

OTRU Competing Interest Policy

As a credible source of science-based information in the field of tobacco control, the Ontario Tobacco Research Unit (OTRU) is committed to transparency regarding sources of support and other relationships that might constitute, or give the appearance of, a conflict of interest. OTRU has implemented two policies in this regard:

1. OTRU does not accept grants, contracts, honoraria, contributions or anything else of value from any tobacco manufacturer, distributor, or other tobacco related company.

OTRU Principal Investigators, Directors, Scientists, Investigators, Affiliates and Student members are asked to declare that they do not currently accept nor will accept during their employment or membership with OTRU, any grants, contracts, salary, honoraria, contributions or anything else of fiduciary value from any tobacco manufacturer, distributor, or other tobacco related company.

Further, OTRU award recipients and their departmental Chair and academic supervisor (where applicable) are asked to declare that they or their department do not currently accept nor will accept during the grant period with OTRU, any grants, contracts, salary, honoraria, contributions or anything else of fiduciary value from any tobacco manufacturer, distributor, or other tobacco related company.

2. OTRU Principal Investigators and Directors are asked to disclose on an annual basis their past (within the last 12 months) or pending relationships with industries, institutions, agencies and organizations.

Disclosures of OTRU Directors and Principal Investigators

Roberta Ferrence, Principal Investigator and Executive Director

Roberta Ferrence, Executive Director and OTRU Principal Investigator, is a Senior Scientist with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, and Professor in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. Dr. Ferrence has had no relationships with the tobacco industry, or with the pharmaceutical industry in the past year. In 2008, she held grants from the Ministry of Health Promotion, the Canadian Tobacco Control Research Initiative (CTCRI) and the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR). She has accepted travel support and reimbursement from Health Canada, Canadian Tobacco Control Research Initiative, Society for Research in Nicotine and Tobacco, and the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer conference.

Joanna Cohen, Principal Investigator and Director of Research and Training

Joanna Cohen, Director of Research and Training and OTRU Principal Investigator, is an Associate Professor in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto and Associate Scientist at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. Dr. Cohen has had no relationships with the tobacco or pharmaceutical industries. In 2008-9, she received grant funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Health Canada, the Canadian Tobacco Control Research Initiative (CTCRI), and the Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre. She received an honorarium as a reviewer for the Flight Attendant Medical Research Institute, the Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program (TRDRP) grant review panel, and the journal Tobacco Control (as a senior editor). She has received reimbursement from TRDRP, CTCRI, Health Canada, the Institut national de santé publique du Québec, the University of Western Ontario and Roswell Park Cancer Institute for travel expenses to attend meetings.

Rob Schwartz, Principal Investigator and Director of Evaluation and Monitoring

Robert Schwartz, Director of Evaluation and Monitoring and OTRU Principal Investigator, is an Associate Professor in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. Dr. Schwartz has had no relationship with the tobacco industry. He has been a principal investigator on contracts between OTRU and Health Canada, the Alberta Cancer Board, the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada and Cancer Care Ontario. In 2007, he received a grant from the Canadian Tobacco Control Research Initiative (CTCRI). He has received travel and other support from Carleton University, the Kettering Institute, Health Canada, Canadian Council for Tobacco Control, Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, and the Roswell Park Cancer Institute. He is also a member of the Lung Association's Smoke-Free Homes and Asthma Advisory Committee and was a member of the Lungs Are for Life Advisory Committee (Ontario Lung Association and Ontario Physical and Health Education Association).

Susan Bondy, Principal Investigator

Susan Bondy, OTRU Principal Investigator, is an Assistant Professor in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. Dr. Bondy has had no relationship with the tobacco industry. She is a co-principal investigator for the Smoking Treatment for Ontario Patients (STOP) Study, in partnership with Johnson & Johnson, maker of nicotine replacement products. In 2007, she received funding from the US National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), and from the Canadian Tobacco Control Research Initiative (CTCRI). She has a contract with the Public Health Agency of Canada to prepare skills enhancement syllabus materials, and has received travel funds from the Canadian Public Health Association. She has also received grant review honoraria from the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board, the Alberta Cancer Board, and other non-profit agencies

Stephen Brown, Principal Investigator

Stephen Brown, OTRU Principal Investigator, is a Professor in the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science at the University of Waterloo, Co-Director of the Population Health Research Group and a Research Scientist with the Centre for Behavioural Research and Program Evaluation (CBRPE). Dr. Brown has had no relationship with the tobacco industry. He has a contract with Public Works, Government Services, Canada, for the Youth Smoking Survey, and has just completed one with Cancer Care Ontario. He has grants from Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), Canadian Tobacco Control Research Initiative (CTCRI), the National Institutes of Health (US), and the Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion. He is part of a group that receives funds from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. In the past few years, he had a contract with a pharmaceutical company for statistical consulting services for a non-tobacco product; he accepted honoraria from the Michael Smith Foundation for a grant review; his expenses to participate in CIHR grant review panel were covered by CIHR; and he received funds to attend and speak at the Annual Invitational Symposium for Research in Tobacco Control. He is a National Cancer Institute of Canada (NCIC) consultant (unpaid) for CBRPE.

Paul McDonald, Principal Investigator

Paul McDonald, OTRU Principal Investigator, is a Chair and an Associate Professor in the Department of Health Studies and Gerontology, and Co-Director of the Population Health Research Group at the University of Waterloo. Dr. McDonald has had no relationship with the tobacco industry, and has not accepted financial support from the pharmaceutical industry in the past five years. He has received grants and contracts from several public agencies including provincial Ministries of Health and the Federal Tobacco Program. He has accepted honoraria from Clinidata, the organization that runs the smokers' quit line on behalf of the BC Ministry of Health, and from non-profit agencies for providing professional training. He has acted as a consultant and been in receipt of honoraria and other benefits from non-profit organizations, and frequently serves as an unpaid advisor to various public and non-profit organizations.

John Garcia, Principal Investigator

John Garcia, OTRU Principal Investigator, Director of Population Health, in the Department of Prevention and Screening Programs at Cancer Care Ontario is also an Associate Professor in the Department of Health Studies and Gerontology at the University of Waterloo and the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. Dr. Garcia has no contractual, grant, or other financial relationship with the tobacco or pharmaceutical industry. Being active professionally in tobacco control and other aspects of public health practice, he engages in collaborative projects regularly with scientists, policy makers, and practitioners in public, private, and voluntary sector organizations.

Peter Selby, Principal Investigator

Peter Selby, OTRU Principal Investigator, is Clinical Director of the Addictions Program and Head of the Nicotine Dependence Clinic at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, and an Associate Professor in the Departments of Family and Community Medicine, Psychiatry and the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. Dr. Selby has no relationship with the tobacco industry. He is principal investigator for the Smoking Treatment for Ontario Patients (STOP) Study. He has also received funds from Schering Canada to provide buprenorphine training (2000). He has acted as a paid consultant and advisory board member for Pfizer Consumer Health Care Canada, Pfizer Inc., Canada; Sanofi-Synthelabo, Canada; GlaxoSmithKline, Canada; Genpharm and Prempharm, Canada; Johnson & Johnson Ltd; V-CC Systems Inc. and eHealth Behaviour Change Software Co. and the Clinical Tobacco Intervention (CTI) Program. His grant funding has come from Health Canada, Smoke-Free Ontario (Ministry of Health Promotion), Canadian Tobacco Control Research Initiative (CTCRI), Alberta Health Services (formerly Alberta Cancer Board), Vancouver Coastal Authority and Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).