Date:dd/mm/yyyy)

# EMBnet.journal

## Bioinformatics in Action

### Competing Interest Guidelines

#### What is a competing interest?

EMBnet.journal defines a competing interest as anything that interferes with, or could reasonably be perceived as interfering with, the full and objective presentation, peer review, editorial decision-making, or publication of research or non-research articles submitted to one of the journals. Competing interests can be financial or non-financial, professional, or personal. Competing interests can arise in relationship to an organisation or another person. See below for definitions and examples of various competing interests.

#### Who needs to declare competing interests?

Everyone involved in authorship, funding, review and editorial decision-making of submitted articles, or who wishes to comment on or rate published articles must declare any and all relevant competing interests.

It is increasingly recognised that everyone has competing interests of some sort—authors, authors' employers (whether an academic institution, government department, commercial company or other), sponsors of the work, reviewers, editors and publishers. It is difficult for individuals to assess objectively whether their competing interests could have biased their presentation, peer review, or decision to publish any given work. Declaring one's competing interests allows others to better evaluate the possibility of such bias.

#### How do the EMBnet.journal treat competing interests in their review and publication process?

No decision is made to publish any paper submitted to EMBnet.journal until a competing interests statement has been submitted for all authors. The editors may ask additional questions or seek clarification about declarations. In addition, we require that the role of all funding sources in the work be described, and authors are required to state explicitly whether the funder was involved in the study design; collection, analysis and interpretation of data; writing of the paper; and/or decision to submit for publication.

The editors of EMBnet.journal may decide not to publish a paper if they believe the competing interests declared by the authors or funders are such that they may have compromised the objectivity or validity of the research, analyses or interpretations presented in the paper. With respect to commissioned or other non-research articles, EMBnet.journal editors do not commission or publish any article, which comments on or reviews research findings or other topics, if they are aware of a competing interest that, in their judgment, could introduce bias or the reasonable perception of bias.

EMBnet.journal editors do not consult reviewers who have competing interests that, in the editors' judgment, could interfere with unbiased review.

Failure to declare competing interests at submission, or when an article is commissioned, may result in immediate rejection of the paper. If a competing interest comes to light after publication, EMBnet.journal will issue a formal correction or retraction of the whole paper, as appropriate.

## Examples of competing interests

### Financial

Financial competing interests include, but are not limited to:

- Ownership of stocks or shares
- Paid employment or consultancy
- Board membership
- Patent applications (pending or actual), including individual applications or those belonging to the institution to which authors are affiliated and from which the authors may benefit
- Research grants (from any source, restricted or unrestricted)
- Travel grants and honoraria for speaking or participation at meetings
- Gifts

Authors must declare all potential financial competing interests involving people or organisations that might reasonably be perceived as relevant.

Similarly, reviewers and academic and professional editors, paid or unpaid, must consider and declare any potential financial relationships that could reasonably be perceived as relevant and/or could influence their objective review of the paper, and recuse themselves from handling the paper if necessary.

Anyone wishing to comment on or rate a published paper must also consider, and then disclose, whether they have any relevant financial interests.

As a guide, any competing interest that arose within the five years either before or after the commencement of the research described, or within five years of the article being written, or within five years of events described in the article, should be declared. However, interests outside this time frame may also be relevant; if so, they should also be declared in order for their relevance to be judged by the editorial team.

### Non-financial

Non-financial competing interests include, but are not limited to:

#### Professional

- Acting as an expert witness
- Membership in a government or other advisory board
- Relationship (paid or unpaid) with organisations and funding bodies including non-governmental organisations, research institutions or charities
- Membership in lobbying or advocacy organisations
- Writing or consulting for an educational company

#### Personal

- Personal relationships (*i.e.*, friend, spouse, family member, current or previous mentor, adversary) with individuals involved in the submission or evaluation of a paper, such as authors, reviewers, editors or members of the editorial board of EMBnet.journal
- Personal convictions (political, religious, ideological or other) related to a paper's topic that may interfere with an unbiased publication process (at the stage of authorship, peer review, editorial decision making or publication)

Authors, reviewers, editors and anyone wishing to comment on a published paper must consider and then disclose whether they have any non-financial interests that might influence their reporting, handling, or review of the paper, or that might be negatively or positively affected by publication of the paper.

For example, authors are required to declare if they have served, or currently serve, on the editorial board of the journal to which they are submitting, have acted as an expert witness in relevant legal proceedings, or have sat, or currently sit, on a committee for an organisation that may benefit from publication of the paper.

Reviewers are required to declare if they have held grants, co-authored papers or worked in the same institution or organisation with the authors of the study they are asked to review, or if they are in an adversarial relationship with authors.

Similarly, editors—academic or professional, paid or unpaid—are required to recuse themselves from deliberations if they cannot evaluate a paper in an objective way because of personal relationships with authors.

Finally, anyone who comments on, or rates, published papers in EMBnet.journal must declare non-financial competing interests at the time of posting their comments and/or rating.