

Institute of the History of Medicine and Medical Ethics

Professorship for Medical Ethics

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Research Focus

- Clinical Ethics and Ethics Counseling
- Project Title: Medical Ethics and Human Rights: Reassessing 50 Years of the Declaration of Helsinki (1964 - 2014)
- Medicine and Human Rights
- Philosophy of Medicine and Enhancement

Structure of the Department

The Professorship for Medical Ethics together with the Chair of the History of Medicine constitute 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, 16 employees work at the Institute, of which 14 are academic personnel with eight 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).

25 doctoral theses are being supervised at the Professorship for Medical Ethics and ten academic book series are being edited.

The main areas of research are clinical ethics and ethics counseling, medicine and human rights, and the philosophy of medicine and enhancement.

The field of clinical ethics deals with foundational ethical questions concerning the adequate supply of 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 begin-

ning 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 "Philosophy of Medicine and Enhancement" 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 Counseling

Project managers: Prof. Dr. A. Frewer, PD Dr. L. Bergemann, Dr. F. Bruns, L. Fröhlich-Güzelsoy, Dr. K. Krása

A main field of expertise of the Professorship for Medical Ethics is research concerning clinical ethics counseling whereby a close cooperation with the Clinical Ethics Committee is given. Theoretical groundwork and documentation of ethics counseling and the evaluation of ethical counseling 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 counseling, 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.

Project Title: Medical Ethics and Human Rights: Reassessing 50 Years of the Declaration of Helsinki (1964 - 2014)

The Declaration of Helsinki is one of the most important landmarks in human subject research which is aimed at protecting human participants in experimental science. By the beginning

of the 1960s, even more frequent revelations about unethical research on disadvantaged and vulnerable populations and the widely publicised Thalidomide tragedy had prompted calls for greater state regulation. In June 1964, after years of debate, the WMA adopted the Declaration during its General Assembly in Helsinki, Finland. Efforts to safeguard human subjects in non-therapeutic experiments have intensified ever since the first Helsinki Declaration and are now codified in many national and international laws and regulations. The implementation of Institutional Review Boards (Research Ethics Committees) was a key element in that development. The current process of revising the Declaration of Helsinki is meant to coincide with the 50th anniversary of this important document which is why it receives global attention (Funding: Fondation Brocher, Wellcome Trust, Thyssen Stiftung).

Medicine and Human Rights

Project managers: Prof. Dr. A. Frewer, Dr. S.L. Sorgner, 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.

Philosophy of Medicine and Enhancement

Project managers: Prof. Dr. A. Frewer, Dr. S.L. Sorgner

The field of enquiry "Philosophy of Medicine and Enhancement" deals with questions concerning the notion "disease" and human aging, moral evaluations of various aspects of hu-

man enhancement, preimplantation diagnosis, and deep brain stimulation. In this context, two academic book series are being edited: "Ars moriendi nova" and "Beyond Humanism: Trans- and Posthumanism".

Genetic enhancement discusses the moral relevance of promoting genes; neuroenhancement deals with ethical questions on the improvement of capacities of the brain in particular by means of psychoactive and neuroactive substances, but also via deep brain stimulation or brain-computer interfaces.

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 human medicine/dentistry); Querschnittsbe- reich (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 Philosophical Faculty, 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./Bruns, F./May, A. (Hrsg.) (2012) Ethikberatung in der Medizin. Heidelberg u.a.

Schäfer, D./Müller-Busch, C./Frewer, A. (Hrsg.) (2012) Perspektiven zum Sterben. Ars moriendi nova, Band 2. Stuttgart.

Frewer, A./Bruns, F./Rascher, W. (Hrsg.) (2012) Medizin, Moral und Gefühl. Emotionen im ethischen Diskurs. JEK 5. Würzburg.

Frewer, A./Bruns, F./Rascher, W. (Hrsg.) (2011) Gesundheit, Empathie und Ökonomie. Kostbare Werte in der Medizin. JEK 4. Würzburg.

Bruns, F./Frewer, A. (2011) Ethics Consultation and Empathy. Finding the Balance in Clinical Settings. In: HEC Forum (2011) DOI 10.1007/s10730-011-9164-7.

Frewer, A. (2011) Strangers in the Hospital? In: Historia Hospitalium 27 (2011), S. 105-114.

International Cooperations

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

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

Meetings and International Training Courses

25.05.2011: Aktuelle Stunde zur Medizinethik. Vorgeburtliche Diagnostik, Behinderung und Gesellschaft. Forum in Zusammenarbeit mit dem Klinischen Ethikkomitee, Erlangen

29.06.2011: Workshop des Klinischen Ethikkomitees und der Professur für Ethik in der Medizin: Ethikberatung in der Medizin. Grundlagen - Modelle - Praxis, Erlangen

21.-23.10.2011: Transforming Human Nature in Science, Technology, and the Arts. Internationale Konferenz unter Beteiligung der Professur für Ethik in der Medizin, Dublin, Ireland

05.11.2011: 10. Ethiktag des Klinischen Ethikkomitees und der Professur für Ethik in der Medizin: Emotion und Ethik in der Medizin, Erlangen

23.05.2012: Workshop des Klinischen Ethikkomitees und der Professur für Ethik in der Medizin: Fehler in der Medizin - wie gehen wir damit um? Erlangen

27.10.2012: 11. Ethiktag des Klinischen Ethikkomitees: Risiko - Patient - Medizin. Fehler als Herausforderungen in der Gesundheitsversorgung, Erlangen



BMBF Project 'Clinical Ethics': Professorship for Medical Ethics edits new basic book.



Emotions in Medicine and Ethics - an important field of expertise: Yearbook of the Professorship for Medical Ethics documents scientific discourse.