



RESEARCH TRANSPARENCY STATEMENT

The **International Center for Responsible Gaming (ICRG)** provides funding for scientific research using donations from commercial and tribal gaming companies, equipment manufacturers, vendors, ICRG Governing Board members, and the community at large. ICRG utilizes the following safeguards to ensure ethical and rigorous science:

- **A Scientific Advisory Board (SAB)**
 - The SAB sets research priorities, determines funding mechanisms, and makes final funding decisions **without donor input** (Cottler et al., 2016a).
 - The **SAB independently selects its own members**—neither the ICRG Governing Board nor industry donors have any role in these appointments, and SAB members must declare any conflicts of interest with industry donors on an annual basis.
 - SAB members **volunteer** their time and are not financially compensated.
 - SAB members are **prohibited from applying** for, or participating in, ICRG grants.
- **Firewall Between Donors and Researchers**
 - The ICRG Governing Board and **donors do not participate in shaping research agendas**, reviewing or selecting proposals for funding, or influencing publication decisions from funded research.
 - Grantees maintain **academic freedom** to design, conduct, and publish their work without restriction or interference by ICRG, the Governing Board, donors, or the SAB.
- **Rigorous Peer Review and Open Calls**
 - Calls for proposals are **open to researchers worldwide**, encouraging diverse perspectives, methods, and expertise.
 - All proposals undergo a **rigorous peer review** process by independent experts (see <https://www.icrg.org/information/our-process/>).
 - Funding decisions reflect **scientific merit** (Cottler et al., 2016a).
- **Transparency in Funding Acknowledgments**
 - ICRG grantees are required to **acknowledge ICRG funding** in publications as part of their funding agreement (Cottler et al., 2016b).
- **Commitment to Open Science and Risk-of-Bias Monitoring**
 - ICRG encourages all funded researchers to adopt **Open Science practices**, including project pre-registration, data sharing (where ethical and feasible), and transparent reporting.
 - We endorse the development of instruments to **detect and mitigate funding-related bias**.

By adhering to these guidelines, the ICRG strives to maintain a **robust firewall** between industry funding and the scientific process, upholding the **highest standards** of research integrity and accountability (Cottler et al., 2016a; 2016b).

References

- Cottler LB, Chung T, Hodgins DC, Jorgensen M, Miele G. (2016a). [The NCRG Firewall Works](#). *Addiction*.
- Cottler LB, Chung T, Hodgins DC, Jorgensen M, Miele G. (2016b). [Correcting the record on NCRG-funded research](#). *Addiction*.