



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE
Directorate F – Health and Food
Disease Prevention

Annual Declaration of Interests¹ (DoI) form (v5, 26 January 2026)

European Commission Initiative on Colorectal Cancer (ECICC)

Please answer each of the questions below.

If the answer to any of the questions is "Yes"², please complete the corresponding fields, describing the circumstances, as appropriate.

If you do not submit a filled-in and signed DoI form, please consider that you cannot be involved in the current ECICC activities.

If you do not disclose relevant activities of interest for the ECICC, your role may be revised.

¹ According to EC's Decision C(2016) 3301 establishing horizontal rules on the creation and operation of Commission expert groups, Articles 2(4) and 10, each member of an expert group has to complete a DoI form

[https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=C\(2016\)3301&lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=C(2016)3301&lang=en)

² Answering "Yes" to the questions on this form does not automatically limit your participation in the ECICC activities. Your answers will be reviewed to determine whether you have a conflict of interest (CoI) (i.e. any interest that may affect, or may reasonably be perceived to affect, an expert's objectivity and independence).

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Name and Surname: | Marc Thelen |
|--------------------------|--------------------|

| Activities (2021-2025) | Yes/No | Period (From - To) | Information | Details |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1. Do you have current investments³ in a legal entity⁴ with an interest related to colorectal cancer which either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has a value of more than 10.000 EUR, or • entitles you to a voting right of 5% or more? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | MM/YYYY – MM/YYYY | If yes, please provide information about where the investment is placed (Name, Country, Public/Private). | [Please describe the entity and your role.] |

³ **Investments** refer to stocks, bonds, stock options, other securities as well as to commercial business interests (e.g., proprietorships, partnerships, joint ventures, board memberships, controlling interest in a company).

⁴ **Legal entity** refers to any commercial business, industry association, consultancy, research institution or other enterprise whose funding is significantly derived from commercial sources. It also includes independent own commercial businesses, law offices, consultancies or similar.

| Activities (2021-2025) | Yes/No | Period (From - To) | Information | Details |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>2. Within the past 5 years, were you employed (remunerated post), have you had any other professional relationship with a legal entity, or held any non-remunerated post in a legal entity or any other body, with an interest related to colorectal cancer?</p> <p>A. Employment</p> | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | 01/2022 – current | If yes, please specify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name, Place of the entity; • Type of the entity: public, private, etc.; • The received amounts for remunerated activities. | I am employed as director of SKML, the foundation for quality assessment in medical laboratory diagnostics, Nijmegen, he Netherlands. SKML is a not for profit foundation. My annual salary is Euro 225.000 before (a lot of) taxes.your role. |

| Activities (2021-2025) | Yes/No | Period (From - To) | Information | Details |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| B. Consultancy, including advisory activities | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | 02/2023-current | <p>If yes, please specify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name, Place of the entity; • Type of the entity: public, private, etc.; <p>The received amounts for remunerated activities.</p> | <p>I am the scientific director of SKML. See A above. SKML is contracted by the Dutch colon cancer screening program to monitor the analytical variation of FIT testing in the contracted laboratories and to monitor between lot reagent variability. SKML is a non-profit foundation. The Dutch colon screening program pays the SKML an annual fee of around €100.000 for all staff performing in this service.</p> |
| C. Non-remunerated post | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | 05/2023 – MM/YYYY | <p>If yes, please specify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name, Place of the entity; • Type of the entity: public, private, etc.; | <p>I am member of the International federation of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine (IFCC)-WG FIT, see. https://ifcc.org/ifcc-scientific-division/sd-working-groups/wg-fit/.</p> |

| Activities (2021-2025) | Yes/No | Period (From - To) | Information | Details |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| D. Legal representation⁵ | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | MM/YYYY – MM/YYYY | If yes, please specify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name, Place of the entity; • Type of the entity: public, private, etc.; | Please describe your role. |

⁵ **Legal representation** refers to the representation of natural or legal persons through other persons in accordance with national law. For example, the president of a company is the legal representative of that company.

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>3. Regarding research related to colorectal cancer within the past 5 years:</p> <p>A. Have you been an investigator in research studies on colorectal cancer?</p> | <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>01/2013– current</p> | <p>If yes, please specify if you have been a principal investigator. Please mention the title of each study.</p> | <p>In the light of the role of SKML in monitoring the measurement uncertainty of FIT testing in the Dutch colon cancer screening program I am involved in scientific research on the data generated. So far, the following studies have been published: Toes-Zoutendijk E, Bonfrer JMG, Ramakers C, Thelen M, Spaander MCW, Dekker E, van der Meulen MP, Buskermolen M, van Vuuren AJ, Kuipers EJ, van Kemenade FJ, van Velthuysen MF, Thomeer MGJ, van Veldhuizen H, van Ballegooijen M, de Koning HJ, van Leerdam ME, Lansdorp-Vogelaar I. Quality Monitoring of a FIT-Based Colorectal Cancer Screening Program Clin Chem. 2019 65:419-426.</p> <p>de Jonge L, Toes-Zoutendijk E, Koopmann BDM, van Schrojenstein Lantman M, Franken-van Vorsselen B, Speijers C, van Ingen H, Humer E, van der Groep P, Thelen M, Lansdorp-Vogelaar I; Dutch National Colorectal Cancer Screening Working Group. Modelling the</p> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| Activities (2021-2025) | Yes/No | Period (From - To) | Information | Details |
|------------------------|--------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | | <p>impact of bias in fecal immunochemical testing on long-term outcomes of colorectal cancer screening. Clin Chim Acta. 2024 Jul 15;561:119809. doi: 10.1016/j.cca.2024.119809. Epub 2024 Jun 13. PMID: 38879061.</p> <p>Moen S, Wisse PHA, Marijnissen F, Raab H, Lansdorp-Vogelaar I, Jansen JM, Tielemans MM, Leeuwenburgh I, Wolters LMM, Hol L, Ter Borg PCJ, Bekkering FC, Mulder S, Schot I, Frasa M, Thelen M, van Vuuren AJ, Spaander MCW. Two-sample fecal immunochemical testing as a tool to avert colonoscopy in symptomatic patients: a prospective multicenter cohort study. Endoscopy. 2026 Feb;58(2):174-183. doi: 10.1055/a-2650-0664. Epub 2025 Jul 6. PMID: 40618757; PMCID: PMC12829320.</p> |

| Activities (2021-2025) | Yes/No | Period (From - To) | Information | Details |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| B. If yes, for the aforementioned research studies, did you receive support⁶? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | MM/YYYY – MM/YYYY | If yes, please specify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the type of received support (grants, funds); • the entity which offered the support - Name, Place, type (public, private); • the received amounts (for public grants please also specify the annual budget of your home institution). | Please mention the title of the studies you refer to. |
| 4. Do you have membership in national or international organisations⁷, including committees, working groups, collaborative platforms, managing bodies or scientific advisory bodies or any decision making bodies with an interest in colorectal cancer? | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | 01/2022 – current | If yes, please specify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name, Place; • Type: public, private, etc. (list all if more than one). | I work as reference office FIT for the Dutch colon cancer screening program. I am member of the EQA working group of the IFCC working group FIT, My role is to give scientific input to standardisation and monitoring the success of such standardisation with EQA |

⁶ **Support** refers to research support (i.e. grants, collaborations, sponsorships) as well as to non-monetary support (equipment, facilities) and other type of support (i.e. honoraria for being a speaker, holding a training).

⁷ **Organisation** refers to a governmental, international or non-profit organisation.

| Activities (2021-2025) | Yes/No | Period (From - To) | Information | Details |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 5. Do you have intellectual property rights (IPR)⁸ related to colorectal cancer? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | MM/YYYY – MM/YYYY | Please specify the title of the IPR. | Please describe the IPR. |
| 6. Within the past 5 years: | | | | |
| A. Have you provided any expert opinion or testimony in the field of colorectal cancer, for a legal entity or other body as part of a regulatory, legislative or judicial process? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | MM/YYYY – MM/YYYY | Please mention the activity. | Please describe the activity. |
| B. Have you held an office or other position, paid or unpaid, where you represented interests or defended an opinion in the field colorectal cancer? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | MM/YYYY – MM/YYYY | Please mention the activity. | Please describe the activity. |

⁸ **Intellectual property rights** refer to patents, trademarks, or copyrights (including pending applications) as well as proprietary know-how in a substance, technology or process.

| Activities (2021-2025) | Yes/No | Period (From - To) | Information | Details |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 7. Do any of your immediate family members⁹ have direct interests related to colorectal cancer that could undermine your independence? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | MM/YYYY – MM/YYYY | Please mention the interest. | Please describe the interest. |
| 8. Within the past 5 years, did you take part in other activities with interests related to colorectal cancer? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | MM/YYYY – MM/YYYY | Please specify the title of the activity. | Please describe the activity. |

⁹ **Immediate family members** refer to family members and relatives (spouse, parents, children, brothers and sisters, irrespective of whether they live at the same address or not) or other persons under the care of the members of the household of the expert.

Notes:

If you declared any direct interests of your immediate family members, it is your responsibility to inform them about how data on their interests are collected and published¹⁰ before you send the DoI form to the Joint Research Centre (JRC), EC.

After submission of this form, you need to inform the JRC in case of any new activity during the course of the year by sending a message as soon as possible to: JRC-CANCER-POLICY-SUPPORT@ec.europa.eu.

- I hereby declare that the information disclosed in this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.**
- I agree my DoI form to be publicly available on the JRC Healthcare Quality website, during the ECICC membership¹¹.**
- I am informed that my personal data are stored, processed and published by the EC in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725¹².**

Name and Surname:

Marc Thelen

Date:

28 Jan 2026

Signature:

Place: Heeze, the Netherlands

¹⁰ Personal data processing including the Declaration of Interests

<https://ec.europa.eu/dpo-register/detail/DPR-EC-00656>

¹¹ Note: Technical measures are in place to ensure that search engines do not index the content from the DoI form.

¹² Protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32018R1725>