

Alliance Against Conflict of Interest (AACI)

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Dr. Balram Bhargava
Director General
Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
Ansari Nagar
New Delhi - 110029

Sub: ICMR-Pfizer partnership on AMR brimming with Conflicts of Interest.

Dear Dr. Balram Bhargava,

Greetings from Alliance Against Conflicts of Interest (AACI) !

We would like to express our concerns about the partnership that has come up between ICMR and Pfizer on AMR, requesting to take action to manage conflict of interest in it!

We are aware that Antimicrobial Resistance is a serious issue at national and global level. There is no doubt that collaborative efforts of all stakeholders are needed to contain the AMR crisis.

But, Pfizer being one of the leading manufacturer marketing antibiotics and vaccines in India has its primary interest in making more profit for its shareholders. While, ICMR is the premier public institute with primary responsibility to guide and regulate research including research on drugs and vaccines. Therefore, ICMR-Pfizer collaboration is an institutional Conflicts of Interest (COI).

We believe the collaboration will compromise the integrity of the ICMR. It has the risk of perpetuating this effect in the public health research that could have negative consequences for health and wellbeing of people of India.

We condemn this partnership and insist on disbanding it with immediate effect. We also demand that ICMR should develop guidelines for addressing COI for collaborations with other organizations for programme implementation, policy making and guideline development.

Sincerely,



Dr. Arun Gupta
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Cc: - Ms. Preeti Sudan, Secretary, MoHFW