

Office of the Chancellor
Boston University
One Sherborn Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02215



MEMORANDUM

October 20, 2003

To: All Faculty Members
Deans, Directors and Department Heads
All Institutional Review Board Chairmen

From: John Silber 

Re: Revised Boston University Policy on Investigators' Conflicts of Interest

To promote and enhance the confidence of sponsors and the public in the integrity of Boston University's research programs and to reduce the exposure of the University and its investigators to criticism or liability in connection with research and related teaching and administration, the University's *Policy on Investigators' Conflicts of Interest* has been revised effective October 31, 2003. The revisions:

- expand disclosure requirements to cover on the Medical Campus all research and on the Charles River Campus all externally-funded research and all human subject research (regardless of funding);
- authorize the establishment of separate standing committees on conflicts of interest on the Charles River and Medical Campuses;
- strengthen monitoring provisions and coordinate the review of conflicts of interest with Institutional Review Board review for human subject protection; and
- expand the definition of "significant financial interest" to include all equity interests, regardless of value or percentage, and all patent rights owned by an investigator or invented by a clinical investigator.

A copy of the revised Policy is attached, together with an explanation of disclosure requirements in question & answer format and copies of the applicable disclosure forms.

I wish to thank all members of the Boston University research community for their contributions to the advancement of research at Boston University and for their anticipated support of these important principles and requirements.