Hi Alberto,

Your discussion of Abi's conflict of interest and the potential for biassed research results effectively illustrates the intricate ethical terrain he must navigate. You have presented a balanced viewpoint by acknowledging the inevitability of bias while also emphasising the need to take steps to reduce it.

Assuming that Abi resides in the European Union, if he chooses to disclose his findings despite the potential breach of contract due to an NDA, European Union (EU) institutions and regulations can provide support and protection for whistleblowers like him. Whistleblower protection laws are intended to encourage the disclosure of information regarding misconduct or unscrupulous practises while preserving the whistleblowers' rights. (Kenny, Vandekerckhove and Fotak, 2019)

Legal protection: In the European Union, the Whistleblower Protection Directive (Directive (EU) 2019/1937) seeks to safeguard individuals who report violations of EU law in various sectors, such as public health, food safety, and consumer protection (European Parliament & Council, 2019). This directive mandates that EU member states create comprehensive legal frameworks to safeguard whistleblowers from retaliation and provide channels for reporting misconduct.

EU Agencies and Support: Various EU agencies, such as the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA), can offer assistance and direction to whistleblowers in their respective fields (European Food Safety Authority, 2019; European Medicines Agency, 2019). Abi can reach out to these agencies for assistance in reporting the potentially hazardous nature of the product and for direction regarding the appropriate next actions.

Thus, there is a possibility where Abi can mitigate the risks associated with breaching his NDA while fulfilling his ethical duty to report the potentially harmful product.

References

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