Reviewer's report

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

Version: 5 Date: 19 June 2014

Reviewer: Jerome Schofferman

Reviewer's report:

General comments:
The revised paper is significantly improved from the original. The paper presents an interesting insight into existing work. It is an important problem of interest to those in the medical sciences. The arguments are logical and the reasoning is sound. The paper is generally well written, but clarification is needed in a few areas described below.

Line Change to
24 Interest in medicine and surgery
31 These conflicts may have impacted
34 ..by patients in whom the hip was implanted
43 Clarify: the uptake
45 Safety and effectiveness [unless the authors mean efficacy as shown in RCTs]
are often not well managed
62 ...by outlining the conflicts that were involved
64 Change which to that
65 Change sidestep to mitigate
70 ...skew decision making in ways that might impact patient care, possibly but not necessarily, adversely
73 Omit adversely
80 legitimate; however they remain conflicts and have the potential to distract from the primary one...
87 Such purposeful actions are unprofessional, unethical, and potentially fraudulent.
95 ...for instance, medical physicians
101 unclear or unnecessary indications
156 royalties, which can be ethical and professional when properly managed.
159... financial inducements to other orthopedic surgeons to use their products
through the use of sham consulting agreements. In addition some surgeons were recruited to speak to other surgeons at industry-sponsored and industry-funded events.

168 Move to prior paragraph
171 Begin new para. Informed consent …
172 Compromised when surgeons
173 ASR prosthesis. Patients…
186 response would have involved reporting…
187 these surgeons
238… Generated by being a consultant, speaker or designer of a prosthesis…
288 US based ASR designers and in fact all monies paid to all physicians and surgeons by industry.
289 their potential biasing effects.
360 Last word…contra…is this correct?

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
None; I declare that I have no competing interests