

Disclosure and management of conflicts of interest in the BIH QUEST Center for Responsible Research¹

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

1. Emanuel EJ, Thompson DF: **The Concept of Conflicts of Interest**. In: *The Oxford Textbook of Clinical Research Ethics*. edn. Edited by Emanuel EJ, Grady C, Crouch RA, Lie RK, Miller FG, Wendler D. Oxford: Oxford University Press; 2008: 758-766.
2. Schunemann HJ, Al-Ansary LA, Forland F, Kersten S, Komulainen J, Kopp IB, Macbeth F, Phillips SM, Robbins C, van der Wees P *et al*: **Guidelines International Network: Principles for Disclosure of Interests and Management of Conflicts in Guidelines**. *Ann Intern Med* 2015, **163**(7):548-553.

¹ Based on „Management von Interessenkonflikten im EbM-Netzwerk“ by the Working Group *Disclosure of interests* of the EbM Network (15.7.2020), <https://www.ebm-netzwerk.de/de/ueber-uns/interessenkonflikte>.

QUEST member: Tracey Weissgerber

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

Did you receive fees for ... (if necessary, please add further rows)	No	Yes	Name of co-operation partner(s) Time frame of co-operation	Content of co-operation / Relation to the goals of the QUEST Center	Type / Amount of allowance ²	Beneficiary ³
Working as a consultant, expert or member of an advisory board or steering committee?						
		x	eLife, 2021-2022	Member of Ethics Committee	a	personal
Paid lecturing and/or training activities?						
	x					
Research projects/conducting clinical trials⁴?						
		x	Wellcome Trust – 2019-2023	Project SPOKES	d	institutional
Participation in further education courses/ congresses without scientific contribution?	x					

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


Do you have...	No	Yes	Type of ownership interests	Relation to the goals of the QUEST Center	Amount	Beneficiary ⁵
Ownership interests ⁶ (patents, copyright, shares/funds ownership)	x					
Do you have a partner or close relatives with the above-mentioned ownership interests?	x					

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)

Are you active in ... (if necessary, please add further rows)	No	Yes	Name of institution(s) Time period of co-operation	Own position /affiliation in the institution	Relation to the goals of the QUEST Center
Professional associations? (Berufsverbänden)	x				
Professional societies? (Fachgesellschaften)		x	American Physiological Society	Member, Publications Committee Member	The Publications Committee oversees the society's journals. Topics include journal policies and activities to promote rigor and reproducibility in journal publications.
Research/health-related interest groups or self-help groups?	x				
Sonstiges	No	Yes	What exactly?	With which effects /implications?	Relation to the goals of the QUEST Center
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?	x				



Berlin, 06.07.2022

Place and date

Signature