



Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Who is an Investigator?

An “Investigator” (whether a Principal Investigator, co-investigator, or sub-investigator) is defined as an individual who is independently responsible for the design, conduct, outcome, or reporting of research, regardless of title, position, or salary support.

The Principal Investigator is responsible for determining which members of the research team meet the definition of an “investigator.” All investigators are required to submit COI disclosures. Study staff who do not meet the definition of an investigator do not need to submit COI disclosures.

The following table has been devised as a guide to identify who may qualify as an Investigator and the likelihood of whether they will need to complete a COI disclosure. Investigators who are uncertain as to which research team members should complete COI disclosures are encouraged to contact the Einstein Conflict of Interest Office at coi@einsteinmed.edu.

Title and/or Role	Definitely	Likely	Unlikely
Principal Investigator (PI)	☑		
Co-Investigator or Sub-Investigator	☑		
Graduate or Postdoctoral Fellows		☑	
Medical Students*			☑
Research Support Staff			☑

*Whether or not a medical student meets the definition of an “investigator” depends on their role on the project. If they are relatively independent in designing or conducting the research and have decision-making authority, they may meet the definition of an investigator. If they are participating in the research under close supervision, they may not meet the definition of an investigator.