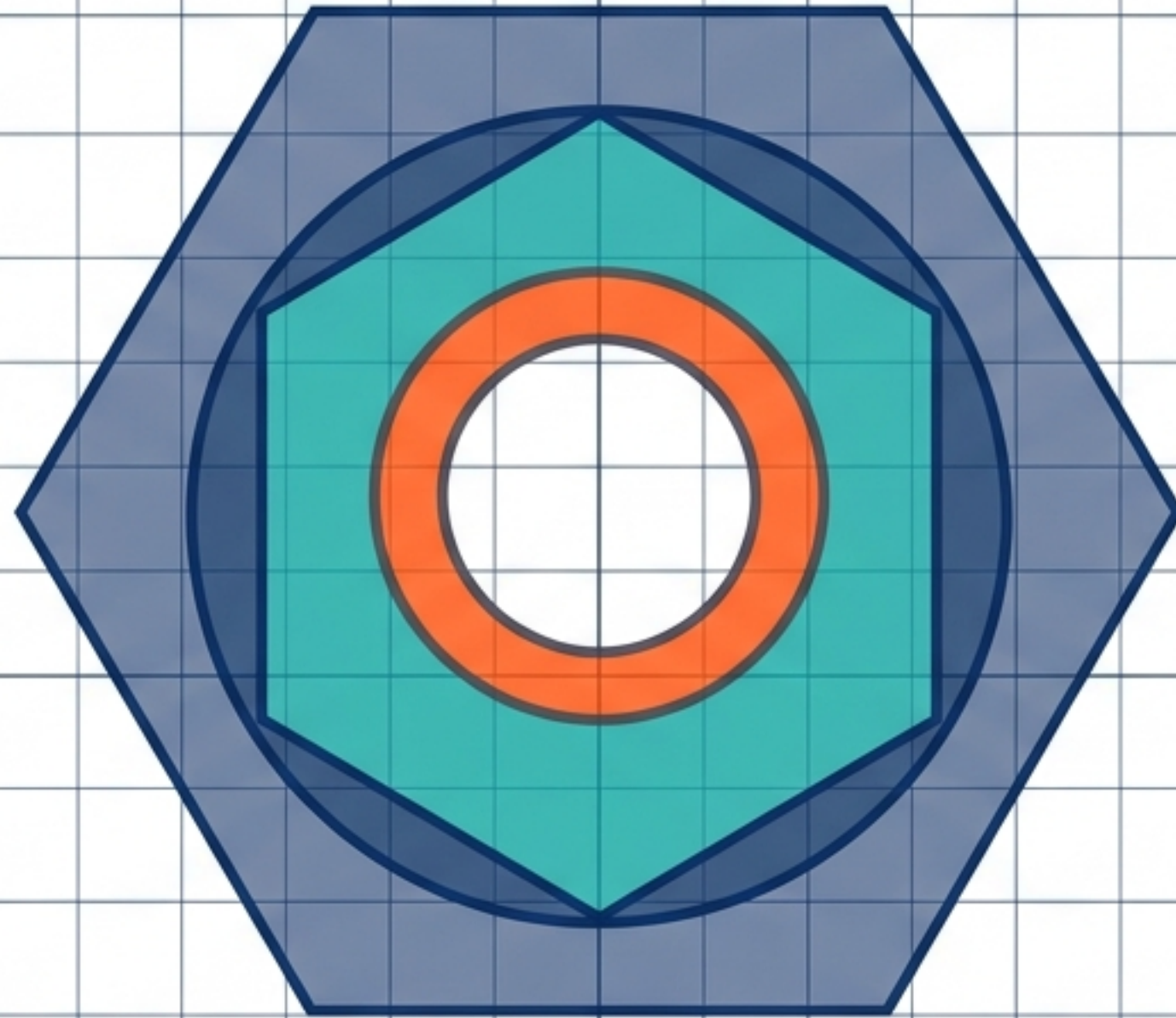




Navigating SOARD Author Disclosures

A visual guide to ACCME compliance, financial transparency, and safeguarding scientific integrity in continuous medical education.

Transparency is the foundation of continuous medical education.

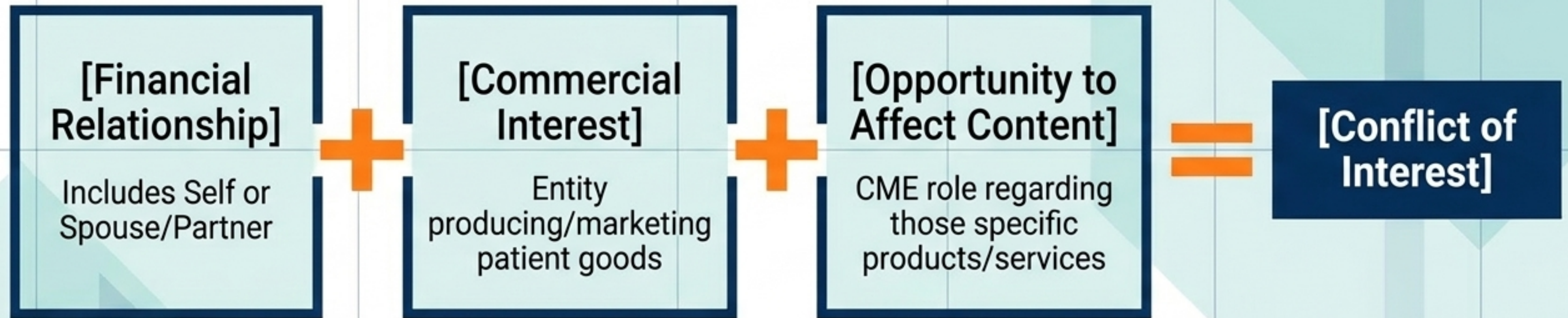
“The American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) must ensure that anyone in a position to control the content of an education activity has disclosed all relevant financial relationships with any commercial interest.”



The goal is not to prohibit relationships, but to identify and manage them to ensure scientific objectivity.

The anatomy of a conflict of interest requires three intersecting variables.

Equation



Circumstances only create a conflict when an individual has the opportunity to affect CME content about the specific products or services of a commercial interest with which they have a financial relationship.

Commercial interests are defined by their relationship to patient goods, not direct clinical care

INCLUDED (Constitutes a Commercial Interest)



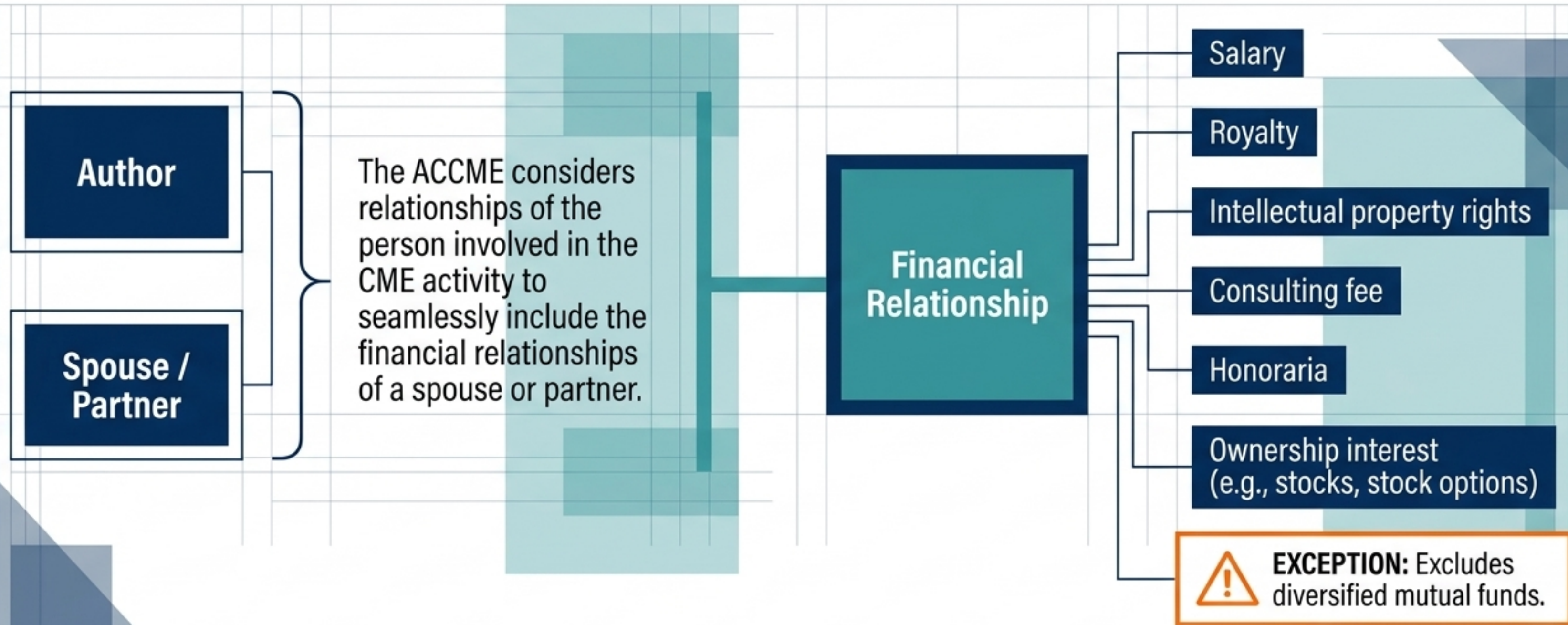
Any proprietary entity producing, marketing, re-selling, or distributing health care goods or services consumed by, or used on, patients.

EXCLUDED (Not a Commercial Interest)



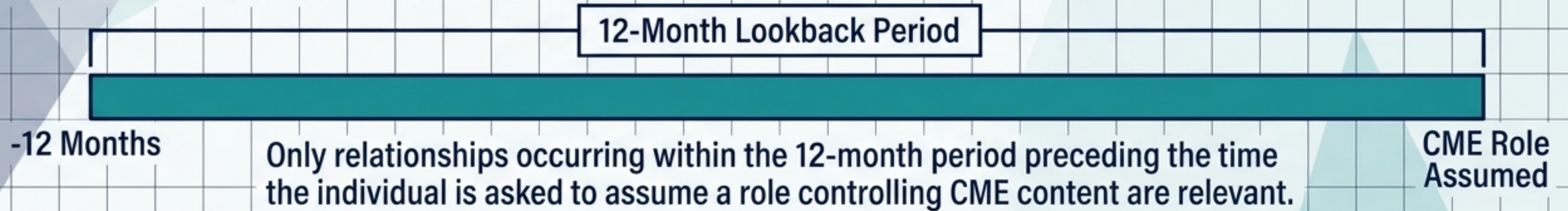
Providers of clinical service directly to patients. The ACCME does not consider direct clinical care providers to be commercial interests.

Financial relationships encompass all expected remuneration for you and your spouse.



Relevance is dictated by a strict 12-month window with no minimum financial threshold.

The Time Window



The Financial Threshold



ACCME has not set a minimal dollar amount for relationships to be significant.

Inherent in any amount—no matter how small—is the incentive to maintain or increase the value of the relationship.

Categorize your disclosures by mapping your role to the compensation received.

On the disclosure form, you must explicitly specify both your role and the exact nature of the remuneration from the commercial interest.

Disclosure Matrix	Compensation (What was received)						
My Role (What you did)	Salary	Royalty	IP rights	Consulting fee	Honoraria	Ownership	Other benefit
Employment							
Management position							
Independent contractor							
Consulting				✓			
Speaking and teaching					✓		
Advisory / Review panel						✓	
Board membership							

Authors must explicitly declare non-approved or off-label uses of medical interventions.

Manuscript Overlay



FDA Mandate: If your article describes the use of a device, product, or drug that is not FDA approved, it is your responsibility to disclose this information within the manuscript itself.

Triggers for Manuscript Disclosure

- ✓ Use of a device, product, or drug that is not FDA approved.
- ✓ Off-label use of an approved device, product, or drug.
- ✓ Unapproved usage of an otherwise approved intervention.

Every author must formalize their status through one of three specific declarations.

☐

None of the authors have anything to disclose.
(Use if you are the corresponding author speaking for the group)

☐

I do not have anything to disclose.
(Use if you are an individual author clearing yourself)

☐

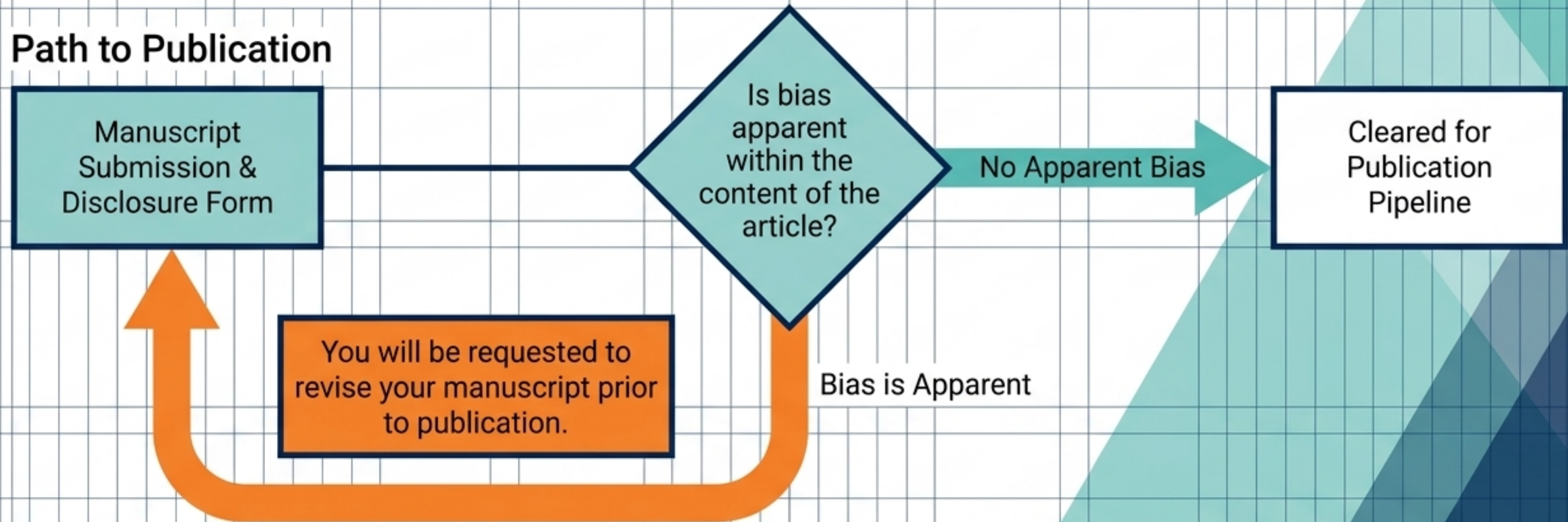
I am disclosing all relevant financial relationships with any commercial interests that pertain to this article.

Entity Name _____

What was received _____

Specific Role _____

Accurate upfront disclosure prevents editorial delays during the bias review process.



Complete transparency accelerates publication; apparent bias guarantees delays.