

Appendix 6

Guidance for avoiding conflict of interest when reviewing a Helmholtz Young Investigator Group

Impartiality issues may exist in relation to the research project as well as the applicant and the institution the applicant is associated with.

Fulfilling one or more of the criteria listed below should not necessarily lead to exclusion. However, in order to maintain transparency in the course of the selection procedure all connections between the reviewer and the participating scientist, respectively the participating partner institutions should be disclosed.

Should conflicts in any of this information arise that create doubts as how to proceed properly please consult the head office of the Helmholtz-Association before nominating the reviewer.

When nominating reviewers for a Helmholtz Young Investigators Group application please note the criteria listed below. Please note that at least two female reviewers have to be named among the six independent reviewers. Scientists who are the most well-known experts in their field (“big shots”) should perhaps not be listed since it can be rather difficult to get reviews from those prominent experts. Reviewers located at a Helmholtz Centre must not be named.

Circumstances leading to Impartiality issues/conflict of interest may include:

- a. a family relationship, close personal ties or contacts with the candidate
- b. existing or planned close academic cooperation
- c. employment related dependency or supervisory relationships (e.g. teacher/student relationship up to and including Postdoc-phase) within the last six years
- d. preparation of a proposal or carrying out a project with a closely related research topic (scientific competition)
- e. joint publications within the last five years
- f. intensive use of the research centre’s resources and infrastructures the application comes from within the last five years
- g. current employment relationship (or less than the preceding five years) with the Helmholtz Centre the applicant comes from or intends to go to
- h. involvement in ongoing or failed appointment procedure with the enlisted university partners
- i. participation in an advisory board of the respective Helmholtz Centre
- j. personal commercial interests