**Holla john CoI and impact on public health policy**

Review comments

Reviewer 1:

1. The manuscript definitely addresses issues relevant to the fields of bioethics and medical ethics globally. The focus of the paper is global and not the developing countries per se. However, adding a section on how the issues related to COI and its implications on health policy are intensified in developing country or resource poor settings will be extremely valuable.
2. The issues leading to publication bias and hence biased systematic reviews, the power of pharma industry in sponsoring and influencing research, poor trial registration and incomplete information on registries and lack of transparency in disclosing COIs are just as much relevant and prevalent in developing world as in the global context (topic of the manuscript), if not even more.
3. The way I see the impact of this article on influencing policy and practice is through starting a conversation on the topic. In fact, the journal is the right choice to start a debate on this topic. I do believe though that some additional input on developing world/Indian perspective would add to its value and I encourage authors to consider that.
4. The information is not necessarily new. However, it is synthesized, analyzed and presented in a coherent structure and raises important issues that should be discussed.
5. I find the statements and arguments in the manuscript generally well supported by the references. If there are any areas where citation might be needed, I will point those in the detailed comments to the authors. Please refer to my detailed comments on two references you have cited for the following statement on page 3 under the section ‘Bias in publication’. Researchers have also been found to falsify data, often at the behest of the sponsor or funder [36, 37].
6. The conclusions need to be strengthened and contextualized. Please refer to my detailed notes in the manuscript.
7. The belief/argument that only public funding should facilitate research or completely precluding research funded fully or partially by stakeholders with vested interests needs to be supported/teased out better. Please refer to my detailed comments throughout the text and especially in the section conclusion and recommendations  
     
   ---------------------------------------------------------

**Reviewer 2:**

1. The paper certainly addresses issues relevant to the fields of bioethics and medical ethics in the developing countries.
2. It is a perspective paper and is highly relevant, and can influence policy.
3. The interpretation is warranted. I have made suggestions with regard to the policy implications section.
4. There are no loose generalisations, but it could be structured better so that the discussion would evolve smoothly and lead to the recommendations more organically.
5. I agree with the substance. My problem is with the narrative. It appears forced in certain places and disorganised on the whole. It needs some structuring