



Recent events in the news involving Dr. José Baselga, an oncologist and former chief medical officer for Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, highlight the importance of thoroughly disclosing personal financial interests. According to an [article](#) on the front page of the New York Times, Dr. Baselga failed to disclose relevant industry relationships in manuscripts to several major journals. Dr. Baselga [resigned](#) a few days after the article was published.

It is important to note the information in the article was not obtained through a whistleblower or internal documents, but a comparison of readily available information: industry payment data from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) Open Payments database and author disclosure forms that accompany most published articles. This review is similar to the method used in a recent [research letter published in JAMA Oncology](#) that found that 32% of authors on papers reporting results from clinical trials of drugs later approved by the FDA “did not fully disclose their payments from the trial sponsor.”

In light of this, we are reminding you of the importance of full disclosure, not only to WashU through your annual financial disclosure statement, but in all writing, speaking, and teaching situations as appropriate. In addition, we encourage you to regularly review your information (if applicable) posted on the [Open Payments website](#) to ensure its accuracy as well as consistency with all aspects of your professional responsibilities. CMS updates the Open Payments database annually, and you have 45 days to dispute the information before it is available to the public.

If you have any questions about [research COI policies](#), contact askCOI at 314.747.4181 or coi@wustl.edu.

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