

## **ASBMB Annual Awards: Conflict of Interest and Eligibility Policy**

### **A. Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the integrity, fairness, and transparency of ASBMB's annual awards selection process by codifying standards for eligibility, nomination practices, and management of conflicts of interest by selecting bodies.

### **B. Eligibility of Selection Committee Members**

Current members of award selection committees are not eligible to be nominated for or to receive the award(s) overseen by their committee during their term of service.

### **C. Nominations and Letters of Support**

Current members of award selection committees may not serve as nominators, co-nominators, or letter of support authors for candidates for the award(s) overseen by their committee.

These restrictions are limited to the awards overseen by the committee on which the individual serves; they do not apply to awards managed by other committees.

Should a committee member join a review body after submitting a nomination that is then considered during their tenure, they must recuse themselves from the review and selection process of that award.

### **D. Conflict of Interest Standards and Management**

All committee members should disclose any real, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest at the outset of the review process. The ASBMB recognizes that award-selecting committee members are active participants in the scientific community and are likely to have professional relationships with nominees. Such relationships do not automatically constitute a disqualifying conflict of interest. Having knowledge of, or professional familiarity with, nominees is expected and can be valuable to the committee's deliberations. A conflict of interest arises only when the nature of the relationship could reasonably be perceived to impair impartial judgment. Each committee chair is responsible for managing conflict of interest and determining how best to mitigate the conflict. ASBMB staff will be available to assist in management of conflicts.

#### *Managing Perceived or Actual Conflict Considered Likely to Compromise Objectivity*

A conflict of interest exists when a reasonable person could conclude that a committee member's personal, professional, or financial relationship may unduly influence—or appear to unduly influence—their judgment in evaluating a nominee. Examples of when a conflict might impair or appear to impair objectivity, requiring abstention from review and ranking/rating, discussion, and possibly voting, include, but are not limited to:

- i. nominees at your own institution
- ii. former graduate students, postdocs, and mentees
- iii. collaborators/co-authors in the past ten years

#### *Managing Perceived or Actual Conflict Found Not to Compromise Objectivity*

Approved October 2025 by ASBMB Awards Committee

In cases where a potential conflict is declared but deemed not to compromise objectivity, the committee chair may determine that the member can participate in discussion but should abstain from voting on the relevant award, or may participate in discussion and voting.

**Implementation and Review**

This policy was approved by the ASBMB Awards Committee October 2025 applies to all ASBMB groups selecting annual awardees effective January 2026. It is subject to review and revision by the ASBMB Awards Committee.