Author's response to reviews

Title: Joint issues - Conflicts of interest, the ASR hip and suggestions for managing surgical conflicts of interest

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We believe that this manuscript will be of interest to readers of BMC Medical Ethics for four main reasons. 1) The problem it discusses (the introduction of the ASR hip) is extremely significant, having worldwide ramifications for patients, surgeons and health care systems. 2) This is the first in-depth analysis in the bioethical literature of the case and its implications for responding to conflicts of interest. 3) Examination of this case reveals shortcomings in existing mechanisms aimed at dealing with conflicts of interest in surgery and medicine more generally which need to be addressed. 4) We draw attention to and suggest remedies for the challenging area of within role conflicts, in contrast to the majority of work in this area which focuses on financial conflicts of interest.

We have no potential competing interests.

All authors have agreed to the submission to the journal and the manuscript is not currently under submission in any other journal.