

Challenge Organizer Guidance

AAPM Working Group on Grand Challenges (WGGC)

Grand challenges require an organizing committee comprised of domain experts from, potentially, multiple institutions. Members of the organizing committee generally have substantial interest in the challenge task—hence their commitment to serving in this capacity. Moreover, this interest and domain expertise position organizing committee members and their research groups as likely to perform well in the task of a specific challenge. Although the contributions to a challenge by challenge organizers are invaluable and are meant to serve advancement of the field, there exists an inherent (real or perceived) conflict in an individual who both serves as an organizing committee member and enters the challenge as a participant. This conflict must be managed in a manner that preserves the overall integrity of the challenge despite limiting the participation of organizing committee members.

As statements of conflict always refer to real or perceived conflict, even organizers without prior access to data could be conflicted because they would have been involved in conversations regarding, for example, evaluation metrics (they could tell their labs to start refining their methods to maximize that particular performance metric) or numbers of cases (they could tell their labs to prepare hard drives to accommodate N cases), thus providing their research groups with an unfair advantage.

An individual (or students, staff, or lab members who directly report to that individual) may not competitively participate in a WGGC-sponsored challenge if the individual

(1) was involved with any aspects of the organization of the challenge,

-OR-

(2) had access to data used in the challenge prior to all challenge participants,

-OR-

(3) had any other advance knowledge pertaining to the challenge before it was available to all challenge participants.

A prospective member of the organizing committee must be made aware of this policy prior to deciding whether to join the committee.

Regarding WGGC members (voting members and non-voting consultants or guests as indicated on the AAPM committee tree webpage), once the deadline for challenge proposal submissions has closed, the titles of all submitted proposals will be distributed among WGGC members. If a WGGC member wishes to preserve the opportunity to competitively participate in one of the challenges (should it be selected for WGGC sponsorship), the WGGC member will have 2 days to recuse themselves from the challenge review and selection process. All WGGC members will hold in confidence the subject matter of proffered challenges until publicly announced. If the challenge of interest is not selected for sponsorship, the WGGC member may rejoin WGGC activities after the selected challenges are announced. If the challenge of interest is selected for sponsorship, the WGGC member will remain recused through the completion of the challenge.