Disclosure and management of conflicts of interest in the BIH QUEST Center for Responsible Research

Definition
"A conflict of interest consists of various circumstances that collectively pose a significant risk that secondary interests will inappropriately influence professional judgement relative to primary interests” [1]. Within secondary interests, it should be differentiated between financial and non-financial interests. The resulting potential conflicts of interest are named by analogy: financial (direct and indirect) and non-financial (intellectual) conflicts of interest [2].

Rationale
The primary interest of the BIH QUEST Center for Responsible Research and its members is to develop and implement new approaches to ensure that biomedical research is conducted in a trustworthy manner, produces useful results and meets ethical standards. This is done through the further development of concepts, methods and techniques, the holding of events and training, consultations and the publication of results from research on research (meta-research). The identification and management of conflicts of interest in the context of the BIH QUEST Center should minimise the risk of secondary interests unduly influencing professional judgement in relation to primary interests.

Period
Conflict of interest disclosures relate to the current year and the preceding three calendar years.

Disclosure and management of conflicts of interest
The leaders of the working groups of the QUEST Center disclose all direct and indirect conflicts of interest in a standardised form (see below). The completed forms from all members are published on the QUEST homepage and updated in case of relevant changes, or at least every year. In accordance with the general guidelines of the Berlin Institute of Health (BIH) at the Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin, all financially remunerated secondary activities of employees of the QUEST Center must be approved by the direct supervisor, the commercial management and the internal legal department.

References

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**Disclosure of interests**

**QUEST member: Ulf Tölch**

**Personal fees - within the current year (2022) and the last three calendar years (2019-2021)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Did you receive fees for ... (if necessary, please add further rows)</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Name of co-operation partner(s)</th>
<th>Time frame of co-operation</th>
<th>Content of co-operation / Relation to the goals of the QUEST Center</th>
<th>Type / Amount of allowance</th>
<th>Beneficiary³</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Working as a consultant, expert or member of an advisory board or steering committee?**

| | X | Swiss National Science Foundation (2021-2022) | Reviewer SNF79 | b | personal |
| | X | BMBF Alternativen zum Tierversuch (2021- ) | Reviewer | | |
| | X | NEURON (2021- ) | Ethics Review | | |

**Paid lecturing and/or training activities?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>X</th>
<th>EBRA (2019-2022)</th>
<th>Training Workshops</th>
<th>c</th>
<th>Institutional</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Research projects/conducting clinical trials²?**

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² Categories: a) 250-1000€; b)1000 – 5000 €; c) 5000 – 50.000 €; d) > 50.000 €
³ Personal or Institutional (declaration as „Institutional“ implies the classification as “indirect financial conflict of interest”)
⁴ Self-acquired third-party funds or third-party funds, for which the declarant is directly involved in their expenditure; not all third-party funds of the institution
## Disclosure of interests

### Ulf Tölch

- **X** BMBF (2019-)  
  - DECIDE  
  - d  
  - Institutional
- **X** Einstein Foundation (2020-)  
  - EC3R  
  - d  
  - Institutional
- **X** Stiftung Innovation Hochschullehre  
  - Fundamentals of Responsible research  
  - d  
  - Institutional

### Participation in further education courses/ congresses without scientific contribution?

- **X**

### Do you have...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Type of ownership interests</th>
<th>Relation to the goals of the QUEST Center</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Beneficiary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ownership interests(^6) (patents, copyright, shares/funds ownership)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>Do you have a partner or close relatives with the above-mentioned ownership interests?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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\(^5\) Personal or Institutional (declaration as „Institutional“ implies the classification as “indirect financial conflict of interest”)

\(^6\) Especially in relation to pharmaceuticals or medical devices
### Intangible interests – within the current year (2022) and the last three calendar years (2019-2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Are you active in ...</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Name of institution(s)</th>
<th>Own position /affiliation in the institution</th>
<th>Relation to the goals of the QUEST Center</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professional associations? (Berufsverbänden)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional societies? (Fachgesellschaften)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research/health-related interest groups or self-help groups?</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>German Reproducibility Network</td>
<td>Chair of steering committee</td>
<td>GRN promotes reproducibility and builds/maintains a network across Germany towards increased research transparency and quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>What exactly?</td>
<td>With which effects /implications?</td>
<td>Relation to the goals of the QUEST Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there any other aspects related to your background or current situation that might imply a conflict of interest with the activities of the QUEST Center?</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Berlin, 08.06.2022

_______________________    _______________________
Place and date       Signature