

Institute of the History of Medicine and Medical Ethics

Professorship for Medical Ethics

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Research Focus

- Clinical Ethics and Ethics Counseling
- Medicine and Human Rights
- Philosophy of Medicine and Enhancement

Structure of the Department

Together, the Professorship for Medical Ethics and the Chair of History of Medicine (see separate report) constitute the Institute for 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 8 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 Medical Faculty Erlangen, medical ethics in Germany after 1945).

30 doctoral theses are being supervised at the Professorship of medical ethics and 10 academic book series are being edited.

The main areas of research are clinical ethics and ethical 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 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. This topic is unique at a medical faculty 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: A. Frewer, F. Bruns.

A main field of expertise of the professorship of 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 (F. Bruns; A. Frewer) and the evaluation of ethical counseling (A. Frewer; T. Ramsauer) belong to this field of enquiry. Files of patient's advocates are being dealt with in the project "Clinical Ethics from the Patient's Perspective" (F. Bruns; I. Emrich; A. Frewer; B. Friedrich; L. Fröhlich-Güzelsoy).

A further field of research are end of life conflicts, e.g. projects on ethical counseling, cultures of dying and advance directives (B. Friedrich; A. Frewer; M. Rothhaar). As part of this field of research an annual "Ethics Day" and an Intensive Course "Clinical Ethics" (BMBF) is being organized, the "Yearbook Ethics in Clinics" and the book series "Clinical Ethics" are being edited (A. Frewer et al.).

Medicine and Human Rights

Project managers: A. Frewer, H. Furtmayr.

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. From a theoretical perspective the possibilities and limits of a rights-based medical ethics and bioethics are considered and several dimensions of the concepts of human dignity and human rights are investigated in this context (M. Rothhaar; S. L. Sor-

gner). 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 (H. Furtmayr; A. Frewer), 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 (J. Graf; K. Krása). 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: A. Frewer, S. L. Sorgner.

The field of enquiry "Philosophy of Medicine and Enhancement" deals with questions concerning the notion "disease" and human aging (A. Frewer; M. Rothhaar), moral evaluations of various aspects of human enhancement, pre-implantation diagnosis (PGD) and deep brain stimulation (S. L. Sorgner). 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 for History of Medicine and Medical Ethics is responsible for teaching the following courses according to medical curriculum: Medical Terminology (1st semester students in human medicine/dentistry); Querschnittsbereich (cross-sectional area) Q 2 "History, Theory and Ethics of Medicine" (7th semester 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, fur-

thermore Greek for clinical usage. At the same time it aims to place 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" to "Intercultural Communication", 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 "Über den Tellerrand" ("Beyond one's own Nose") are being offered.

Selected Publications

Frewer, A./Fahr, U./Rascher, W. (Hrsg.) (2009) Patientenverfügung und Ethik. Beiträge zur guten klinischen Praxis. Jahrbuch Ethik in der Klinik 2. Würzburg.

Frewer A (2010) Human rights from the Nuremberg Doctors Trial to the Geneva Declaration. Persons and institutions in medical ethics and history. Med Health Care Philos, 13: 259-68

Frewer, A./Bruns, F./Rascher, W. (Hrsg.) (2010) Hoffnung und Verantwortung. Herausforderungen für die Medizin. Jahrbuch Ethik in der Klinik 3. Würzburg.

Furtmayr H, Frewer A (2010) Documentation of torture and the Istanbul Protocol: applied medical ethics. Med Health Care Philos, 13: 279-86

Wittwer, H./Schäfer, D./Frewer, A. (Hrsg.) (2010) Sterben und Tod. Geschichte – Theorie – Ethik. Ein interdisziplinäres Handbuch. Stuttgart.

International Cooperation

Prof. M. Grodin, M.D., Boston University School of Public Health, Boston University, Boston, MA, USA

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

Meetings and International Training Courses

22.07.2009: Hierarchie und Ethik. Entscheidungskultur im Krankenhaus, Erlangen, Deutschland,

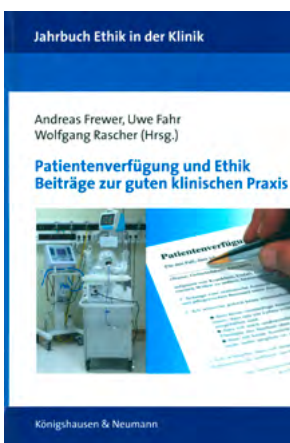
30.09.–01.10.2009: GENerell krank oder chronisch gesund? Neue ethische Implikationen des Krankheitsbegriffs, Erlangen, Deutschland,

17.10.2009: 8. Ethiktag des Klinischen Ethikkomitees und der Professur für Ethik in der Medizin: "Hoffnung und Verantwortung in der klinischen Praxis", Erlangen, Deutschland,

Persistent Vegetative State Baby: Ethics Committee and Professorship of Clinical Ethics advise the Gynaecological Hospital in the case of the "Boy from Erlangen". Press conference 14.10.2009



Persistent Vegetative State Baby: Dialogue partner at the main press conference (from left to right): Prof. Dr. med. Dr. h.c. Wolfgang Rascher, director of the pediatric and youth clinic; Prof. Dr. med. Andreas Frewer, M.A., medical ethics; Andrea Maywald, nurse in the gynecological hospital; Prof. Dr. med. Matthias W. Beckmann, director of the gynecological hospital; Dr. med. Julia Engel, physician in the gynecological hospital



The professorship of medical ethics and the ethics committee published the case study entitled "Pregnancy, Heart Attack, Brain Damage" on the "Boy from Erlangen". Herein, the medical background and the ethical challenges get described from the perspective of the team of physicians. These contributions are being followed by interdisciplinary comments from medical ethics/ethics council, neonatology/paediatrics, nursery, internal medicine/diabetology and law.

12.–19.09.2010: Erlanger Sommerkurs „Klinische Ethik“: BMBF-Klausurwoche mit zahlreichen Foren und Expertenvorträgen, Leitung: Prof. A. Frewer, Erlangen, Deutschland,

18.09.2010: 9. Ethiktag des Klinischen Ethikkomitees und der Professur für Ethik in der Medizin: "Ethik in der Medizin zwischen Empathie und Ökonomie", Erlangen, Deutschland,