

Institute of the History of Medicine and Medical Ethics

Professorship for Medical Ethics

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Research Focus

- Clinical Ethics and Ethics Consultation
- Medicine and Human Rights
- Human Rights in Healthcare (EFI Project)
- Global Health Ethics and Philosophy of Medicine

Structure of the Department

The Professorship for Medical Ethics together with the Chair of the History of Medicine constitutes the Institute of the History of Medicine and Medical Ethics. It includes the Forum Medicine and Human Rights ("Forum Medizin und Menschenrechte"), founded in 2006, and the Coordinating Office of the Clinical Ethics Committee. Furthermore, the Institute harbors the Erlangen Medical Collection. In total, 18 employees work at the Institute, of which 16 are academic personnel with ten in part-time positions. Chair and Professorship cooperate in joint research projects on history and contemporary history of medical ethics (e.g. medicine in NS-Germany, history of the Faculty of Medicine Erlangen, medical ethics in Germany after 1945). Ten academic book series are being edited at the Professorship for Medical Ethics and 20 doctoral theses are being supervised.

The main areas of research are clinical ethics and ethics consultation, medicine and human rights, and global health ethics and philosophy of medicine.

The field of clinical ethics deals with foundational ethical questions concerning the adequate care for patients, motivation of the acts of physicians during the daily routine, and conflict situations in hospital and other medical facilities. Central questions deal with issues at the beginning of life (prenatal diagnosis, pregnancy challenges, neonatology etc.) during a crisis (oncology, genetic advice, psychiatry, transplantation), and at

the end of life (advance directives, euthanasia, terminal care). Some important means of clinical ethics are the analysis of arguments of applied medical ethics and bioethics, advice via ethics committees, and empirical research.

The field "Medicine and Human Rights" deals with several aspects of the relationships between human rights, medicine, and the biological sciences ("dual obligations" of physicians, health care for migrants and "Sans Papiers", female genital mutilation, torture and medicine etc.). This topic is unique at a Faculty of Medicine in Germany. It is grounded institutionally in the "Forum Medicine and Human Rights". The field "Global Health Ethics and Philosophy of Medicine" covers theoretical questions concerning the concept "disease" and medical ethical issues with respect to the increase of the life span and the enhancement of cognitive and emotional capacities.

Research

Clinical Ethics and Ethics Consultation

Project managers: Prof. Dr. A. Frewer, PD Dr. L. Bergemann, Dr. D. Dörr, L. Fröhlich-Güzelsoy, Dr. K. Krása, Dr. Dr. D. Preuß, A. Koberg
A main field of expertise of the Professorship for Medical Ethics is research concerning clinical ethics consultation whereby a close cooperation with the Clinical Ethics Committee is given. Theoretical groundwork and documentation of ethics consultation and the evaluation of ethical consultation belong to this field of inquiry. Files of patient's advocates are being dealt with in the project "Clinical Ethics from the Patient's Perspective".

A further field of research are end of life conflicts, e.g. projects on ethical consultation, cultures of dying, and advance directives. As part of this field of research an annual "Ethics Day" and an intensive course "Clinical Ethics" (BMBF) were organized, the "Yearbook Ethics in Clinics" and the book series "Clinical Ethics" are being edited.

Medicine and Human Rights

Project managers: Prof. Dr. A. Frewer, H. Furtmayr, M. Mylius, Dr. S. Kolb, Dr. J. Graf, Dr. K. Krása, W. Bornschlegl

This field of research bears on problems of determining the place of human dignity and human rights in the area of medical and bioethical controversy. The possibilities and limits of a rights-based medical ethics and bioethics are considered from a theoretical perspective and several dimensions of the concepts of human

dignity and human rights are investigated in this context. In a practical vein, this area of research involves questions of medical investigation and the documentation of human rights violations, application of the Istanbul Protocol of the United Nations to document torture, but also the participation of physicians in human rights violations. Not least of all, it inquires into the therapy and "prophylaxis" of human rights violations, such as wartime sexual violence, torture, recruitment of children as soldiers, and female genital mutilation. In connection with this area of research, a public lecture series is being organized and the academic book series "Medicine and Human Rights" is being edited.

Human Rights in Healthcare (EFI Project)

Project managers: Prof. Dr. A. Frewer (in cooperation with Prof. Dr. H. Bielefeldt, UN Special Rapporteur), Dr. M. Schmidhuber, F. Scheller
The Emerging Fields Project "Human Rights in Healthcare" focuses on highly relevant issues in the intersection of human rights, medicine, and medical ethics. The project deals with conflicting claims to receive such support for personal autonomy in healthcare. The general purpose is to better understand the implicit criteria which guide decisions taken in clinical practice and to develop normative criteria based on human rights and medical ethics. Practical examples are studied intensively with issues of dialysis, transplantation, new conflicts arising from international patient mobility, "health literacy" education, contributions to "health-empowerment" of vulnerable groups and end-of-life-questions. Beyond raising public awareness on complicated and important issues, the aspiration is to provide practical orientation based on ethical principles, internationally binding human rights' norms, and professional experience in the field. The project develops an intensive cooperation between researchers from different disciplines, including medicine, human rights, ethics, law, philosophy, social sciences, political science, and literature studies.

Global Health Ethics and Philosophy of Medicine

Project managers: Prof. Dr. A. Frewer, Dr. A. Reis, Dr. M. Schmidhuber, Dr. S.L. Sorgner
This field deals with questions concerning the notion "disease" and human aging, moral evaluations of various aspects of human enhancement, preimplantation diagnosis, and deep brain stimulation. In this context, an academic book series is being edited: "Ars moriendi nova".

Teaching

The Institute of the History of Medicine and Medical Ethics is responsible for teaching the following courses according to medical curriculum: Medical Terminology (1st term students in Medicine/Dentistry); Querschnittsbereich (cross-sectional area) Q 2 "History, Theory, and Ethics of Medicine" (7th term Medicine) and "History of Science and Ethics" (degree program in Molecular Medicine). Furthermore, it contributes to cross-sectional area Q 7 "Medicine and Aging" in the section concerned with old age in past and present.

Medical Terminology introduces students to the specific technical language employed in anatomy and clinical medicine; this includes basic understanding of Latin grammar and vocabulary necessary for anatomical terms, furthermore Greek for clinical usage. At the same time it aims at placing medicine in its social and historical context.

History, Theory, and Ethics of Medicine includes lectures dedicated to the basic principles of the medical humanities while the specific skills are imparted in seminars. In these seminars, small groups of students are made familiar with current questions, methods, and approaches in the field. They aim at sharpening the student's eye for social, ethical, and institutional problems. Teaching methods include text interpretation, discussion of case histories, role play, multimedia presentations, and excursions.

In addition, courses in ethics and interpersonal skills are procured as part of the "Introduction to Clinical Medicine". Courses range from "Skills in Ethical Communication" over "Breaking Bad News" and "Speaking about Death and Dying", "Intercultural Communication" to "Medical Acting on Borders", some of those featuring simulated patients to practice difficult communicative situations.

In cooperation with the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Theology, courses on medical ethics and bioethics are being offered. Furthermore, a lecture course on "Medicine, Ethics, and Human Rights" and an interdisciplinary series of presentations on questions concerning the history and ethics of medicine entitled "Jenseits des Tellerrands" ("Beyond one's own Nose") are being offered.

Selected Publications

Frewer A, Schmidt K, Bergemann L. (Hrsg.) Fehler und Ethik in der Medizin. Neue Wege für Patientenrechte. JEK 2013, 6. Würzburg

Frewer A, Bruns F. (Hrsg.) Klinische Ethik. Konzepte und Fallstudien. 2013 Freiburg

Emrich IA, Fröhlich-Güzelsoy L, Bruns F, Friedrich B, Frewer A. Clinical Ethics and Patient Advocacy. The Power of Communication in Health Care. HEC Forum 2014, 26(2): 111-24

Frewer A, Reis A, Bergemann L. (Hrsg.) Gute oder vergütete Behandlung? Ethische Fragen der Gesundheitsökonomie. JEK 2014, 7. Würzburg

Frewer A, Schmidt U. (Hrsg.) Forschung als Herausforderung für Ethik und Menschenrechte. Jahrbuch Medizin-Ethik 27, 2014, Köln

Erices R, Frewer A, Gumz A. Testing Ground GDR: Western Pharmaceutical Firms conducting Clinical Trials Behind the Iron Curtain. J Med Ethics 2014 Oct 23. pii: medethics-2013-101925

International Cooperations

Dr. A. Reis, World Health Organization, Geneva: Switzerland

Prof. U. Schmidt, Ph.D., Rutherford College, University of Kent, Canterbury: UK

Meetings and International Training Courses

29.05.2013: Workshop of the Clinical Ethics Committee and the Professorship for Ethics in Medicine: "Warte-'Listen'. Gerechtigkeit und Ethik in der Medizin", Erlangen

12. – 13.09.2013: International Brocher Conference "Research within Bounds" (Geneva). Professorship for Medical Ethics in Cooperation with University of Kent (GB) and University of Neuchâtel (SUI), Geneva

02.11.2013: 12. "Ethiktag" of the Clinical Ethics Committee and the Professorship for Ethics in Medicine: "Good or reimbursed treatment?" – "Gute oder vergütete Behandlung?", Erlangen

26.04.2014: Kick-Off Workshop of the EFI-Project "Human Rights in Healthcare", Nürnberg

21.05.2014: Workshop of the Clinical Ethics Committee and the Professorship for Ethics in Medicine in Cooperation with SAKI/BMBF/EFI: "Der überwachte Patient", Erlangen

18.10.2014: 13. "Ethiktag" of the Clinical Ethics Committee and the Professorship for Ethics in Medicine: "Dementia and Ethics in Medicine", Erlangen

21. – 22.11.2014: Conference of the EFI Research Group "Human Rights in Healthcare": Autonomie und Menschenrechte am Lebensende, Erlangen

