Ling has an interesting idea for a future research project and decides to talk it through with her colleague Patrick. Patrick suggests some ways to improve her hypothesis and provides advice on her funding proposal.

During the project, Patrick continues to provide suggestions and comes to some of Ling’s lab presentations. He even offers the use of several cell lines maintained by his lab to help her strengthen her hypothesis.

The project produces some very promising results and Ling prepares a manuscript for publication in a prestigious journal. She shares the manuscript with Patrick, who argues strongly that he should be included as a co-author.

- Are Ling and Patrick collaborators?
- Does Patrick deserve authorship on the manuscript?
Research Conflicts of Interest

CASE I | Created by: Samantha King, Jeneane Braden

Dr. Abernathie is a faculty member with ownership interest in SmartBrands, a market research company. SmartBrands is sponsoring a large research project at the University and Dr. Abernathie is the project director. Dr. Abernathie supervises the research of a graduate student, Bob, who is working part time on research related to his graduate thesis. SmartBrands hires Bob as a consultant to help with the research. Dr. Abernathie also serves on Bob’s thesis advisory committee.

• Do Dr. Abernathie or Bob have any potential conflicts of interest?

• How should this situation be managed?

CASE II | Created by: Samantha King, Jeneane Braden

Dr. Shelbey is a full-time faculty member. He earns $9,500 in consulting fees yearly from Medi-Pharm, a pharmaceutical company where his wife works as the Director of Research Development. Dr. Shelbey also has an active grant funded by Medi-Pharm to study immune responses in mice. In addition to lab personnel, Dr. Shelbey has two trainees working on the research.

• Does Dr. Shelbey have a potential conflict of interest?

• How should this situation be managed?
Upon completion of his graduate thesis, George’s mentor and collaborator agreed to work with George to submit the manuscript for publication. After graduation, George moves to a new institution to begin his postdoctoral fellowship. While conducting a literature review for a new research proposal, George finds a journal article that closely resembles his graduate thesis. George’s previous mentor and collaborator are both listed as authors and George is given a general acknowledgement at the end. George compares the publication to his thesis and discovers that almost all of the text and the figures, consisting of a graph and a table, are taken directly from his work.

- **What have George’s mentor and collaborator done wrong according to WUSTL policies?**
- **What should George do now?**