

# Disclosures Undisclosed

Shahzadeh Safavi BS<sup>1</sup>; Gregory J. Schneider MS<sup>1</sup>; Cory F. Janney MD<sup>1,2</sup>; Daniel Jupiter PhD<sup>1</sup>; Vinod K. Panchbhavi MD,

<sup>1</sup>University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX; <sup>2</sup>United States Navy

## Introduction

Act was established as law in 2010 as a (ACA). This act was designed to increase relationships between pharmaceutical providers. Payments greater than \$10 are manufacturer. There have been numerous fields evaluating these payments to have been noted to have the largest of all device manufacturers.

## Objective:

the nondisclosure rates of conflicts-of-interest research articles to three prevalent period lasting from January 2014 to

## Methods:

from the United States that were published Foot and Ankle International (FAI), The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery (JBJS), and The Journal of Arthroplasty

interest (COI) disclosure statements were author from the online version of the financial relationship involving employment, and consulting fees from a biomedical and as having disclosed a potential COI.

searched for using CMS Open Payments author had received payments in the form of consulting fees.

if a COI was present, an author's disclosed article was compared to CMS Open to publication of the article.

**Table 2.** Conflict-of-interest disclosure accuracy percentages for research articles published in each journal across the 2014 to 2016 period.

	The Journal of Arthroplasty (JOA)	The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery (JBJS)	Foot and Ankle International (FAI)	All 3 Journals Combined
Articles with no undisclosed conflicts-of-interest	841/924 (91.0%)	479/505 (94.9%)	196/343 (57.1%)	1,560/1,770 (85.7%)
Articles with an undisclosed conflict-of-interest	65/924 (7.0%)	23/505 (4.6%)	145/343 (42.3%)	233/1,770 (13.2%)
Articles with insufficient information on both first and last author	18/924 (2.0%)	3/505 (0.6%)	2/343 (0.6%)	21/1,770 (1.20%)

**Table 3.** Mean and median payment amounts for authors who successfully disclosed versus those who failed to disclose a potential conflict-of-interest.

	Mean for authors Failing to disclose a potential COI	Mean for authors who correctly disclosed any potential COI	Median for authors Failing to disclose a potential COI	Median for authors who correctly disclosed any potential COI
The Journal of Arthroplasty (JOA)	\$70,004.51 (sd \$183,394.43)	\$442,803.19 (sd \$795,184.99)	\$17,212.98	\$128,353.60
The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery (JBJS)	\$203,249.61 (sd \$654,925.98)	\$246,859.05 (sd \$566,102.46)	\$10,177.50	\$37,124.00
Foot and Ankle International (FAI)	\$112,905.59 (sd \$247,252.45)	\$181,051.39 (sd \$269,758.25)	\$49,599.28	\$71,923.04
All 3 Journals Combined	\$109,804.50 (sd \$296,556.90)	\$376,367.98 (sd \$725,812.13)	\$34,625.00	\$79,295.15

Mean and median payment amounts for authors who successfully disclosed versus those who failed to disclose a potential conflict-of-interest.

JOA*			JBJS**				FAI***				
2015	2016	2014-2016	2014	2015	2016	2014-2016	2014	2015	2016	2014-2016	2014
11/561 (2.0%)	38/728 (5.2%)	66/1,821 (3.6%)	4/440 (0.9%)	8/292 (2.7%)	11/254 (4.3%)	23/986 (2.3%)	56/244 (23.0%)	60/224 (26.8%)	40/190 (21.1%)	156/658 (23.7%)	77/1,216 (6.3%)
11/285 (3.86%)	37/370 (10.0%)	65/924 (7.0%)	4/224 (1.8%)	8/149 (5.4%)	11/133 (8.3%)	23/505 (4.6%)	49/128 (38.3%)	58/114 (50.9%)	38/102 (37.3%)	145/343 (42.3%)	70/620 (11.3%)

Mean and median payment amounts for authors who successfully disclosed versus those who failed to disclose a potential conflict-of-interest. \*p=4.34E-6; \*\*p=1.97E-4; \*\*\*p=1.41E-11; \*\*\*\*p=1.61E-4

## Results

- Across all journals and years, we obtained total first and last authors publishing in our sample, 7.1% (245/3,465) of the authors had a potential conflict-of-interest and 13.2% (233/1,770) of articles contained an undisclosed potential conflict-of-interest.
- When looking at each journal individually, JBJS contained the highest percentage of authors with a potential conflict-of-interest and JOA had an intermediate amount (7.0%).
- When observing the mean and median payment amounts for authors who successfully disclosed COI vs those authors who failed to disclose a potential COI, the mean and median are greater for authors who successfully disclosed true within each journal individually as well as across all journals (table 3). Additionally, the standard deviation was greater than the mean for payments received with a potential COI, indicating a wide range in amount of payments received.
- Of 1,932 unique authors within our sample, 1,932 unique authors with a discrepancy had authorships in 3 or fewer articles, making it unlikely that our values were significantly different. Prolific authors with disclosure discrepancies in multiple publications and at least 1 disclosure discrepancy from said author with a discrepancy could not be identified.

## Conclusion

Discrepancies between payment disclosures and actual payments in the CMS database were present in all three journals. The percentage of articles containing an author with a potential conflict-of-interest was widely between these journals. However, when looking at disclosure discrepancies by year, no trend was observed.