

COVER LETTER FORMAT

3 November 2017

Dear Editor,

This is to confirm that the article entitled “Combating Corruption in the Pharmaceutical Arena” submitted to the *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics* is original and has been co-authored by the undersigned. All authors have participated in the work sufficiently to meet the ICMJE guidelines for authorship. All have read and approved the manuscript.

The submission is not under consideration for publication in any other journal.

We give consent to Dr. Lexchin to act as the author for correspondence.

Details of sponsorship or relevant competing interests, financial or otherwise:

In 2015-2017 Joel Lexchin received payment from two non-profit organizations for being a consultant on a project looking at indication based prescribing and a second looking at which drugs should be distributed free of charge by general practitioners. In 2015, he received payment from a for-profit organization for being on a panel that discussed expanding drug insurance in Canada. He is on the Foundation Board of Health Action International.

Jillian Clare Kohler is the Director of the WHO Collaborating Center for Governance, Accountability and Transparency for the Pharmaceutical Sector at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy.

Paul Thacker reports receiving travel funding from universities to give talks about conflict of interest. Marc-Andre Gagnon reports grants from Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR), during the conduct of the study; personal fees from Prescrire International, personal fees from the Canadian Association of Pharmacy in Oncology, grants from Canadian Federation of Nurses' Unions, outside the submitted work.

James Crombie and Adrienne Shnier report no conflicts.

We have read the terms and conditions of authorship of IJME and accept them.

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