

## Authors Conflict of Interest Disclosure Questionnaire

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<b>Title</b>	Transesophageal Echocardiography in Cryptogenic Stroke and PFO: The Analysis of Putative High Risk Features from the Risk of Paradoxical Embolism (RoPE) Database		
<b>Authors</b>	Benjamin Wessler, David Thaler, Robin Ruthazer, Christian Weimar, Marco Di Tullio, Mitchell Elkind, Shunichi Homma, Jennifer Lutz, Jean-Louis Mas, Heinrich Mattle, Bernhard Meier, Krassen Nedeltchev, Federica Papetti, Emanuele Di Angelantonio, Mark Reisman, Joaquin Serena, and David Kent		

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***Each author shall complete this form.***

### **I. Author Conflict of Interest**

Each author must disclose all relevant financial, personal or professional relationships with other people or organizations. To protect the integrity of the author, Journal, and the AHA, disclosure must be made of both those relationships that pose a conflict and those that could reasonably be perceived as a conflict of interest or as potentially influencing or biasing the author's work.

Authors' disclosures will appear after the "Acknowledgments" section in the accepted article.

A. Each author is required to identify all relationships within the last 2 years that are **relevant** to the topic of the manuscript. A relationship is **"relevant"** if the relationship or interest relates to the topic of the manuscript in terms of any of the following: the same or similar subject matter or topic; the same, similar or competing drug or device, product or service, intellectual property or asset; a drug or device company or its competitor; or has the reasonable potential to result in financial, professional or other personal gain or loss for you, members of your household or employer.

Note these definitions of the categories:

- "Research Grant" includes principal investigator, collaborator or consultant and pending grants as well as grants already received.
- "Other Research Support" includes receipt of drugs, supplies, equipment or other in-kind support.
- "Honoraria" includes speaking fees for symposia and other meetings or occasions.
- "Expert Witness" includes serving as an expert witness, consultant or otherwise providing a deposition, testimony, or other information, analysis or document for a lawsuit, government agency proceeding, grand jury, or other legal proceeding, even if the case did not go to trial.
- "Ownership Interest" includes stock; stock options; partnership, membership, or other equity position in an entity regardless of the form of the entity, or any option or right to acquire such position; or any rights in any patent or other intellectual property.

If an author has no relationships or conflicts to disclose, the author must indicate "None" for the appropriate category(ies).

B. Each author is required to classify each disclosed relationship as either "Significant" or "Modest". A relationship is considered to be "Significant" if (a) the person receives \$10,000 or more during any 12 month period, or 5% or more of the person's gross income; or (b) the person owns 5% or more of the voting stock or share of the entity, or owns \$10,000 or more of the fair market value of the entity. A relationship is considered to be "Modest" if it is less than "Significant" under the preceding definition.

### **1. Employment**

No, I do not have an employment position to disclose.

### **2. Research Grant**

Yes, I have a research grant to disclose.

1. Entity: NINDS

Relationship: Myself

Explanation: RO1

Compensation: Significant (>\$10K or 5%)

### **3. Other Research Support**

No, I do not have other research support to disclose.

### **4. Speakers' Bureau**

No, I do not have speaking engagements to disclose.

### **5. Honoraria**

No, I do not have honoraria to disclose.

### **6. Expert Witness**

No, I do not have expert testimony to disclose.

### **7. Ownership Interest**

No, I do not have stock or other ownership interests to disclose.

### **8. Consultant or Advisory Board**

Yes, I have a consultant or advisory relationship to disclose.

1. Entity: St Jude Medical

Relationship: Myself

Explanation: Steering Committee, RESPECT Trial

Compensation: Modest (<\$10K or <5%)

2. Entity: WL Gore

Relationship: Myself

Explanation: Consultant

Compensation: Modest (<\$10K or <5%)

## 9. Other

No, I do not have other remuneration to disclose.

## II. Institutional Conflict of Interest

Your institution or employer: Tufts Medical Center

Institutional conflict of interest is defined as any financial interest held by your employer or academic institution in any business or entity having an interest in the topic addressed in the manuscript.

Are you aware that your academic institution or employer has any financial or ownership interest directly related to the topic of this manuscript?

No.  Yes. Please describe in the space below.

Explain any institutional conflict of interest:

**By completing this form, I confirm that the information reported is accurate. I understand that, where appropriate, this information may be disclosed publicly. I further understand that the American Heart Association, Inc., reserves the right to decline to publish my work if the Society believes a significant conflict of interest exists.**

David Thaler

Checking this box acts as your signature for the Authors Conflict of Interest Disclosure Questionnaire.

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