

CASE STUDY # 9: SRAs and Conflicts – Managing a Workshop

An SRA arranges a workshop on analytic methods to familiarize reviewers in her standing committee and interested staff with the uses and limitations of new techniques. She works in conjunction with the committee chairperson to invite noted authorities as speakers. The review group members come in for the workshop the day prior to the review meeting.. The workshop is a huge success, and, with the encouragement of the attendees, the chairperson and SRA decide to publish the meeting's proceedings.

Is an SRA allowed to hold a workshop?

Such initiative is encouraged, but it requires supervisor approval due to additional costs, as well as ensuring that the SRA has the time for the endeavor.

May an SRA publish with her chairperson?

If the SRA has made a significant intellectual contribution to the publication and received all clearances for the publication, this activity is encouraged.

Does the workshop create a conflict of interest between the SRA and the invited speakers?

The workshop itself does not create a conflict between the SRA and invited speakers. It is possible that events or discussions could occur at the workshop that may place a speaker's application in conflict with the SRA or the committee. In which case, a different review committee would be assigned or assembled for the review.

Does the publication create conflicts between the SRA and the chairperson?

Yes, the publication creates conflicts if the chairperson and SRA are coauthors and/or serve as editors together. In both cases, the SRA is not able to review the chairperson's applications, but may review applications from the chairperson's department or institution.

If a publication of proceedings results from the workshop, are attendees in conflict with each other?

No.