



Office of the Chancellor

March 20, 2026

Legal Division
State Ethics Commission
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108

RE: Disclosure under M.G.L. Chapter 268A, Section 6

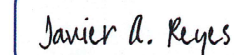
Dear Sir/Madam:

Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 268A, Section 6, I enclose the following documents for filing with the Ethics Commission as required under the statute:

1. Disclosure of Financial Interest form, dated January 24, 2026, and Memorandum, dated January 26, 2026, from Associate Professor Jacquie Kurland to request permission to reappoint her spouse, Pauline Stokes, as a part-time Speech Language Pathologist/Lab Manager from March 22, 2026 through March 21, 2027.
2. My letter of determination, dated March 20, 2026, which permits Associate Professor Jacquie Kurland to reappoint her spouse, Pauline Stokes, as a part-time Speech Language Pathologist/Lab Manager from March 22, 2026 through March 21, 2027.

Very truly yours,

Signed by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Javier A. Reyes".

E2C82B100CBB443...
Javier A. Reyes
Chancellor

Enclosures

**DISCLOSURE BY NON-ELECTED STATE EMPLOYEE OF FINANCIAL INTEREST
AND DETERMINATION BY APPOINTING AUTHORITY
AS REQUIRED BY G. L. c. 268A, § 6**

	STATE EMPLOYEE INFORMATION
Name:	Jacque Kurland
Title or Position:	Associate Professor
State Agency:	University of Massachusetts Amherst
Agency Address:	Dept. of Speech, Language, & Hearing Sciences 358 North Pleasant Street Amherst, MA 01003
Office Phone:	(413) 658-5905
Office E-mail:	jacque@umass.edu
	My duties require me to participate in a particular matter, and I may not participate because of a financial interest that I am disclosing here. I request a determination from my appointing authority about how I should proceed.
	PARTICULAR MATTER
Particular matter E.g., a judicial or other proceeding, application, submission, request for a ruling or other determination, contract, claim, controversy, charge, accusation, arrest, decision, determination, or finding.	Please describe the particular matter. This disclosure is in the matter of re-appointing my spouse to fulfill the role of part-time Speech Language Pathologist/Lab Manager in my research laboratory. Please see copy of attached letter to UMass Amherst Chancellor Reyes.
Your required participation in the particular matter: E.g., approval, disapproval, decision, recommendation, rendering advice, investigation, other.	Please describe the task you are required to perform with respect to the particular matter. I am the principal investigator on the research studies performed in the lab.
	FINANCIAL INTEREST IN THE PARTICULAR MATTER
Write an X by all that apply.	☐ I have a financial interest in the matter. ☒ My immediate family member has a financial interest in the matter. ☐ My business partner has a financial interest in the matter. ☐ I am an officer, director, trustee, partner or employee of a business organization, and the business organization has a financial interest in the matter. ☐ I am negotiating or have made an arrangement concerning future employment with a person or organization, and the person or organization has a financial interest in the matter.

Financial interest in the matter	Please explain the financial interest and include a dollar amount if you know it. 1) Fifty-two weeks (32 hours/week March 22, 2026 through March 21, 2027) benefitted salary on PCORI award – Salary: \$61,039; Fringe: \$28,639
Employee signature:	DocuSigned by: <i>Jacquie Kurland</i> 9D16593AC8DD49A...
Date:	1/24/26

DETERMINATION BY APPOINTING OFFICIAL

	APPOINTING AUTHORITY INFORMATION
Name of Appointing Authority:	Javier A. Reyes
Title or Position:	Chancellor
Agency/Department:	Chancellor's Office
Agency Address:	University of Massachusetts – Amherst 374 Whitmore Administration Building Amherst, MA 01003
Office Phone:	(413) 545-2211
Office E-mail	chancellor@umass.edu
	DETERMINATION
Determination by appointing authority: Write an X by your selection.	As appointing official, as required by G.L. c. 268A, § 6, I have reviewed the particular matter and the financial interest identified above by a state employee. ☒ I am assigning the particular matter to another employee, or ☐ I am assuming responsibility for the particular matter, or ☐ I have determined that the financial interest is not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of the services which the Commonwealth may expect from the employee.
Appointing Authority signature:	Signed by: <i>Javier A. Reyes</i> E2C02B100C8B443...
Date:	03/20/2026
Comment:	

Attach additional pages if necessary.

File copy with:

State Ethics Commission, One Ashburton Place, Room 619, Boston, MA 02108

University of
Massachusetts
Amherst

School of Public Health
& Health Sciences
Department of Speech, Language, & Hearing Sciences
Jacquie Kurland
Associate Professor

January 26, 2026

Re: Disclosure and Compliance with Conflict-of-Interest Law on Spousal Hire
for Part-time Speech Language Pathologist / Lab Manager (Kurland, PI)

Dear Chancellor Reyes,

I am writing to request your approval in compliance with the Conflict-of-Interest Law on Spousal Hire, so that I may continue to fill a key personnel position in my lab. The extension I am requesting covers a 0.8 FTE benefited position on my PCORI grant (32 hours/week from March 22, 2026 – March 21, 2027). I am seeking to re-appoint my spouse, Polly Stokes (M.S., CCC-SLP) to the position of Speech Language Pathologist (SLP)/Lab Manager in my research lab, the Brain Research on Chronic Aphasia (BRoCA) lab.

In the interest of avoiding any appearance of conflict of interest, Dr. Gwyneth Rost (Senior Lecturer II and Interim Chair, SLHS), has agreed to be the supervisor of record (see attached memo).

Over the last 14 years, in accordance with the UMass Nepotism Policy, I have obtained the support of my Chair and the Dean of SPHHS, as well as your and the prior Chancellor's determination that I could proceed with the hire and re-appointment of Polly Stokes, and UMass has filed the appropriate Disclosure Form with the State Ethics Commission. Since the last letter of determination allowed for another 12 months re-appointment through March 21, 2026, I am now again seeking approvals from my Chair, my Dean, and from you.

For your information, over the last period since reappointing Polly, we have made considerable progress preparing for and implementing a new 3-year Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) award, which began on August 1, 2025. We are getting ready to submit the first 6-months Progress Report to PCORI and we are ahead of schedule on all contract milestones. Over the past year, we also had several manuscripts submitted, accepted, and published and made one presentation to a national conference. As my lab manager of 14 years, and now the Project Manager on the PCORI award, Polly was instrumental in assisting me with all of the above.

As on past grants, Polly has been the primary person responsible for recruitment, scheduling, and testing of most participants in all federally funded and most internally funded grants since 2012. She remains heavily involved in data management, data analysis, and assisting me with preparation of tables and graphs for dissemination of the study results and for ongoing grant proposals. She remains involved in managing our part-time and temporary personnel,

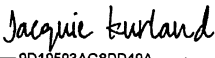
including research assistants and student volunteers. She helps me with preparation and editing of manuscripts, and maintenance of our IRB e-protocols.

Given the ambitious schedule of the three-year PCORI grant, it is critical to keep the same team in place so that we may continue the successful implementation of our ongoing clinical research. Moreover, she is listed as Key Personnel on the PCORI award. And frankly, it is no exaggeration to say that this clinical research would not be possible without her contributions to the lab and to the current externally funded project.

I therefore respectfully request your determination regarding this disclosure for the next 12-month period, (i.e., March 22, 2026 – March 21, 2027). I have obtained the support of my Interim Chair (Dr. Gwyneth Rost) and the Dean of SPHHS (Dr. Anna Maria Siega-Riz) as demonstrated by their signatures below.

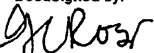
Thank you in advance for your consideration and approval of my request at your earliest convenience. If you have any concerns or questions in this matter, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

9D19593AC8DD49A...
Jacquie Kurland

--
Jacquie Kurland, PhD, CCC-SLP
Associate Professor
Department of Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences
Neuroscience and Behavior Program
Phone: (413) 658-5905
Email: jacquie@umass.edu
Website: <http://blogs.umass.edu/jacquie/>

I have read through the above disclosure regarding an exception hire for Dr. Kurland's spouse during a 52-week period, and I support her decision.

DocuSigned by:

9AB8064353834E7

Dr. Gwyneth Rost, Chair, Dept. of SLHS

1/26/2026

Date

DocuSigned by:

240ED0DDE89B418

Dr. Anna Maria Siega-Riz, Dean, SPHHS

1/26/2026

Date



Office of the Chancellor

March 20, 2026

Jacquie Kurland, PhD
Associate Professor
Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
School of Public Health & Health Sciences
University of Massachusetts Amherst
358 North Pleasant Street
Amherst, MA 01003-9296

Dear Dr. Kurland:

I acknowledge receipt of your Disclosure of Financial Interest form, dated January 24, 2026, and Memorandum, dated January 26, 2026. You request permission to reappoint your spouse, Pauline Stokes, as a part-time Speech Language Pathologist/Lab Manager in your research lab, the Brain Research on Chronic Aphasia (BRoCA) lab. Specifically, you seek approval to appoint Pauline Stokes for a 52-week part-time (32 hours/week, 0.8 FTE) benefited position for the period of March 22, 2026 through March 21, 2027, for a salary of \$61,039.00 and fringe benefits of \$28,639.00, payable through the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) award.

As further detailed in your Memorandum and Disclosure, you indicate that Ms. Stokes remains heavily involved in data management, data analysis, and assisting you with preparation of tables and graphs for dissemination of the study results, and for ongoing grant proposals. You further indicate that Ms. Stokes remains involved in managing your lab's part-time and temporary personnel, including research assistants and student volunteers, and that she assists you with the preparation and editing of manuscripts, and maintenance of your IRB e-protocols. You state that given the ambitious schedule of the three-year PCORI grant, you are anxious to keep the same team in place so that you may continue the successful implementation of your ongoing clinical research, and that Ms. Stokes is listed as Key Personnel in your PCORI grant proposal.

Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 268A, Section 6, in part, prohibits a state employee from employing immediate family members and from compensating them for services rendered except when I "assign the particular matter to another employee [...], in which case it shall not be a violation for [...] you] to participate in the particular matter."

In the interest of avoiding an actual or apparent conflict of interest, I understand that Dr. Gwyneth Rost, Interim Chair of the Department of Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences, has agreed to be Ms. Stokes' supervisor of record. Based upon the information in the disclosures you have submitted, I delegate

supervision of Pauline Stokes for purposes of pay determination and performance evaluation to Dr. Gwyneth Rost, Interim Chair. This determination to reappoint your spouse will allow you to utilize her services for one (1) year from March 22, 2026 through March 21, 2027.

The statute requires you to advise the Ethics Commission of the nature and circumstances of the particular matter and make full disclosure of that financial interest. As directed by statute, I am sending a copy of this written determination letter along with your Memorandum and Disclosure form to the State Ethics Commission for filing.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

Javier A. Reyes

E2062B100CBB443...

Javier A. Reyes
Chancellor

Enclosures

cc: Fouad Abd-El-Khalick, Provost
Dr. Gwyneth Rost, Interim Chair, Department of Speech, Language & Hearing Services
Sophia A. Apostola, Associate Counsel

University of Massachusetts Amherst

School of Public Health & Health Sciences

Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences

Gwyneth C. Rost, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Interim Department Chair

Memorandum

To: Chancellor Reyes

From: Gwyneth Rost, Interim Chair, Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences

Date: 16 January 2026

RE: Agreement to serve as supervisor of record for Pauline Stokes

This memo confirms that I have agreed to be the supervisor of record for Pauline Stokes, M.S., CCC-SLP, who is employed in the aphasia research lab of her spouse, Dr. Jacquie Kurland. Ms. Stokes is a Speech Language Pathologist and Lab Manager for Dr. Kurland. In the interest of avoiding any appearance of a conflict of interest, I will be the supervisor of record.