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Recebido: 18 de junho de 2018 - Aceite: 02 de julho de 2018 | Copyright © Ordem dos Médicos 2018

<https://doi.org/10.20344/amp.10943>

## Letter to the Editor: More on Conflict of Interest Disclosure in a Top-Tier Portuguese Medical Journal

### Carta ao Editor: Ainda a Propósito da Divulgação de Conflitos de Interesse numa Revista Médica Portuguesa de Referência

**Keywords:** Conflict of Interest; Disclosure; Editorial Policies; Periodicals as Topic; Portugal**Palavras-chave:** Conflito de Interesse; Políticas Editoriais; Portugal; Publicações; Revelação da Verdade

We read with great interest a recent article<sup>1</sup> in this journal regarding conflicts of interest, so many times omitted by authors, in one of the few Portuguese medical journals indexed in PubMed. The cited study was done by a Nephrologist in a Cardiology journal, but many more studies are needed, for sure, across all the other specialties and journals in our country. And not only dealing with researching or the authorship of academic literature, but also and necessarily including physicians who are mostly pure clinicians.

Regarding Psychiatry in Portugal, in particular, we already know that there are some important issues regarding the interactions of physicians with the pharmaceutical industry, especially during specialist training.<sup>2</sup> In this particular specialty, this kind of relationship raises even more ethical concerns, and some studies suggest that it

may also influence the access to information and training,<sup>3</sup> with even deeper and longer consequences, in our youngest physicians (and their patients, of course!). These are just a couple of examples that we would like to highlight to our readers. We need indeed more studies like Fonseca's, in order to clarify any bond or conflicts of interest among our medical researchers and/or practitioners. Otherwise the medical establishment is doomed to face, again and again, the stigma and prejudice from the media (eager for hot topics) and general public opinion (vulnerable to those media).

Last but not the least, we would like to remind every reader that besides the Portuguese ministry of health online public access database<sup>4</sup> there are also strict rules of interaction with pharmaceutical industry representatives.<sup>5</sup> We truly believe that both instruments should be part of our routine work, in all the possible settings (clinical, teaching and researching).

#### CONFIDENTIALITY OF DATA

The author declares having followed the protocols in use at their working center regarding patient's data publication.

#### CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the Centro Hospitalar Psiquiátrico de Lisboa nor Faculdade de Medicina de Lisboa. No conflict of interests to declare.

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Recebido: 04 de julho de 2018 - Aceite: 05 de julho de 2018 | Copyright © Ordem dos Médicos 2018

<https://doi.org/10.20344/amp.11016>