

# Institute of the History of Medicine and Medical Ethics

## Professorship for Medical Ethics

### Address

Glueckstrasse 10 und Universitaetsstrasse 40  
91054 Erlangen  
Phone: +49 9131 8526430  
Fax: +49 9131 8522852  
www.igem.med.uni-erlangen.de

### Head of Institute

Prof. Dr. med. Andreas Frewer, M.A.

### Contact

Dr. phil. Markus Rothhaar  
Phone: +49 9131 8526436  
Fax: +49 9131 8522852  
markus.rothhaar@ethik.med.uni-erlangen.de

### Research Focus

- Clinical Ethics and Ethics Counseling
- Medicine and Human Rights

### Structure of the Institution

The Institute of the History of Medicine and Medical Ethics consists of a Chair for the History of Medicine and a Professorship for Medical Ethics. The institute also houses the "Forum for Medicine and Human Rights," established in 2006, and the office of the Clinical Ethics Committee. In addition it is charged with the care for the Medical Collection in the city of Erlangen. Fourteen associates are in the institute's employ. Research is conducted by 12 scholars, seven of which are part-time. Currently 18 dissertations on the history and ethics of medicine are being supervised under the auspices of the institute. Six scientific book series are edited by members of the institute.

The Chair of the History of Medicine researches questions associated with ancient medicine and its reception in the Renaissance and the Enlightenment (R. Wittern-Sterzel), the social history of medicine in early modernity with a focus on the history of anatomy and surgery, as well as patient history (M.M. Ruisinger). Further research examines networks of medical correspondence (also the subject matter of several dissertations) as well as the pre-history and early history of the health and hospital systems (F. Dross). Finally, projects on the history of medicine and health in the region (homeopathy in Franconia by M. M. Ruisinger and F. Dross) and in particular on the history of the medical faculty of the Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg are also underway. A larger joint project combining history and ethics, commissioned by the governing body

of the university and the medical faculty, researched and documented, e.g., the issue of doctor's titles being revoked during the "Third Reich" (R. Wittern-Sterzel, A. Frewer).

The Professorship for Ethics in Medicine is particularly active in the areas of clinical ethics and ethics counseling. It also has a research focus in medicine and human rights. The research program "clinical ethics" deals with the basic moral questions surrounding proper care for patients, with the justification of actions undertaken by physicians in everyday medicine, and with conflict situations in the hospital and private practice. Core questions concern clinical problem cases from the beginning of life (prenatal diagnostics, pregnancy conflicts, neonatology, etc.), ethical questions in crisis situations (oncology, genetic counseling, psychiatry, transplantation) to controversies about the end of life (euthanasia, care for the dying). Important instruments of clinical ethics are argumentation analyses of the counseling given by committees in applied medical and bioethics as well as empirical research studies.

The research area "medicine and human rights" deals with the various levels and aspects of human rights questions in the fields of medicine and biological sciences. This research focus is the only one of its kind in German medical faculties; its institutional anchor is the "Forum for Medicine and Human Rights."

### Research

#### Clinical Ethics and Ethics Counseling

Project manager: A. Frewer, U. Fahr

Particular emphasis is placed on the investigation of clinical ethical counseling, which is conducted by the Professorship of Ethics in Medicine in close association with the Clinical Ethics Committee. Topics of research include the theoretical foundations of ethical counseling, the evaluation of ethics counseling in hospitals, questions of narrative theory and the documentation of ethics counseling (U. Fahr, T. Ramsauer, L. Kovács, A. Frewer). The framework afforded by this research includes the "Day of Ethics" conference and "Yearbook Ethics in the Clinic" (YEC) [Jahrbuch Ethik in der Klinik].

#### Medicine and Human Rights

Project manager: A. Frewer

This branch of research bears on problems of determining the place of human dignity and

human rights in the area of medical and bioethical controversy. From a theoretical perspective the possibilities and limits of a rights-based medical and bioethics are considered and the dimensions of the concept of human rights are investigated in this context (M. Rothhaar). In a practical vein this area of research involves questions of medical investigation and the documentation of human rights violations (translation and edition of the Istanbul Protocol of the United Nations for the Documentation of Torture), but also the participation of physicians in human rights violations (M. Mylius, S. Kolb). 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 (K. Krása). In connection with this area of research the reference book series "Medicine and Human Rights" appears. On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights the Professorship for Ethics in Medicine has organized in 2008 a special issue of the Human Rights Magazine (Potsdam University) on the topic of "Medicine and Human Rights."

### Teaching

The Institute of the History of Medicine and Medical Ethics is responsible for instruction in medical terminology, as well as the history, theory and ethics of medicine. In the HTE seminars students learn the foundations of medical history, the theory of medicine and medical ethics by examining specific topics such as the history of the plague, the concept of health or questions of medical ethics. Teaching methods include the interpretation of texts, cases discussion, roll-playing, short presentations, multimedia presentations and class excursions.

The topical seminar "medicine and aging" is the institutes' contribution to the module "dealing with age in the past and present." Moreover, the institute is responsible for the area of ethics as a part of the introduction to clinical medicine. As an elective, the course "skills in ethical communication," is offered as a subdivision of the modules "breaking bad news," "speaking about death and dying," and "intercultural communication." Innovative techniques in instruction are utilized such as working with simulated patients.

As a part of the major in molecular medicine students also study the subject "history of sci-

ence and ethics." In cooperation with the Faculty of Philosophy courses are offered to deepen the students' knowledge in the subjects of medical and bioethics.

Beyond this, a survey lecture course is offered on questions of the history and ethics of medicine and six series of scientific books are edited by members of the institute.

### Selected Publications

Frewer A, Fahr U (2007) Clinical Ethics and Confidentiality: Opinions of Experts and Ethics Committees. HEC Forum, 19: 277-291

Saefken C, Frewer A (2007) The Duty to Warn and Clinical Ethics: Legal and Ethical Aspects of Confidentiality and HIV/AIDS. HEC Forum, 19: 313-326

### International Cooperation

Prof. J. D. Moreno, Ph.D., Centre of Medical Ethics and the History and Sociology of Science, University of Pennsylvania, USA

Prof. U. Schmidt, Ph.D., Rutherford College, University of Kent, Canterbury, Great Britain

### Meetings and International Training Courses

24.11.2007: 7. Ethiktag des Klinischen Ethikkomitees und der Professur fuer Ethik in der Medizin: Patientenverfuegung und Ethikberatung in der Praxis, Erlangen

22.11.2008: 8. Ethiktag des Klinischen Ethikkomitees und der Professur fuer Ethik in der Medizin: Ethik im klinischen Alltag, Erlangen



## Medizin, Ethik und Menschenrechte

Eine öffentliche Ringvorlesung des "Forum Medizin und Menschenrechte" und der Professur für Ethik in der Medizin am Institut für Geschichte und Ethik der Medizin

Einführung  
Prof. Dr. Andreas Frewer, M.A.  
Professur für Ethik in der Medizin  
Institut für Geschichte und Ethik der Medizin, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg

24  
April

Einführung  
Dr. Kerstin Krása  
Institut für Geschichte und Ethik der Medizin  
FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg

29  
Mai

60 Jahre Erklärung der Menschenrechte -  
Internationale Perspektiven der Friedensmedizin  
Dr. Klaus Melf  
Arzt, Projektleiter Medical Peace Work, Tromsø, Norwegen

Geschichte und Gegenwart des Folterverbots -  
Zur Verantwortung medizinischer Berufe  
Dr. Rainer Huhle  
Arzt, Nürnberger Menschenrechtszentrum

Moderation: Stephan Kolb, Arzt  
Klinikum Nürnberg

Moderation: Holger Furtmayr, M.A.  
Institut für Geschichte und Ethik der Medizin, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg

Einführung  
Dr. Markus Rothhaar  
Institut für Geschichte und Ethik der Medizin  
FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg

05  
Juni

Menschenrechte und Menschenbild -  
Zur Ethik der biopolitischen Debatten  
an den Lebensgrenzen  
Dr. h.c. Margot von Renesse  
Enquete-Kommission "Ethik und Recht der modernen Medizin"  
MdB und Richterin a.D., Bochum

26  
Juni

Medizinische Ethik in Diktaturen -  
Menschenrechtsverletzungen in Südamerika  
PD Dr. Dr. Horacio Riquelme  
Arzt und Philosoph, Hamburg/Chile

Podiumsdiskussion u.a. mit:  
Prof. Dr. Johanna Haberer, Theologin  
Akad. Dir. Dr. Rudolf Kötter, Philosoph  
Prof. Dr. Clemens Kauffmann, Politikologe

Moderation: Maren Mylius, Ärztin  
Institut für Geschichte und Ethik der Medizin, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg

Friedrich-Alexander-Universität  
Erlangen-Nürnberg



Im Anschluss:  
Empfang zur Eröffnung des neuen Hauses der Professur  
für Ethik in der Medizin mit dem "Forum Medizin und  
Menschenrechte" und der Geschäftsstelle des Klinischen  
Ethikkomitees, Universitätsstraße 40

18:00 s.t. - 19:30 Uhr | Senatssaal 1.011 | Kollegienhaus | Universitätsstr. 15

Series of lectures on "Medicine, Ethics and Human Rights"  
Source: Prof. Dr. A. Frewer