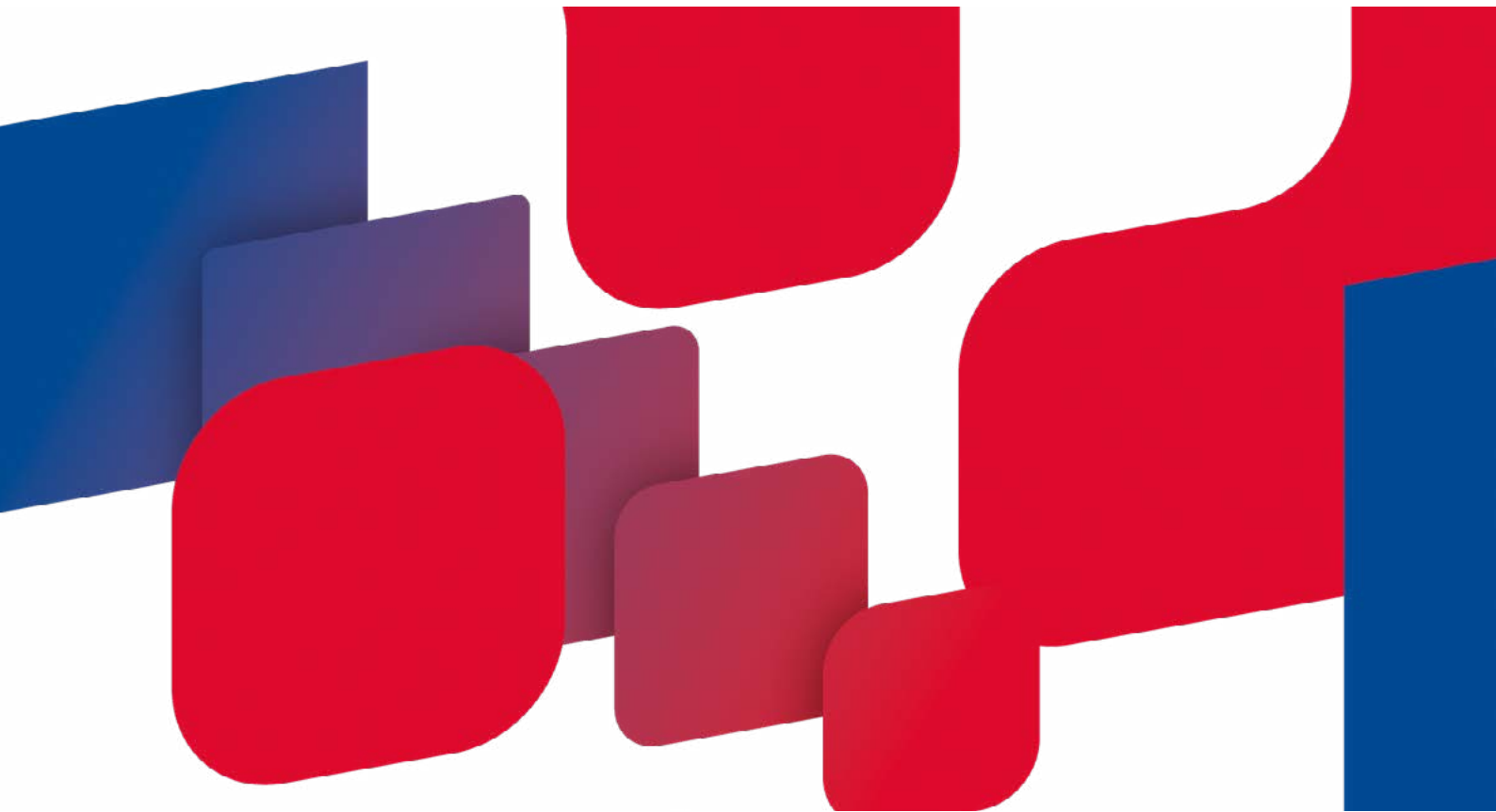




Center for Health Care Research & Public Health
Research Report

Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf

In Kooperation mit

Welcome to the Center for Health Care Research & Public Health!

The health care system is facing substantial challenges and is undergoing fundamental changes worldwide and in Germany. Against the background of limited resources and due to demographic changes, the need for further development of health services is increasing. Health services research can contribute to the development, evaluation, and implementation of new health care models which improve health care and public health. Since the health system is complex, health services research is a demanding undertaking, in which contextual knowledge plays a central role.

Public health research, in turn, focuses on promoting and maintaining health at the population level. It also examines the social causes and determinants of health risks and diseases within populations. Both disciplines are multidisciplinary, drawing on a broad range of methods and relying on related and overlapping fields such as medicine, health sciences, psychology, sociology, epidemiology and economics.

Accordingly, the Center for Health Care Research & Public Health (CHCR & PH) aims to build and to strengthen research structures and activities at the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf (UKE) and the University of Hamburg (UHH) for both health services research and for public health research. In particular, the CHCR & PH develops innovative health services research projects and promotes early-career researchers.

As one of the five key research areas of UKE, the CHCR & PH has built a robust framework for conducting excellent projects in the field of health care research and public health. Based on the structures of the Hamburg Network for Health Services Research (HAM-NET), the CHCR & PH enables sustainable exchange and communication between researchers, all relevant health care providers and stakeholders in Hamburg. In this role the CHCR & PH serves as a key node in regional and national interconnected, practice-oriented health services and public health research. This is especially of importance in light of the growing possibilities of funding within the Innovation Fund, for which a stable partnership with health policy makers and stakeholders is essential.

With this report we invite you to get to know the CHCR & PH, its member institutions and its activities in more detail.



Prof. Dr. Martin Scherer
(spokesperson)



Prof. Dr. Antonia Zapf
(deputy spokesperson)



Prof. Dr. Dr. Martin Härter
(deputy spokesperson)



Dr. Christina Lindemann
(coordination)

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Interdisciplinary Research for Health Services Research and Public Health

Health services research describes and analyzes patients' pathways through the health system on every level. It aims to describe, understand, and explain healthcare delivery for individuals and populations as well as the contextual factors affecting it. Within this health care research contributes to the further development, evaluation, and implementation of healthcare concepts, grounded in solid methodological and theoretical foundations. Health care research is part of public health. Among prominent representatives of both disciplines, this conjunction was recently emphasized (Hoffmann W, et al: Position paper of the German Network of Health Care Research: What is health care research. Gesundheitswesen. <https://doi.org/10.1055/a-2592-5998>). Both disciplines can have a population perspective, however, public health focusses on prevention and health promotion, whereas health services research is concerned with improving health care delivery.

Founded in 2006, the work of the CHCR & PH addresses highly relevant topics and uses innovative methodology to make the disciplinary health care research at the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf and the University of Hamburg internationally competitive. Following the advice of the German Science and Humanities Council (Wissenschaftsrat) health research was designated as one of the five key research areas of the UKE. More recently, public health research was added to the research profile of the CHCR & PH. Both research disciplines share a multidisciplinary approach with many related disciplines such as psychology, medical sociology, epidemiology, health economics, biostatistics as well as qualitative and quantitative social research so a joint consideration is both necessary and meaningful. This combined perspective is also reflected in the structures of the German Research Foundation (DFG), where public health and health services research are represented in a shared review board.

The main tasks of the CHCR & PH are:

- Joint research projects
- Information and organisations of networking events
- Scientific conferences
- National and international scientific cooperation
- Collaboration with stakeholders from health care and clinical practice
- Promotion of early-career researchers



The research activities of the CHCR & PH cover a broad range of themes. One of the central topics is **patient-centered care** and **patient safety**. This relates well to activities around establishing of person-experienced boards in many projects. All members are trained in research methods, are part of planning of questionnaires and participate in regular meeting of the research projects. Also, members of person-experienced boards became part of the research community by presenting scientific results on local conferences. The **development, (cost)-effectiveness evaluation, and implementation of care-models** is another focus of the CHCR & PH. **Digital interventions** are more and more important, so that tailored e-health interventions particularly in the fields of mental health (e.g. post-stationary care for severe mental illness, digital therapeutic interventions) and maternal health (e.g. screening for post-partum depression) are also prominent. Located in health service research and in public health research is the research topic **inequalities in health care**. This holds also true for **theories and methods in health services research**. Emerging topics include the influence of climate change to health care services and the general population (e.g. excess mortality related to heat waves), health care for rare diseases and the evaluation of local health care providers.

To date more than 250 researchers have joined the CHCR & PH, creating a vivid and dynamic network with outstanding expertise nationally and internationally.



Management - Board of Directors

Spokespersons

Prof. Dr. Martin Scherer, Department of Primary Care,
Deputy Spokesperson CHCR & PH

Prof. Dr. Antonia Zapf, Institute of Medical Biometry and Epidemiology,
Deputy Spokesperson CHCR & PH

Prof. Dr. Dr. Martin Härter, Department of Medical Psychology,
Deputy Spokesperson CHCR & PH

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Department of Health Economics and Health Services Research

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Department of Psychosomatic Medicine and Psychotherapy

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Department of Primary Care

Prof. Dr. Ingo Schäfer,
Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy

Prof. Dr. Olaf von dem Knesebeck,
Department of Medical Sociology

Coordination

Dr. Christina Lindemann,
CHCR & PH-Coordinator



Major research interests

The department represents general practice in research, teaching, and patient care at the UKE. Within the Competence Center for General Practice, we are responsible for the postgraduate training of future general practitioners in Hamburg. Our research focuses on topics relevant to general practice, embedded in the structures and disciplines of the healthcare system. Areas of interest include the management of multimorbidity, especially at the interface of somatic and mental disorders; care at the end of life in general practice; out of hours care and social health. Key topics also encompass inter-professional collaboration, issues of over- and undersupply in healthcare, evidence-based medicine (EbM), and the development and implementation of clinical guidelines. Methodological approaches include quantitative studies such as cross-sectional and longitudinal studies and RCTs. The department also has profound expertise in qualitative study methodology, systematic reviews, and the development of quality indicators to support high-quality, evidence-based healthcare.

International and national cooperation

We host the General Practice Research Network Hamburg (HFN-HH), which aims to strengthen primary care research and facilitate practice-based studies. It is part of the Northern General Practice Research Network (FoPraNet-Nord), composed of general practice practices from Lower Saxony, Hamburg, and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, collaborating across these regions.

The department cooperates with several institutions within the Center for Health Care Research & Public Health and the Center for Psychosocial Medicine. External cooperation partners include the As-

sociations of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians, the Institute for Quality and Economic Efficiency (IQWiG, Cologne), and the aQua Institute for Applied Quality Promotion and Research in Healthcare (Göttingen). There are research collaborations with several chairs of general medicine at German universities (e.g., Göttingen, Jena, or Munich). International research contacts are maintained with working groups in the Netherlands, Great Britain, and Australia via WONCA (World Organization of Family Doctors), GIN (Guidelines International Network), and the European Primary Care Cardiovascular Society (EPCCS). The department is also involved in multinational research projects funded by the European Horizon 2020 and 2024 program.

Selected publications

Löwe B, Scherer M, Braunschneider LE et al. (2024) Clinical effectiveness of patient-targeted feedback following depression screening in general practice (GET.FEEDBACK.GP): an investigator-initiated, prospective, multicentre, three-arm, observer-blinded, randomised controlled trial in Germany. *Lancet Psychiatry*. 11(4):262–73. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s2215-0366\(24\)00035-x](https://doi.org/10.1016/s2215-0366(24)00035-x).

Scherer M, Lühmann D, Egidi G, Kühlein T, Abiry D, Barzel A, Muche-Borowski C, Lenzer B, Pörnbacher S (2025) Protection against the overuse and underuse of health care – deciding together. *Living Guideline S2e*. AWMF-Register-No. 053-045LG DEGAM-Guideline No. 21. <https://www.degam.de/leitlinie-s2e-053-045lg>.

Scherer M, Lühmann D, Muche-Borowski C, Schäfer I, Hansen H, Nury OE, Bitter K, Berkemer E (2025) Multimorbidity - Living Guideline. *S3*. AWMF-Register-No. 053-047LG, DEGAM-Guideline No. 20. <https://www.degam.de/leitlinie-s3-053-047>.

Schulze J, Lühmann D, Nagel J, Regner C, Zelenak C, Bersch K, Herrmann-Lingen C, Burg MM, Herbeck-Belnap B, ESCAPE Consortium (2025) Adapting and Implementing a Blended Collaborative Care Intervention for Older Adults with Multimorbidity: Quantitative and Qualitative Results from the ESCAPE Pilot Study. *Behav Sci (Basel)*. 15(1):79. <https://doi.org/10.3390/bs15010079>.

Schäfer I, Tajdar D, Walther L, Bittner L, Lühmann D, Scherer M (2023) Impact of two COVID-19 lockdowns on HbA1c levels in patients with type 2 diabetes and associations with patient characteristics: a multicentre, observational cohort study over three years. *Front Public Health*. 11:1272769. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2023.1272769>.

Selected research

ESCAPE - Evaluation of a patient-centered biopsychosocial blended collaborative care pathway for the treatment of multimorbid elderly patients. (2021-2025) The project is funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 programme. Grant no.: 945377

SP-EU: Social Prescribing to promote and improve access to health and care services for people in vulnerable situations in Europe. (2025-2029) The project is funded by the European Union's Horizon 2024 programme. Grant no.: 101155873

StatAMed – Transformation of the patient pathway through a cross-sector, brief inpatient care model focused on general practice, (2023-2027) Funded by Innovation Fund of the Federal Joint Committee. Grant no.: 01NVF22103

MultiTool – Development and evaluation of a computer-based tool for the management of multimorbidity in general practice. Funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research in Germany (BMBF). Grant no.: 01GY2109.

GRACI - GP-cooRdinated tAilored Care for post-viral conditions and ME/CFS using an Integrative approach to enhance participation. Funded by Federal Ministry of Health (BMG). Grant no.: ZMII2 – 2524FS-B36A.



Major research interests

Health services research in the Institute of Medical Sociology focuses on social determinants of health care, patient centeredness, and collective self-help. With regards to social determinants, the impact of gender, migration, age, and the socio-economic status on access, utilization, and quality of health care is investigated. Patient centeredness and patient involvement as well as collective self-help are of high relevance in participatory research with self-help and patient organizations. In terms of public health research, we focus on social epidemiology. In this regard, social inequalities in health and illness are analyzed based on large national and international population studies. Another focus lies on public mental health, especially mental illness stigma, discrimination, and mental health literacy. Moreover, implementation and effectiveness of community-based health promotion interventions are examined. Methodological approaches include survey designs, qualitative interviews, process and outcome evaluations as well as systematic reviews.

International and national cooperation

Researchers of the Institute of Medical Sociology have stable and longstanding cooperation partners primarily within the CHCR & PH and the Center for Psychosocial Medicine in the UKE. Regional cooperation partners are manifold and encompass institutions of all care levels within the Hamburg Network for Health Services Research. Collaborations with other medical sociologists are established on a national (German Society of Medical Sociology) and international level (European Society of Health and Medical Sociology). Moreover, there are collaborations with self-help institutions on a regional, national, and international level.

Selected publications

Barbek R, Toussaint A, Löwe B, Knesebeck Ovd (2024) Intersectional inequalities in somatic symptom severity in the adult population in Germany found within the SOMA.SOC study. Sci Rep 14: 3820. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-024-54042-8>.

Knesebeck Ovd, Klein J (2024) Perceived discrimination in health care in Germany – results of a population survey. Int J Equity Health 23, 39. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12939-024-02132-4>.

Ludwig J, Barbek R, Knesebeck Ovd (2024) Education and suicidal ideation in Europe: A systematic review and meta-analysis. J Affect Disord 249: 509-524. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2024.01.040>.

Vonneilich N, Becher H, Berger K, (...), Knesebeck Ovd, Lüdecke D (2025) Depressive symptoms, education, gender and history of migration - an intersectional analysis using data from the German National Cohort (NAKO). Int J Equity Health 24: 108. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12939-025-02479-2>.

Ziegler E, Klein J, Kofahl C (2024) Patient experiences and needs in cancer care - results from a nationwide cross-sectional study in Germany. BMC Health Serv Res 24: 572. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-024-10951-y>.

Selected research projects

Social inequalities in aggravating factors of somatic symptom persistence. (SOMA.SOC). Project in the DFG Research Unit RU 5211 - SOMACROSS (2021-2025), German Research Foundation (DFG) (PI: O.v.d. Knesebeck)

Diagnosis and treatment of irritable bowel syndrome in primary care – do patient and provider characteristics matter? (2025-2028), DFG (PI: O.v.d. Knesebeck)

DEAHL Baltic – digital health literacy skills for health care professionals. (2025-2028), EU/ Interreg Baltic Sea Region (PI: D. Lüdecke)

MuMi+ - Healthy teeth for all: promoting oral health literacy from young to old. (2025-2028), G-BA Innovation Fund (PI: G. Aarabi, C. Kofahl)

KoReS – Self-help friendliness and cooperation with self-help in rehabilitation clinics. (2023-2025), DRV-Bund (PI: C. Kofahl)



Department of Health Economics and Health Services Research

Director: Prof. Dr. Hans-Helmut König

Major research interests

The Department of Health Economics and Health Services Research is part of the Centre for Psychosocial Medicine of the UKE and of the interfaculty Hamburg Centre for Health Economics (HCHE) of the University of Hamburg. The HCHE is Germany's largest health economic research centre with approximately 90 researchers (www.hche.de). Major research areas of the Department of Health Economics and Health Services Research of the UKE include cost-of-illness and cost-effectiveness analyses and the measurement of preferences for health and health care, with a special focus on mental health care and care for older people. A further research area focusses on the analysis of determinants of health and health service use, with a special emphasis on old age.

International and national cooperation

The department has stable and longstanding cooperation partners primarily within the Center for Health Care Research & Public Health, the Center for Psychosocial Medicine and the Hamburg Center for Health Economics. National cooperation exists with numerous research institutions in the field of health services research, mental health and epidemiology. International cooperation exists with various health economic research institutions within the European Union.

Selected publications

Brettschneider C, Buczak-Stec E, Lupp M, Zülke A, Michalowsky B, Rädke A, Bauer A, Brütting C, Kosilek RP, Zöllinger I, Döhring J, Williamson M, Wiese B, Hoffmann W, Frese T, Gensichen J, Kaduszkiewicz H, Thyrian JR, Riedel-Heller SG, König HH; AGEWELL DE study group (2025) Cost-effectiveness of a multicomponent intervention against cognitive decline. ALZHEIMERS DEMENT (N Y). 11:e70028. <https://doi.org/10.1002/trc2.70028>.

Grochtdreis T, König HH, Leichsenring F, Beutel M, Feix L, Gündel H, Hermann A, Hitzler M, Knaevels-rud C, Kolassa I, Kruse J, Niemeyer H, Nöske F, Salzer S, Sauer K, Schuster P, Steinert C, Weidner K, von Wietersheim J, Hoyer J, Dams J (2025) Excess costs of post-traumatic stress disorder related to child maltreatment in Germany. EUR PSYCHIAT 68(1):e24. <https://doi.org/10.1192/j.eurpsy.2025.6>.

Frasch J, König HH, Konnopka C (2025) Effects of Extreme Temperature on Morbidity, Mortality, and Case Severity in German Emergency Care. ENVIRON RES 270:121021. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2025.121021>.

Neumann A, König HH, Hajek A (2025) Determinants of Patient Satisfaction With Telemental Health Services in Germany: Representative Cross-Sectional Postpandemic Survey Study. JMIR MENT HEALTH 12:e65238. <https://doi.org/10.2196/65238>.

Hajek A, Sutin AR, Terracciano A, Luchetti M, Stephan Y, Peltzer K, König HH (2025) Ikigai and use of preventive healthcare services in Germany. PREV MED 189:108159. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ypmed.2024.108159>.

Selected research projects

Enhanced recovery through prehabilitation of older patients before cardiac interventions (PRECOVERY): economic evaluation (2022-2026), The Federal Joint Committee (G-BA) (PI: Hans-Helmut König)

Health Effects of Weather Conditions (HeWeCon) (2023-2028), German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (PI: Claudia Konnopka)

Managerial and economic dimensions of health care quality - Research Training Group (2023-2028), German Research Foundation (PI: Tom Stargardt, Hans-Helmut König, André Hajek)

Development of a preference-based value set for the Recovering Quality of Life (ReQoL) instrument for use in economic evaluations of mental illness (2024-2026), German Research Foundation (PI: Judith Dams)

Loneliness, social isolation and frequent use of GPs (2025-2026), German Research Foundation (PI: André Hajek)



Center for Psychosocial Medicine

Department of Medical Psychology

Director: Prof. Dr. Dr. Martin Härter

Major research interests

Research focuses on the areas of health care and implementation research in mental and chronic physical diseases as well as rare diseases across the lifespan, clinical care models in psycho-oncology and transplantation psychology, and person-centered care. By means of qualitative and quantitative primary studies, analyses of secondary data and meta-analytical as well as network approaches, the department analyzes questions on needs and access to care, on diagnostic and treatment processes in in- and outpatient settings and rehabilitation, as well as health care outcomes. Methodological approaches include the development of assessment instruments for use in clinical routine and evaluation designs that allow causal statements and are generalizable to clinical practice. Clinical research with patients focuses on psycho-oncology and transplantation psychology. Finally, research in teaching regarding training courses in physician-patient and intercultural communication for medical students and health professionals are further important topics. Therefore, the combination of clinical tasks with research is a particularly important objective of the department.

International and national cooperation

The department has stable and longstanding cooperation partners primarily within the Center for Health Care Research and Public Health, the Center for Psychosocial Medicine, the University Comprehensive Cancer Center as well as the University Transplantation Center, all linked to the UKE. Regional cooperation partners are manifold and encompass institutions of all care levels within the Hamburg Network for Health Services Research. National cooperation focuses on the large network of comprehensive cancer centers and the support of

many professional organizations, for instance the German Network for Health Services Research. International cooperation exists with researchers and institutions worldwide.

Selected publications

Wandke S, Brandes L, Rutenkröger M, Führes H, Lang K, Härter M, Oechsle K, Bokemeyer C, Scholl I. A qualitative interview study on psycho-oncologists' experiences with patient deaths in Germany. *Sci Rep.* 2025;15(1):22328. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-025-06991-x>.

Heddaeus D, Seeralan T, Maehder K, Porzelt S, Daubmann A, Dams J, Grochtdreis T, König HH, von dem Knesebeck O, Löwe B, Pepić A, Rosenkranz M, Schäfer I, Zimmermann T, Schulte B, Weigel A, Wegscheider K, Werner S, Zapf A, Scherer M, Dirmaier J, Härter M. Collaborative and stepped care for mental disorders: Results of a cluster-randomized controlled trial in outpatient care (The COMET Study). *Dtsch Arztebl Int.* 2025;122(5):127-134. <https://doi.org/10.3238/arztebl.m2025.0011>.

Bosch I, Siebel H, Heiser M, Inhestern L. Decision-making for children and adolescents: a scoping review of interventions increasing participation in decision-making. *Pediatr Res.* 2025;97(6):1840-1854. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41390-024-03509-5>.

Christalle E, Kriston L, Zeh S, Führes H, Schellhorn A, Hahlweg P, Zill JM, Härter M, Scholl I. Development and psychometric testing of EPAT-16: A short and valid measure for patient-centeredness from the patient's perspective. *HealthExpect.* 2025;28(3):e70296. <https://doi.org/10.1111/hex.70296>.

Topf C, Hahlweg P, Scholl I. A cross-sectional online survey on oncologists' attitudes toward and experiences with providing patients with audio recor-

dings of their medical encounters. *Sci Rep.* 2025 May 16;15(1):17100. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-025-01962-8>.

Selected research projects

SURVIVORSHIP - The Hamburg "Life after Cancer Program": Development, implementation and evaluation of a structured survivorship program - a hybrid effectiveness-implementation study (2025-2028), German Cancer Aid (PIs: M. Sinn, I. Scholl, C. Bokemeyer, H. Schulz)

NAMECA - Online Care guide for People with Mental Illnesses – Navigating Mental Health Care (2025-2028), Federal Joint Committee (G-BA Innovation Fund) (PIs: M. Köhnen, J. Dirmaier, M. Härter)

KITDS-CARE - Children with Tumor Disposition Syndromes and Their Families - Analysis of the Current Care Situation and Support Needs and Derivation of Care Recommendations (2024-2027), German Cancer Aid (PI: L. Inhestern)

SCOPE-CARE - Symptom Burden, Care Pathways and Experiences of Post-COVID Patients (2024-2027), Federal Ministry of Health (PI: M. Härter)

PASAGERO - Patient Safety in German Radiation Oncology (2023-2026), German Cancer Aid (PIs: I. Scholl, A. Baehr)



Major research interests

The main research and work focuses on the development of new therapeutic settings, integrated care models and the interplay of institutional factors with patient related factors in health care. This work is embedded in psychosocial and patient oriented tenor but includes knowledge and interventions based on biological psychiatry research. Major clinical care projects target on patient-centered and need adapted treatments, allocating more and specific intervention to patients with severe mental disorders and less intense but immediate treatment to mild diseases. A current project targets on mental care and therapy for migrants and refugees organized from a dedicated center (Centra) within a framework of professional therapeutic institutions and practices in Hamburg. Another major project focus on people with severe mental illness with a high risk of homelessness as well as delinquency to prevent adverse events and delinquency. This complex prevention and treatment strategy is funded by the Hamburg health authority within the so called "Psychiatrieplan 2025".

A further broad research field comprises the interaction between brain function/structure and mental training, virtual reality and environmental factors. Brain signatures and brain structure is directly modifiable, challenging previous scientific believes together with a high impact on future mental disorder intervention strategies. In this exiting research field latest methodological approaches in brain imaging are combined with cutting edge modeling approaches applied in clinical studies focusing on practical therapeutic interventions.

International and national cooperation

Important international cooperation partners are

the European Assertive Outreach Foundation (EAOF) as a worldwide leading institution in integrated care and the Internationale Arbeitsgemeinschaft Soteria (IAS) representing core expertise in milieu-therapeutic approaches for schizophrenia patients. Close relationships and joint projects are carried out with the Max Planck Institute for Human Development in Berlin, the Department for Psychiatry and Psychotherapy at the Charité Berlin, the Deutsches Forschungsnetz für Seelische Gesundheit e.B. (Fo-NetPsy), the Unit for Social and Community Psychiatry at the Queen Mary University London and The Functional Imaging Laboratory (FIL) at the Wellcome Trust in London.

Closing the treatment gap

We also aim to „treat the untreated“, focusing on underserved populations or individuals who are ambivalent about seeking treatment. This includes older adults with depression as well as patients with obsessive-compulsive disorder or psychosis using metacognitive group training (MCT) and innovative digital interventions (e.g., apps, online treatment, virtual reality, new formats). Other avenues of research include piloting artificial-based intelligence interventions, for example, for loneliness in later life.

Selected publications

Miegel, F., Scheunemann, J., Pampuch, S., Schultz, J., Hansen, B., Hagen, K., Gallinat, J., Zapf, A., Yassari, A. & Jelinek, L. (2025). Exploring the Black Box: What happens during brief concentrated exposure and response prevention for obsessive-compulsive disorder? *Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics*. 162-174. <https://doi.org/10.1159/000545178>.

Miegel, F., Jelinek, L., Lohse, L., Moritz, S., Blömer, J., Juckoff, K., Yassari, A. & Rolvien, L. (2025). Exposure and response prevention in mixed reality for pati-

ents with obsessive-compulsive disorder: A randomized controlled trial. *JAMA open*. 8, e2511488. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2025.11488>.

Lambert M, König H, Karow A, König HH, Rohenkohl A, Luedecke D, Schröter R, Finter C, Tlach L, Schindler A, Peter H, Scherer M, Mews C, Härter M, Bindt C, Löwe B, Briken P, Peper H, Schweiger M, Mösko M, Bock T, Deister A, Correll CU, Ozga AK, Pepić A, Zapf A, Gallinat J, Peth J, Konnopka A, Schulz H. Stepped, evidence-based and integrated care service model vs. usual care for mental disorders: A randomized controlled trial (RECOVER). *Psychiatry Res*. 2024; 339: 116007. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psychres.2024.116007>

Moritz S, Leucht S, Hoyer L, Schmotz S, Abramovitch A, Jelinek L. Towards the DSM-6: The intersection of OCD and psychosis. Expert perspectives on insight in the diagnosis of OCD. *Psychiatry Res*. 2025;344:116306. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psychres.2024.116306>

Kühn S, Butler O, Willmund G, Wesemann U, Zimmermann P, Gallinat J. The brain at war: effects of stress on brain structure in soldiers deployed to a

war zone. *Transl Psychiatry*. 2021 Apr 26;11(1):247. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41398-021-01356-0>

Selected research projects

Development of preventive and therapeutic outreach concepts for people with high risk severe mental illness in urban settings; Psychiatrieplan, Hamburg City Health Authority (J. Gallinat, D. Lüdecke, A. Rohenkohl, M. Lambert)

Development and evaluation of the Hamburg Center for Refugees and Migrants; BGV support program (J. Gallinat, S. Nick, I. Schäfer)

Model of cross-sectoral, coordinated, stepped, evidence-based care of mental disorders (RECOVER). Innovationsausschuss beim Gemeinsamen Bundesausschuss (01NVF16018) (M. Lambert, J. Gallinat, A. Karow)

DFG Major Research Instrument Program: High-field magnetic resonance imaging in neuronal plasticity research in psychiatry. DFG INST 337/33-1 FUGG (PI: J. Gallinat)



Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Psychotherapy

Director: Prof. Dr. Sarah Hohmann

Research Director: Prof. Dr. Ulrike Ravens-Sieberer

Major research interests

The major research focuses on mental health and well-being, health care utilization, prevention and health promotion in children and adolescents comprising national and international research projects. This also includes the evaluation of outpatient and inpatient care, e.g. specialized services in the Child and Adolescent Department such as treatment of depression, neurodevelopmental disorders like ADHD or autism, transgender healthcare, or mother-infant-care. Population-based studies provide information on socio-demographic determinants of access as well as barriers to the utilization of health care services in children and adolescents with mental health problems. Research also identifies and evaluates differing models of access to child health services that are present across Europe. Methodological approaches include the development of assessment instruments for Patient Reported Outcomes (PROs) measuring health-related quality of life in healthy and chronically ill children and adolescents.

International and national cooperation

All projects and research involve cooperation within the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, national and international partners.

National cooperations comprise e.g. Robert Koch-Institute, Federal Ministry of Health (BMG), Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFT), Federal Institute of Public Health (BfÖG), Hertie School Berlin, Charité Berlin, University Medical Center Köln, Hamburger Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Gesundheitsförderung (HAG), University of Colog-

ne, University of Ulm, Technical University Dresden, Central Institute of Mental Health, Mannheim.

International cooperations comprise e.g. European Commission, US National Institute of Health, WHO.

Selected publications

Herrmann, L., Barkmann, C., Bindt, C., Fahrenkrug, S., Breu, F., Grebe, J. & Becker-Hebly, I. (2023). Binary and Non-Binary Gender Identities, Internalizing Problems, and Treatment Wishes among Adolescents Referred to a Gender Identity Clinic in Germany. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 53, 91–106. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-023-02674-8>.

Kaman, A., Devine, J., Wirtz, M.A., Erhart, M., Boecker, M., Napp, A-K., ... & Ravens-Sieberer, U. (2024). Trajectories of mental health in children and adolescents during the COVID-19 pandemic: findings from the longitudinal COPSYP study. *Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Mental Health*, 18, 89. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13034-024-00776-2>.

Kaman, A., Erhart, M., Devine, J., Napp, A.-K., Reiß, F., Behn, S. & Ravens-Sieberer, U. (2025). Psychische Gesundheit von Kindern und Jugendlichen in Zeiten globaler Krisen: Ergebnisse der COPSYP-Längsschnittstudie von 2020 bis 2024. *Bundesgesundheitsblatt – Gesundheitsforschung – Gesundheitsschutz*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00103-025-04045-1>.

Zapf, H., Boettcher, J. Psychometric evaluation of the German version of the parent-adolescent communication scale. *Eur Child Adolesc Psychiatry* 34, 1097–1109 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00787-024-02541-4>.

Zoellner, F., Erhart, M., Schütz, R., Napp, A.-K., Devine, J., Reiss, F., ... Ravens-Sieberer, U. & Kaman, A. (2025). Two decades of loneliness among children and adolescents: longitudinal trends, risks and resources - Results from the German BELLA and COPSYP studies. *European Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00787-025-02779-6>.

Selected research projects

COMO study - impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the physical and mental health of children and adolescents against the background of socio-ecological contexts (2023-2026), Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (PI: Ulrike Ravens-Sieberer)

COPSYP study - impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and global crises on the mental health of children and adolescents in Germany (2020 - ongoing), Kroschke Child Foundation, Fritz and Hildegard Berg Foundation, Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (PI: Ulrike Ravens-Sieberer)

Hamburg Emotion Awareness and Regulation Group Training for Autistic Adolescents – HEART (2025-2027), Werner Otto Foundation (PI: Johannes Boettcher)

Network of University Medicine - Cross-sectional area Method and Biosample Hub (NUM QS-MB) and Surveillance and Rapid Response (NUM-SAR) (2025-2030), Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (PI: Ulrike Ravens-Sieberer)

Psychometric validation of the Camouflaging Autistic Traits Questionnaire (CAT-Q) in a German population of autistic and non-autistic adolescents (2023-2025), Werner Otto foundation, Stiftung Irene (PI: Johannes Boettcher)



Department for Sex Research, Sex Medicine and Forensic Psychiatry

Director: Prof. Dr. Peer Briken

Major research interests

The Institute is one of the leading European institutions in the field of interdisciplinary sex research. Clinical researchers – such as medical and mental health professionals – work closely with non-clinical colleagues, such as sociologists and criminologists. Our main focus research includes the following areas:

- sexual health and sexual health care,
- health care for patients with sexual problems and sexual dysfunctions,
- transgender- und intersex-related health care and its outcomes (e.g. E-Health-based interventions for transgender people),
- health care for patients with paraphilic disorders and persons with a history of sexual offending (Forensic Sexology),
- development of guidelines for conditions related to sexual health in the ICD-11,
- social science research and socio-epidemiological research on sexual health.

We conduct quantitative as well as qualitative and mixed methods studies. The Institute's methodological approaches include clinical studies with a longitudinal design, studies applying participatory and/or community sampling strategies as well as large surveys among the general population.

International and national cooperation

Our research projects involve cooperation within

the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf (e.g., the Junior Research Center for “Sexual and Reproductive Health in Overweight and Obesity”) as well as national and international partners.

At a national level, we have been able to carry out numerous research consortia and were funded by the BMBFTR, the BZgA and the G-BA, among others. We are part of the Prevention Network “Don't Offend! (‘Kein Täter werden’)”.

On an international level we work closely with European and North American colleagues e.g. within the European Professional Association for Transgender Health (EPATH), the International Association for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders (IATSO), and the European Sexual Medicine Network (<https://www.esmn-cost.eu>). We are part of two large EU research consortia on the prevention of sexualized violence against children. (For more information see <https://www.ukc.de/priority/> and <https://www.iterapi.se/sites/bridge/>).

As part of these cooperations, we work together with numerous international universities and research institutions (including: Columbia University, USA; Ghent University Hospital, Belgium; Johns Hopkins University, USA; Karolinska Institute, Sweden; The Royal Ottawa, Canada; University College London, UK; University of Porto and University of Aveiro, Portugal).

Selected publications

Nieder T, Renner J, Sehner S, Pepić A, Zapf A, Lambert M, Briken P, Dekker A (2024). Effect of the i2TransHealth e-health intervention on psychological distress among transgender and gender diverse adults from remote areas in Germany: A randomised controlled trial. *Lancet Digital Health* 6(12): e883-e893. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s2589-7500\(24\)00192-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/s2589-7500(24)00192-4)

[doi.org/10.1016/s2589-7500\(24\)00192-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/s2589-7500(24)00192-4)

Koops TU, Uhlenbusch N, Löwe B, Härter M, Harth V, Briken P (2024). Do indicators for DSM-5 sexual dysfunction and somatic symptom disorder overlap? Evidence from the Hamburg City Health Study population-based sample. *Journal of Sexual Medicine* 21(12): 1144-1151. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jsxmed/qdae113>

Briken P, Böthe B, Carvalho J, Coleman E, Giral di A, Kraus SW, Lew-Starowicz M, Pfaus JG (2024). Assessment and treatment of compulsive sexual behavior disorder: a sexual medicine perspective. *Sexual Medicine Reviews* 12(3): 355-370. <https://doi.org/10.1093/sxmrev/qeae014>

Erkan V, Schröder J, Briken P, Tozdan, S (2023). Factors associated with contact sexual offending among a non-forensic sample of women with sexual interest in children – Results from an anonymous online survey. *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment* 36(4): 418-440. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10790632231159076>

Reed GM, First MB, Billieux J, Cloitre M, Briken P, Achab S, Brewin CR, King DL, Kraus SW, Bryant RA (2022). Emerging experience with selected new categories in the ICD-11: complex PTSD, prolonged grief disorder, gaming disorder, and compulsive sexual behaviour disorder. *World Psychiatry* 21(2): 189-213. <https://doi.org/10.1002/wps.20960>

Selected research projects

Junior Research Center for “Sexual and Reproductive Health in Overweight and Obesity” (SHROO) (2024–2026). Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space. (PI: Anke Diemert; Co-PI at the Institute: Peer Briken, Arne Dekker)

Together4Trans: S3 guideline on interdisciplinary integrated healthcare for gender incongruence (2024–2026). The federal Joint Committee (GB-A Innovation Fund) (PI: Timo Nieder)

Metacognitive training to destigmatize outpatient psychotherapeutic treatment of people with pedophilia (MKT-EPP) (2023–2025). Federal Ministry of Health (PI: Michael Reininger, Peer Briken)

Prevention to Reduce Incidence of Sexual Abuse by Reaching Individuals Concerned About Their Risk to Young People (PRIORITY) (2022–2025). European Union's Internal Security Fund Police (ISF-P) (PI: Peer Briken, Arne Dekker)

Subproject D of the ForuM research network - Research on dealing with sexualized violence and other forms of abuse in the Protestant Church in Germany (2020-2024). Protestant Church in Germany (PI: Safiye Tozdan, Peer Briken)



Institute for Occupational and Maritime Medicine

Director: Prof. Dr. Volker Harth

Major research interests

The department of Occupational and Maritime Medicine (ZfAM) has a wide range of research interests in the field of health services. Fundamental interests in occupational health services research include: improving occupational health care, involving better integration of preventive and curative care; quality in occupational health care; considering the relation between work and health. The department carries out various types of studies, including both retrospective and prospective design, with and without intervention. Both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods are used.

Currently the department is undertaking a project to explore the occupational medical and occupational psychology care situation in especially micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). Based on the project results, solutions for the needs of MSMEs will be developed. Further research focuses on worksite physical and mental health promotion in different work settings (e.g. health and working conditions of midwives, exposure to anesthetics of medical staff in recovery rooms, and early detection of lung cancer after asbestos exposure). Medical guidelines to protect health and prevent work-related diseases are developed, e.g. an update of the guideline for design and health aspects of night and shift work.

The department considers work site health promotion and prevention not only for land-based workplaces but also for maritime and off-shore working environments. Maritime health projects cover research in healthcare access for workers on the high seas, delivery and integration, telehealth, psychological and physical health problems, psychological functioning and health and safety-related issues. For safety-related issues toxicological analyses can be offered and included. Current research projects

focus on the optimization of health management on container and merchant vessels and the development of onboard health promotion. The department's expertise in maritime and international health is further reflected in active participation in joint European research projects. Furthermore, Prof. Harth is responsible as principal investigator for the NAKO health study at the study center Hamburg.

International and national cooperation

The department has stable and longstanding cooperation partners within the Center for Health Care Research & Public Health, the Center for Psychosocial Medicine, and the Hamburg City Health Study, UKE. The cooperation partners are as diverse as the research projects; here is a selection:

- Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Germany
- The Institute for Prevention and Occupational Medicine of the German Social Accident Insurance, Ruhr University Bochum, Germany
- Port of Hamburg Health Center, Germany
- National Institute of Occupational Health, Oslo, Norway
- University of Thessaly, Greece
- World Maritime University, Malmö, Sweden
- Participation in teaching of the degree program "MSc in Public Health and Epidemiology" (University of Thessaly)

Selected publications

Kräfte J, Wirth T, Harth V, Mache S. (2024) Digital stress perception among German hospital nurses and associations with healthoriented leadership, emotional exhaustion and work-privacy conflict: a cross-sectional study. BMC Nursing; 23:213. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12912-024-01825-z>.

Reißmann S, Guliani M, Wirth T, Groneberg DA, Harth V, Mache S. (2025) Psychosocial working conditions and violence prevention climate in German emergency departments - a cross-sectional study. BMC Emerg Med.;25(1):17. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12873-024-01155-y>.

Wirth T, Kräft J, Marquardt B, Harth V, Mache S (2024) Indicators of technostress, their association with burnout and the moderating role of support offers among nurses in German hospitals: a cross-sectional study BMJ OPEN 14(7):e085705. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2024-085705>.

Arslan L, Dengler D, Belz L, Neumann FA, Zyriax BC, Harth V, Oldenburg M (2024) Possibilities, usage and needs of an app-based health prevention among seafarers PLOS ONE 19(11):e0310440. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0310440>.

Labe F, Twerenbold R, Toprak B, Koch P, Zyriax BC, Afolderbach S, Damerau L, Hoven H, Zeeb H, Herold R, Harth V (2025) Occupational exposures and coronary heart disease in the Hamburg City Health Study (HCHS) - a cross-sectional study. BMC Public Health. 25(1):180. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-024-21259-1>.

Selected research projects

AI-healthy ship - Rethinking Health Promotion in Maritime Environments (2023-2028), European Regional Development Fund (EFRE) (PI: V. Harth, M. Oldenburg)

NaaV: North German occupational medicine and occupational psychology health services research: ensuring quality, further developing digital transformation (2024 -2026), BAuA (Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Occupational Medicine) and BMAS (Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs) (PI: V. Harth, S. Mache)

EVALUNG - Evaluation and quality assurance in the extended screening program of the German Social Accident Insurance for early detection of asbestos-related lung diseases using low-dose computed tomography (2021 - 2026), German Social Accident Insurance - DGUV (Deutsche Gesetzliche Unfallversicherung) (PI: V. Harth)

Healthy Midwives - A mixed-methods study on the health and working conditions of midwives in Germany (2024 - 2027), Professional Association for Health Services and Welfare Care (BGW) (PI: B.-C. Zyriax, Partner: V. Harth, S. Mache)

Asthma LINDern: Longitudinal study on the impact of individual prevention on employees with work-related allergic bronchial asthma on asthma control, disease-related quality of life and life satisfaction. (2024 - 2028) German Social Accident Insurance - DGUV (Deutsche Gesetzliche Unfallversicherung) (PI: A. Preisser, V. Harth)



Center for Psychosocial Medicine Center for Interdisciplinary Addiction Research (ZIS)

Director: Prof. Dr. Ingo Schäfer, MPH

Major research interests

The ZIS is an interdisciplinary research center of the University of Hamburg, combining the expertise and research resources of four clinics and institutes of the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf (Psychiatry and Psychotherapy; Forensic Medicine; Medical Psychology, Medical Microbiology, Virology and Hygiene) and three social science departments of the University of Hamburg (Social and Political Science; Sociology; Criminological Social Science). It integrates the excellence of health care experts, public health researchers and social science experts in research on substance and non-substance associated addiction disorders and their consequences. The main fields of research in the center are problems related to alcohol, cannabis and illegal drugs, somatic and psychiatric comorbidities (e.g. infectiology, psychological trauma) as well as pathological gambling. The methodological perspectives encompass a variety of methods and techniques - such as qualitative and quantitative research within the broader framework of epidemiology, clinical research, health care service research, and the public health intervention research.

International and national cooperation

The ZIS puts a strong emphasize on collaborations within the Center for Health Care Research & Public Health and on collaborations on national and international level. Many ZIS activities are part of national or European research networks. The ZIS has regularly been involved in capacity building projects in the field of addiction in different parts of the world, including collaborations with the European Drug Agency (EUDA) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Selected publications

Manthey J, Huß K, Buth S, Kraus L, Schranz A, Kilian C, Gallinat J, Schäfer I, Schulte B (2025) Utilisation of alcohol-related treatment after a first alcohol use disorder diagnosis in Hamburg, Germany. *Eur Psychiatry*. <https://doi.org/10.1192/j.eurpsy.2025.8>.

López-Atanes M, Rosenkranz M, Erkoreka L, Reicio-Barbero M, Bari M, Hiller P, Penka S, Lindert J, Martens M, Schäfer I (2025) Special needs of refugees with substance use disorders from conflict-affected countries: a comparison with German-born individuals. *Soc Psychiatry Psychiatr Epidemiol*. <https://doi.org/10.1192/j.eurpsy.2025.8>

Lotzin A, Stahlmann K, Acquarini E, Ajdukovic D, Ajdukovic M, Anastassiou-Hadjicharalambous X, Ardino V, Bondjers K, Bragesjö M, Böttche M, Dragan M, Figueiredo-Braga M, Gelezelyte O, Grajewski P, Javakhishvili JD, Kazlauskas E, Lenferink L, Lioupi C, Lueger-Schuster B, Mooren T, Sales L, Tsiskarishvili L, Novakovic IZ, Schäfer I; ADJUST Study Consortium (2024) A longitudinal study of risk and protective factors for symptoms of adjustment disorder during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Eur J Psychotraumatol*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/20008066.2024.2318944>.

Kenntemich L, von Hülsen L, Eggert L, Kriston L, Gallinat J, Schäfer I, Lotzin A (2024) Trajectories of depressive and anxiety symptoms and associated risk factors during the COVID-19 pandemic in Germany: A longitudinal cohort study. *Journal of Affective Disorders*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2024.03.131>.

Manthey J, Rehm J, Verthein U (2024) Germany's cannabis act: a catalyst for European drug policy reform? *The Lancet Regional Health - Europe*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanepe.2024.100929>.

Selected research projects

Prevention and Treatment of Substance Use Disorders in Refugees (2019-2026), Federal Ministry of Education and Research (PI: I. Schäfer)

Patient Routes of People with Alcohol Use Disorders in Germany' (2022-2025), Federal Joint Committee (G-BA) - Innovation Fund (PI: I. Schäfer)

S3-Guideline on opioid-related disorders – optimization of care for misuse or dependence on illegal opioids (2022-2025), Federal Joint Committee (G-BA) - Innovation Fund (PI: I. Schäfer)

Evaluation of an Interactive Cross-Sectoral 'Blended Treatment' Approach for Alcohol Use Disorders Following Detoxification (2024-2027), Federal Joint Committee (G-BA) - Innovation Fund (PI: I. Schäfer)

Scientific Evaluation of the Cannabis Consumption Legislation in Germany (2025-2028), Federal Ministry of Health (PI: J. Manthey)



German Center of Addiction Research in Childhood and Adolescence

Director: PD Dr. Kerstin Paschke

Major research interests

The center's mission is to increase knowledge about risks and consequences of substance use and to contribute to improvement of services in the area of addiction prevention and treatment. The main research and work focus is on the prevention of addictive disorders including prevalent behavioral addictions like internet-related addictions, diagnosis, early intervention of substance use and abuse as well as epidemiology and clinical research on treatment services of out- and inpatient centers for children and adolescents with substance use disorders and behavioral addictions. In our basic and applied research, we take a contextual-developmental perspective on addictive behaviors and its associated psychopathology. Our applied research is conducted under externally valid conditions with a focus on family and school settings and studies are designed to have practically relevant implications to real world settings.

An important aspect in this context are issues of implementation, quality control and potential for long-term dissemination and transferability, e.g. by means of published intervention manuals. An important area for the center is to explore the effectiveness of technology-based (preventive) interventions for addictive behaviors among young people.

International and national cooperation

The center has established close cooperative structures within the field of child- and adolescence psychiatry and clinical child- and adolescent psychology. Nationally we have been and currently are partner in several large research networks. In addition, we are the coordinator of a network on addiction in childhood and adolescence uniting nine part-

ners. Internationally we have existing cooperation with research institutes, including those in Sydney, Melbourne and Shanghai, in the broader field of addiction research. In Europe, the center has coordinated the development of an internet-based platform for the prevention of risky substance use and is currently part of a European initiative to alcohol use prevention among the young in 11 countries. In Hamburg, there is a contracted cooperation with all major services for addiction prevention. Finally, the center is closely associated with the clinical care facilities at the UKE such as the Outpatient Treatment Center for Drug- and Alcohol-Abusing Adolescents, Young Adults and their Families (DAA), the Youth Addiction Treatment Center, the Addiction Day Treatment Center, as well as with further clinical and scientific departments of the UKE.

Selected publications

Paschke, K., Napp, A., & Thomasius, R. (2022). Applying ICD-11 criteria of Gaming Disorder to identify problematic video streaming in adolescents: Conceptualization of a new clinical phenomenon. *Journal of Behavioral Addictions*, 11(2), 451-466. <https://doi.org/10.1556/2006.2022.00041>.

Thomasius, R., Paschke, K., & Arnaud, N. (2022). Substance-Use Disorders in Children and Adolescents. *Deutsches Arzteblatt international*, 119(25), 440-450. <https://doi.org/10.3238/arztebl.m2022.0122>.

Paschke, K., Arnaud, N., Austermann, M. I., & Thomasius, R. (2021). Risk factors for prospective increase in psychological stress during COVID-19 lockdown in a representative sample of adolescents and their parents. *BJPsych Open*, 7(3), e94. <https://doi.org/10.1192/bjo.2021.49>.

Busch, K., ten Hoor, G.A., Paschke, K. et al. (2025).

Acceptance of online therapy for children and adolescents with digital media use disorders: perspectives from child and adolescent psychiatrists and psycho-therapists in Germany. *Eur Child Adolesc Psychiatry* 34, 2215-2227. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00787-025-02640-w>.

Schettler, L.M., Thomasius, R. & Paschke, K. Emotional dysregulation predicts problematic gaming in children and youths: a cross-sectional and longitudinal approach. *Eur Child Adolesc Psychiatry* 33, 605-616 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00787-023-02184-x>.

Selected research projects

EnTree – A gamified. Family-based and transdiagnostic therapy to promote the development of children with mental illness (2025-2028), Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (PI Sarah Hohmann, Co-PI Kerstin Paschke); <https://www.uke.de/entree>

hood and adolescence – Epidemiology, developmental trajectories, and the addition-promoting role of media-inherent factors (2025 – 2030), DAK-Gesundheit (PI Kerstin Paschke); <https://www.medien-suchthilfe.info/schnelle-hilfe/>

Mindfulmedia - Promoting the digital resilience of young people (2024-2025), Caritas Association for the City of Bonn (registered association) / State of North Rhine-Westphalia (PI Kerstin Paschke, Co-PI Nicolas Arnaud)

CANJuStop – Group training against problematic cannabis use in youth services (2023-2026), Federal Ministry of Health (PI Rainer Thomasius, Nicolas Arnaud); <https://www.uke.de/projekte/canjustop/>

RES@T - Resource-strengthening adolescent and parent training for media-related disorders (2021 – 2025), G-BA Innovationsfonds (PI: Rainer Thomasius, Kerstin Paschke); UKE <https://www.uke.de/projekte/resat/index.html> - Res@t



Department of Medical Biometry and Epidemiology

Director: Prof. Dr. Antonia Zapf

Major research interests

Planning, supervising and evaluation of studies in the field of health care research.

Selection of international and national cooperations

- Department of Clinical Research, University of Southern Denmark
- The Nelson Mandela African Institution of Sciences and Technology, School of Life Sciences and Bioengineering, Arusha, Tanzania
- Institute of General Practice and Family Medicine, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin
- Institute of Family Medicine/General Practice, University of Duisburg-Essen
- Department of Psychosomatics and Psychotherapy, Psychologische Hochschule Berlin

Selected publications

Götze K, Bausewein C, Chernyak N, Feddersen B, Fuchs A, Hummers E, Icks A, Kirchner A, Klosterhalfen S, Kranefeld N, Laag S, Lezius S, Meyer G, Montalbo J, Nauck F, Pepić A, Przybylla S, Rosu I, Schildmann J, Schunk M, Stanze H, Stöhr A, Thilo N, Vogel C, Zapf A, Marckmann G, in der Schmitzen J (2025) Care Consistency With Care Preferences in Nursing Homes: A Cluster-Randomized Study of the Effects of an Advance Care Planning Program (BEVOR). DTSCH ARZTEBL INT 122: 379-86. <https://doi.org/10.3238/arztebl.m2025.0077>.

Belau M, Wiessner C, Sehner S, Dekker A, Briken P (2025) Sexual assault experience, depression, and heavy substance use among German adults: an exploratory mediation analysis. BMC PUBLIC HEALTH 25(1):935. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-025-22117-4>

Holz A, Obi N, Pischon T, Schulze M, Ahrens W, Berger K, Bohn B, Brenner H, Emmel C, Fischer B, Greiser K, Harth V, Holleczer B, Kaaks R, Karch A, Katzke V, Keil T, Krist L, Leitzmann M, Meinke-Franze C, Michels K, Nimptsch K, Peters A, Riedel O, Schikowski T, Schipf S, Schmidt B, Thierry S, Hellwig K, Riemann-Lorenz K, Heesen C, Becher H (2025) The Relation of Multiple Sclerosis to Family History, Lifestyle, and Health Factors in Childhood and Adolescence: Findings of a Case-Control Study Nested Within the German National Cohort (NAKO) Study. DTSCH ARZTEBL INT 112(13):348-354. <https://doi.org/10.3238/arztebl.m2025.0069>.

Heddaeus D, Seeralan T, Maehder K, Porzelt S, Daubmann A, Dams J, Grochtdreis T, König H, von dem Knesebeck O, Löwe B, Pepić A, Rosenkranz M, Schäfer I, Zimmermann T, Schulte B, Weigel A, Wegscheider K, Werner S, Zapf A, Scherer M, Dirmaier J, Härter M (2025) Collaborative and Stepped Care for Mental Disorders: Results of a Cluster-Randomized Controlled Trial in Outpatient Care (the COMET Study). DTSCH ARZTEBL INT. 2025;122(5):127-134. <https://doi.org/10.3238/arztebl.m2025.0011>.

Nieder T, Renner J, Sehner S, Pepić A, Zapf A, Lambert M, Briken P, Dekker A (2024) Effect of the i2TransHealth e-health intervention on psychological distress among transgender and gender diverse adults from remote areas in Germany: A randomised controlled trial. LANCET DIGIT HEALTH. 2024;6(12):e883-e893. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2589-7500\(24\)00192-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2589-7500(24)00192-4).

Selected research projects

BENITA (Bewegungs- und Ernährungsintervention bei Ovarialkarzinom – Entwicklung eines Versorgungskonzepts und Evaluation in der klinischen Routine), 2023 – 2026, G-BA Innovationsfonds, PI : H. Schulz

InATheGer (Modellprojekt zur Intensivierten Interprofessionellen Ambulanten Therapie Geriatrischer Patient:innen), 2024 – 2027, G-BA Innovationsfonds, PI: L. Dini

StroConnect (Kooperative Schlaganfallakutversorgung mit verbessertem Therapiezugang durch Einbindung des Rettungsdienstes in ein neurovaskuläres Netzwerk), 2025 – 2028, G-BA Innovationsfonds, PI: G. Thomalla

AFT (Alliance-Focused Training as an integrative approach to improve therapists' competencies in dealing with alliance ruptures and prevent negative outcome in psychotherapy for depression), 2024 – 2027, DFG, PI: A. Gumz

A Randomized Feasibility Study on the Efficacy of Cognitive Behavioral Sex Therapy as an Adjunct Short-Term Intervention for Men with Peyronie's Disease), 2022- 2026, ESSM, PI: T. Nieder



Department for Psychosomatic Medicine and Psychotherapy

Director: Prof. Dr. med. Bernd Löwe

Major research interests

Research at the Clinic and Outpatients Clinic for Psychosomatic Medicine and Psychotherapy focuses on patients with persistent somatic symptoms (PSS), somatic symptom disorders, bodily symptoms in connection with chronic physical or rare diseases, and on patients with eating disorders. We conduct research to improve early and adequate care of these patient groups, often affected by considerable durations of untreated illness and chronic courses. Our understanding of symptoms is grounded in the interaction of psychological, biomedical and social factors across medical conditions. Latest findings from health services research guide our research questions; patient care in our clinic and close collaborations with patient organizations enable privileged insights into the lived experiences of those affected, their needs and ideas for solutions. The perspectives of care providers (including general practitioners, other care providers) and relatives complete our research of relevant stakeholders in the provision of care. Our empirical research methods range from qualitative methods and experimental designs to randomized controlled trials.

International and national cooperation

EURONET-SOMA is a European expert network of clinicians and scientists led by our department to improve the care of people with persistent somatic symptoms (<https://www.euronet-soma.eu/>). Representatives from countries with established psychosomatic patient care and those from countries with less established care collaborate to improve care for PSS across Europe by fostering research collaboration, strengthening networks with relevant stakeholders and decision makers as well as establishing national and international guidelines. Joint publica-

tions, the promotion of young scientists and education of practitioners across Europe are core activities of the network.

We also participate in the lead of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovation Training Network ETUDE (Encompassing Training in fUNCTIONal Disorders across Europe), funded by the European Commission, Horizon 2020 Program. The initiative originated from the EURONET-SOMA network and provided 15 early stage researchers with three years of PhD training. We are dedicated to promoting the scientific competence of doctoral students in psychosomatic research in Germany take through the lead of a two-year clinical research qualification program. By being engaged as board members in national and international associations, we strive to promote health services research in the field of psychosomatic medicine.

Selected publications

Löwe B, Toussaint A, Rosmalen JGM, Huang WL, Burton C, Weigel A, Levenson JL, Henningsen P (2024) Persistent physical symptoms: definition, genesis, and management. *Lancet*; 403: 2649-62. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(24\)00623-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(24)00623-8).

Toussaint A, Weigel A, Löwe B, for the EURONET-SOMA group (2025) The overlooked burden of persistent physical symptoms: a call for action in European healthcare. *Lancet Reg Health Eur*; 48. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanepe.2024.101140>.

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Depping M, Uhlenbusch N, Härter M, Schramm C, Löwe B (2021) Efficacy of a Brief, Peer-Delivered Self-management Intervention for Patients With Rare Chronic Diseases: A Randomized Clinical Trial. *Jama Psychiatr*; 78(6):607-615. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2020.4783>.

Selected research projects

SOMACROSS - Persistent somatic symptoms across diseases: from risk factors to modification (2021-2025), DFG - Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (PI: B. Löwe) <https://kurzlinks.de/FOR5211>

SOMA.COV - Long COVID: Psychologische Risikofaktoren und ihre Modifikation (2023-2026), DFG - Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (PI: P. Engelmann, B. Löwe, A. Zapf)

Q.RARE.LI - Verbesserung der Lebensqualität von Menschen mit autoimmunen Lebererkrankungen durch strukturierte Peer-Unterstützung (2022-2025) European Joint Programme on Rare Diseases - Joint Transnational Call 2021, Standort Deutschland: BMBF - Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (PI: B. Löwe)

ETUDE - Encompassing Training in Functional Disorders across Europe (2021-2024), European Commission, Horizon 2020 Program (PI: B. Löwe) <https://etude-itn.eu/>

FABIANA - Identifizierung förderlicher und hemmender Faktoren für die Behandlungsaufnahme bei Patientinnen mit Anorexia nervosa: Ein Weg zur wirksamen Sekundärprävention und Prognoseverbesserung (2018-2022), DFG - Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (PI: B. Löwe)



Department of Prosthetic Dentistry

Head of research: PD Dr. Ghazal Aarabi, MSc and Prof. Dr. Guido Heydecke

Major research interests

The departments' research is focused on two main areas:

Health Services Research

Oral health literacy and oral health of vulnerable populations, particularly those with migration history and low socio-economic status. This research area focusses on assessing oral health disparities in the German population and the development of digital health interventions.

Methodological approaches include the application of theories and frameworks for the development of mobile health applications, a combination of quantitative as well as qualitative data sources, the development and testing of instruments for the assessment of patient-reported outcomes, and the use of primary data from randomized controlled intervention studies.

Epidemiology

Large epidemiological studies on periodontitis and the oral microbiome in association with other systemic diseases, particularly brain and cardiovascular health.

Methodological approaches include the use of primary data from the Hamburg City Health Study (HCHS) and the German National Cohort (NAKO) and the analyses of secondary data. Shotgun and 16S rRNA sequencing is applied to analyze oral microbiome data.

International and national cooperation

The research group cooperates with several institu-

tions and departments at the UKE. The Center for Dental and Oral Medicine participates in the HCHS. National cooperation is focused on the NAKO health study and the German Oral Health Study (DMS). International collaborations are established with several research institutions and universities worldwide.

Selected publications

Lieske B, Kofahl C, Borof K, Spinler K, Poth A, Dingoyan D, Beikler T, Heydecke G, Aarabi G (2025) Oral health literacy and oral health status of a german adult population with migration background - findings from the MuMi Study. *J Migr Health* 7;11:100309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmh.2025.100309>.

Weil MT, Spinler K, Lieske B, Dingoyan D, Walther C, Heydecke G, Kofahl C, Aarabi G (2023) An Evidence-Based Digital Prevention Program to Improve Oral Health Literacy of People With a Migration Background: Intervention Mapping Approach. *JMIR Form Res* 11;7:e36815. <https://doi.org/10.2196/36815>.

Aarabi G, Schenk L, Kuhr K, Jordan AR, Lieske L (2025) Disease and care prevalence of people with migration history: Results of the 6th German Oral Health Study (DMS • 6) *Quintessence Int* 56 (Suppl. 3):S120-S125. <https://doi.org/10.3290/j.qi.b5981982>.

Mayer C, Walther C, Borof K, Nägele FL, Petersen M, Schell M, Gerloff C, Kühn S, Heydecke G, Beikler T, Cheng B, Thomalla G, Aarabi G (2024) Association between periodontal disease and microstructural brain alterations in the Hamburg City Health Study. *J Clin Periodontol* 51(12):1598-1609. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcpe.13828>.

Bay B, Borof K, Cheng B, Lieske B, Tilemann L, Wees L, Zyriax B-C, Behrendt C-A, Thomalla G, Blankenberg S, Beikler T, Twerenbold R, Brunner FJ, Aarabi G (2025) Periodontal health, extent and clinical outcome of

atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease in the Hamburg City Health Study. *J Dent Res* (acceptance date of 23-Jul-2025).

Selected research projects

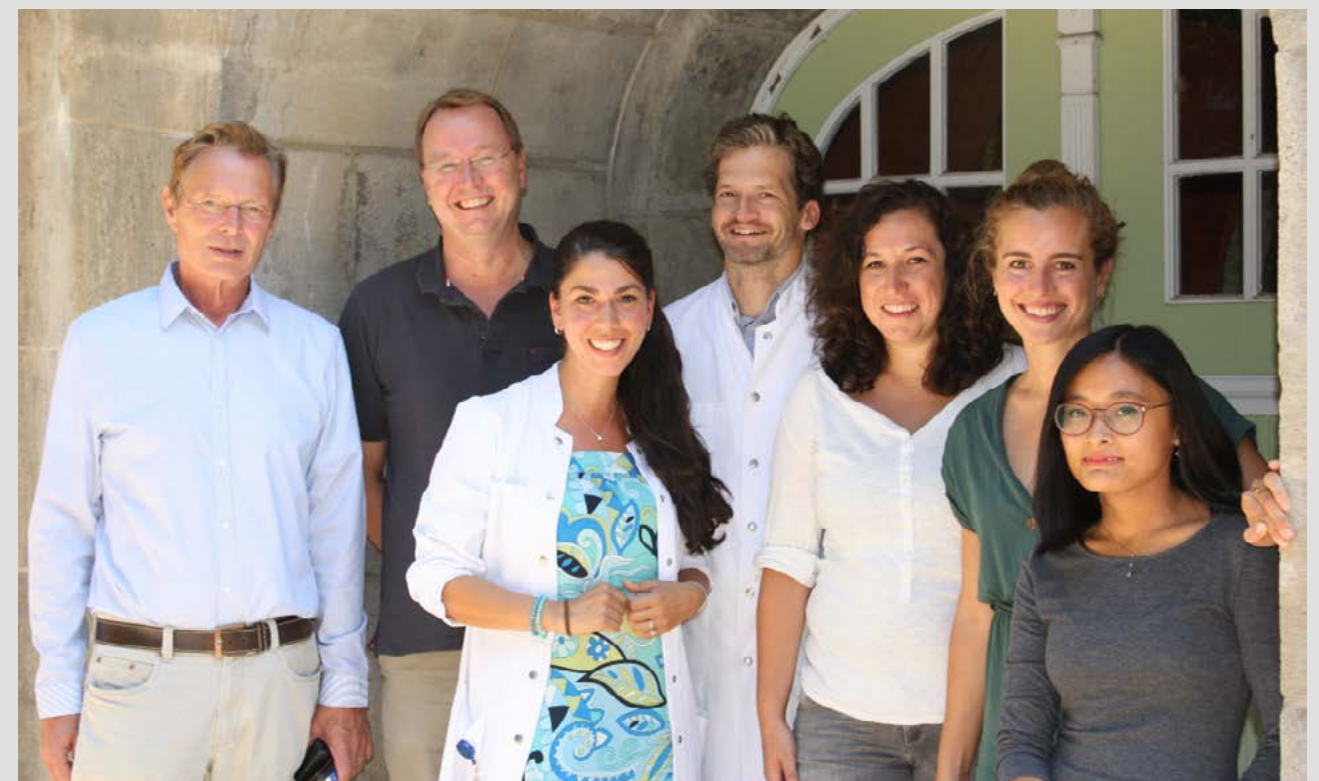
MuMi: Promotion of oral health and oral health literacy of people with migration background, Innovation Fund of the Joint Federal Committee (G-BA), 2018-2022 (PI: G. Aarabi, Konsortial-partner: C. Kofahl)

MuMi+: Healthy teeth for all: promoting oral health literacy from maternity to old age, Innovation Fund of the Joint Federal Committee (G-BA), 2025-present (PI: G. Aarabi, Konsortial-partner: C. Kofahl, B. Zyriax)

PAROBRAIN: Periodontitis as a risk factor for cerebral microangiopathies and silent cerebral infarctions, German Research Foundation (DFG), 2019-2021 (PI: G. Aarabi, G. Thomalla)

DFG Sequencing Call: Next Generation Sequencing Project: Identification of oral microbial signatures in periodontitis and their relationship to cardiovascular disease, German Research Foundation (DFG), 2023-present (PI: G. Aarabi, K. Hertrampf, A. Schäfer)

PAROMIND: Association between periodontitis, brain structure integrity and cognitive functions, German Research Foundation (DFG), 2024-present (PI: G. Aarabi, B. Cheng)



Major research interests

Stroke is one of the clinical and scientific main areas of interest at the Department of Neurology. Two multiprofessional research groups, the Experimental Electrophysiology and Neuroimaging (xENi) led by Fanny Quandt and Robert Schulz, and the Clinical Stroke and Imaging Research (CSI) led by Götz Thomalla, aim at improving the understanding and treatment of stroke and cerebrovascular disease including neurorehabilitation research and health services research.

Neurorehabilitation research represents one of our core research areas. In the StroCare project, funded by the German Innovation Fund from 2019 – 2023 we led the StroCare project, where we collaborated with two further stroke centers, five rehabilitation clinics and a health insurance provider (BARMER).

In 2025 we started StroConnect, a new project also funded by the German Innovation Fund. This project aims to improve the interface between emergency medical services and acute stroke care through tele-neurological consultations at the scene of the emergency, enabling quicker and more targeted patient triage. During patient transport, a digital consultation protocol is transmitted to the receiving hospital to accelerate inpatient acute care and improve access to thrombectomy. The impact of the intervention is evaluated using care process data, patient surveys, and a cost-benefit analysis. If successful, the concept can be transferred to other regions and medical specialties.

Clinical trials of acute stroke treatment represent a core research area of our department. In an individual patient data meta-analysis, we provided further evidence for efficacy and safety of intravenous thrombolysis in patients with stroke of unknown onset (EOS collaboration). These data have led to changes in national and international guidelines

for the management of acute stroke.

In collaboration with partners at UKE and other national partners, we have studied the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on hospital care and outcome of patients with stroke and other cardiovascular emergencies. In a collaboration within the German Stroke Registry – Endovascular Treatment, we could show that German stroke centers were able to maintain a high procedural quality of interventional acute stroke care during the pandemic.

International and national cooperation

Our research groups are well connected in national and international networks of stroke trialists and stroke researchers including the clinical trial networks of WAKE-UP, TENSION, PRECIOUS and since 2025 EAST-STROKE, as well as the Global Alliance of Independent Networks focused on Stroke trials (GAINS).

. Together with partners from Berlin and Munich, we established a nationwide, open, academic registry to study implementation, complications, and outcome of mechanical thrombectomy for treatment of acute stroke in clinical practice in Germany (German Stroke Registry). In the two projects funded by the German Innovation Fund StroCare and StroConnect we have established a network of partners, working in the acute or rehabilitation sector as well as insurance partners to optimize stroke care.

Selected publications

Behrendt CA, Seiffert M, Gerloff C, L'Hoest H, Acar L, Thomalla G. How Does SARS-CoV-2 Infection Affect Survival of Emergency Cardiovascular Patients? A Cohort Study From a German Insurance Claims Database. Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg. 2021 Mar

12:S1078-5884(21)00238-0. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejvs.2021.03.006>.

Seiffert M, Brunner FJ, Rimmel M, Thomalla G, Marschall U, L'Hoest H, Acar L, Debus ES, Blankenberg S, Gerloff C, Behrendt CA. Temporal trends in the presentation of cardiovascular and cerebrovascular emergencies during the COVID-19 pandemic in Germany: an analysis of health insurance claims. Clin Res Cardiol. 2020 Dec;109(12):1540-1548. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00392-020-01723-9>.

Thomalla G, Boutitie F, Ma H, Koga M, Ringleb P, Schwamm LH, Wu O, Bendszus M, Bladin CF, Campbell BCV, Cheng B, Churilov L, Ebinger M, Endres M, Fiebach JB, Fukuda-Doi M, Inoue M, Kleinig TJ, Latour LL, Lemmens R, Levi CR, Leys D, Miwa K, Molina CA, Muir KW, Nighoghossian N, Parsons MW, Pedraza S, Schellinger PD, Schwab S, Simonsen CZ, Song SS, Thijs V, Toni D, Hsu CY, Wahlgren N, Yamamoto H, Yassi N, Yoshimura S, Warach S, Hacke W, Toyoda K, Donnan GA, Davis SM, Gerloff C; Evaluation of unknown Onset Stroke thrombolysis trials (EOS) investigators. Intravenous alteplase for stroke with unknown time of onset guided by advanced imaging: systematic review and meta-analysis of individual patient data. Lancet. 2020 Nov 14;396(10262):1574-1584. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736\(20\)32163-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736(20)32163-2)

Bendszus M, Fiehler J, Subtil F, Bonekamp S, Aamodt AH, Fuentes B, Gizewski ER, Hill MD; Krajina A, Piotrot L, Simonsen CZ, Zelenak K, Blauenfeldt A, Cheng B, Denis A, Deutschmann H, Dorn F, Flottmann F, Gellissen S, Gerber JC, Zuber S; Endovascular Thrombectomy for acute ischaemic stroke with established large infarct: multicenter, open-label, randomized trial. Lancet. 2023 Oct 11; 402:1753-63. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736\(23\)02032-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736(23)02032-9).

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Selected research projects

„StroConnect – Kooperative Schlaganfallakutversorgung mit verbessertem Therapiezugang durch Einbindung des Rettungsdienstes in ein neuro-vasculäres Netzwerk“ (2025-2028)

„StroCare - Optimierte sektorenübergreifende, koordinierte und evidenzbasierte Behandlung von Schlaganfallpatienten durch übergreifende Prozessverantwortung und patientenorientierte Ergebnisqualitätsmessung“ (2019-2023)

„Efficacy and safety of thrombectomy in stroke with extended lesion and extended time window: a randomized, controlled trial (TENSION)“ (2018-2022) funding by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (PI: Götz Thomalla)

„Ergebnisqualität durch Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) bei Schlaganfallpatienten in der klinischen Routine (EPOS)“ (2017-2019) funded by „Innovationsfond des GB-A“ (Innovation Found GB-A) (PI: Götz Thomalla)

„PREvention of Complications to Improve Outcome in elderly patients with acute Stroke (PRECIOUS)“ (2015-2020) European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (PI Germany: Götz Thomalla)



Department of Voice, Speech and Hearing Disorders, University Dysphagia Center Hamburg

Director: PD Dr. med Christina Pflug

Major research interests

The Department of Voice, Speech and Hearing Disorders is a superregional interdisciplinary diagnostic center. It includes the University Dysphagia Center, whose major research interest is in epidemiology, prevention, diagnostics and treatment of swallowing disorders (dysphagia).

Dysphagia is associated with various diseases, can result in life-threatening symptoms such as malnutrition or pneumonia, and has a major impact on the quality of life of those affected and their families.

The relevance of dysphagia after radiotherapy was investigated in patients with oropharyngeal carcinoma in cooperation with the Department of Radiotherapy.

In collaboration with the Department of Neurology, a special research focus within a large-scale project (DysPD) is on the field of dysphagia in Parkinson's disease. In several subprojects we evaluate innovative treatment methods and modalities that focus on rehabilitating swallowing safety and efficiency while considering patients' needs (DysPD-Home). Moreover, we aim to describe the longterm development of dysphagia and associated consequences over a 5-year period until 2027 (DysPD-Long). Furthermore, our focus remains on the validation of screening tools and refining the prevalence and characteristics of dysphagia and now also addressing its self-perception in this cohort (DysPD-Prevalence and DysPD-SIP).

Another research focus is to close the significant gap in dysphagia care in children with rare and complex diseases. The project CIDD-C (Clinical and Instrumental Standards of Dysphagia Diagnostics in Children) aims to optimize the entire diagnostic process of pediatric dysphagia within the UKE and beyond. In cooperation with the Department of Pediatrics,

the project CHILDYS-RD (Dysphagia in Children with Rare Disease) and the accompanying project CHIL-DYS-ICI (Improving Compliance and Interdisciplinarity) focus on swallowing disorders in children with rare disease, its impact on the quality of life for the whole family and possibilities to improve the compliance during the assessment.

There is also intensive collaboration with the Department of Pediatrics on research into hearing disorders and their causes in children. This includes studies on the influence of a congenital CMV infection or postnatal hyperbilirubinemia on the development of hearing disorders in newborns.

International and national cooperation

The University Dysphagia Center research group is already well connected in national and international societies with a focus on swallowing disorders.

A key point of translational research is the direct connection to clinical and outpatient care in different settings and the implementation of new research results in the advanced training of diagnosticians. The department closely collaborates with the Center for Clinical Neurosciences and is increasingly expanding the cooperation with the Department of Pediatrics within the UKE, especially in the area of rare diseases.

Selected publications

Dumitrascu C, Pflug C, Oh J, Sengutta M, Denecke J, Zang J (2025) Feeding development in healthy infants: A comparative framework for children with Spinal Muscular Atrophy - The DySMAnorm study. *Int J Pediatr Otorhinolaryngol* 193:112345. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijporl.2025.112345>.

Pflug C, Muller F, Koseki JC, Petersen C, Nienstedt JC, Tribius S (2025) Objective dysphagia is very common after radiotherapy in oropharyngeal cancer patients. *Oral Surg Oral Med Oral Pathol Oral Radiol* 140:54-63. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.oooo.2025.02.008>.

Muller F, Nienstedt JC, Buhmann C et al. (2025) Effect of subthalamic and nigral deep brain stimulation on speech and voice in Parkinson's patients. *J Neural Transm (Vienna)* 132:419-429. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00702-024-02860-5>.

Zang J, Weiss D, Dumitrascu C et al. (2025) Maximal mouth opening in infants and toddlers with spinal muscular atrophy: a prospective controlled study. *Orphanet J Rare Dis* 20:24. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13023-024-03524-z>.

Niessen A, Nienstedt JC, Flugel T et al. (2023) Narrow Band Imaging in Flexible Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing-How Does It Work? *J Speech Lang Hear Res* 66:2035-2046. https://doi.org/10.1044/2023_jsl-hr-22-00579.



Other Centers

Pharmacy

Director: Christian Sommer

Head of Research and Education: Priv.-Doz. Dr. Claudia Langebrake

Major research interests

The aim of the hospital pharmacy is to optimize medication management for all patients in order to improve medication safety ("Arzneimitteltherapiesicherheit", AMTS). The medication process in a hospital is complex with many different health care professionals involved, affects nearly every patient and is known to be error-prone. Different tools to reduce error rates and therefore to improve patient safety, summarized as closed-loop medication management, have already been implemented. Therefore, the main research interests in the hospital pharmacy focuses on medication safety, detection and solving of drug related problems, clinical pharmacy services, pharmacists' interventions and tools to optimize drug treatment. Another mainstay is clinical pharmacokinetics to optimize drug dosing in special populations, e.g. antibiotics in intensive care patients with extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, conditioning chemotherapy before allogeneic stem cell transplantation or drug dosing in patients with renal impairment. The focus on personalized dosing further extends to pharmaceutical 3D-printing. The aim is to individualize drug therapy by manufacturing patient-specific dosage forms with regard to dose, drug combination, and dosage form characteristics. This allows a flexible, on-demand production and is particularly promising for populations with special needs, such as pediatric or geriatric patients. Current research explores the applicability of different printing techniques in a hospital setting and aims to integrate pharmaceutical 3D-printing into clinical practice.

International and national cooperation

Pharmacists of the hospital pharmacy have many interprofessional collaborations with different clinical

departments (e.g. Stem Cell Transplantation, Intensive Care Medicine, Surgery, Anaesthesiology) as well as with scientific institutes of the UKE (e.g. Medical Psychology, Medical Biometry and Epidemiology, Health Economy, Applied Medical Informatics). Furthermore there is a cooperation with the Department of Pharmacy of the University of Hamburg. Pharmacists of the hospital pharmacy are engaged in many different national and international working groups and scientific societies (e.g. German Association of Hospital Pharmacists, European Association of Hospital Pharmacists, European Society of Blood and Marrow Transplantation, International Pharmaceutical 3D-Printing Initiative, German Interdisciplinary Association of Intensive Care and Emergency Medicine, German Society of Hematology and Oncology) as members and chairs.

Selected publications

Berger V, Reeh M, Scherer M, Härterich S, Möller S, Wansing E, van der Linde A, Langebrake C: Enhancing drug therapy in ostomy patients: Best practice recommendations for medication management. PLOS ONE. 2024;19(6):e0305047. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0305047>.

Rosch M, Gutowski T, Baehr M, Eggert J, Gottfried K, Gundler C, Nürnberg S, Langebrake C, Dadkhah A. Development of an immediate release excipient composition for 3D printing via direct powder extrusion in a hospital: INT J PHARMACEUT. 2023;643. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijpharm.2023.123218>.

Alihodzic D, Wicha S, Frey O, König C, Baehr M, Jarczak D, Kluge S, Langebrake C. Ciprofloxacin in Patients Undergoing Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO): A Population Pharmacokinetic Study: PHARMACEUTICS. 2022;14(5). <https://doi.org/10.3390/pharmaceutics14050965>.

Berger V, Sommer C, Boje P, Hollmann J, Hummelt J, König C, Lezius S, van der Linde A, Marhenke C, Melzer S, Michalowski N, Baehr M, Langebrake C: The impact of pharmacists' interventions within the Closed Loop Medication Management process on medication safety: An analysis in a German university hospital. FRONT PHARMACOL. 2022;13. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fphar.2022.1030406>.

Essmann S, Dadkhah A, Janson D, Wolschke C, Ayuk F, Kröger N, Langebrake C: Iron Chelation with Deferasirox increases Busulfan AUC during Conditioning Chemotherapy prior to Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation. TRANSPL CELL THER. 2022;28(2):115.e1-115.e5. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtct.2021.11.003>.

Selected research projects

EPOCHAL (Effizienz, Akzeptanz und Auswirkungen des digital gestützten Medikationsprozesses an den Schnittstellen zwischen stationärer und ambulanter Versorgung); 2026-2028; The Federal Joint Committee (G-BA); PI: PD Dr. Claudia Langebrake

hängigkeit von der individuellen Nierenfunktion bei Patienten mit allogener hämatopoetischer Stammzelltransplantation und Patienten mit CAR-T-Zell-Therapie sowie Einfluss auf das Outcome von CAR-T-Zell-Patienten; 2024-2027; Kerstin Schönhoff, Prof. Francis Ayuk, PD Dr. Claudia Langebrake

Aussagekraft verschiedener eGFR-Bestimmungsmethoden auf Basis von Biomarkern bei Patienten mit allogener Stammzelltransplantation; 2022-2025; Eva Wansing, Prof. Dr. Nicolaus Kröger, PD Dr. Claudia Langebrake

Intensivierte Betreuung von Patient:innen mit Enterostomaanlage - Zur Relevanz von Pharmazeutischen Interventionen im Krankenhaus; 2022-2025; Vivien Berger, Prof. Martin Scherer, PD Dr. Claudia Langebrake

Patient:innenindividueller 2D/3D Druck von Arzneimitteln im Closed Loop Medication Management; 2021-2023; Europäischer Fond für Regionale Entwicklung (EFRE) der Europäischen Union (EU); PI: Dr. Michael Baehr



Physiotherapy

Head of department: Friederike Grube

Major research interests

Research of the physiotherapy department is concerned with physiotherapy and physical activity across the life span, across the different medical specialties, and in different settings. Conducting research as a profession that is not traditionally academically trained in Germany and is only now on its way to becoming a fully recognized profession and scientific discipline is also an act of self-empowerment. The physiotherapeutic research and its results thus serve both patients and the profession.

One of the main areas of research of the physiotherapy department at the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf pertains to the domain of physiotherapeutic health services within the context of acute care hospitals. Research projects are investigating how physiotherapy care in inpatient settings should be organized and provided in order to ensure excellent patient care. This encompasses novel intra- and interprofessional models of health services.

In addition to the research about physiotherapy in inpatient settings, a further research topic of the department is hospital mobility. Patients in hospital spent most of the time inactive lying or sitting in bed and achieve only low level of physical activity. The physiotherapy department investigates how physical activity of patients in hospital can be increased and a cultural change in hospitals towards hospital in motion can be achieved.

International and national cooperation in Health Services Research

The physiotherapy collaborates for projects and research within the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf with all institutions in the various centers and central services.

On a national level, stable connections exist with the Network of Researching Physiotherapists at German University Hospitals and with the Forum of Senior Physiotherapists at German University Hospitals. The international connections in health services research will be expanded in the next years. A collaboration is already established with the focus on hospital mobility with the Hospital in Motion initiative from the Swiss Physiotherapy Rehabilitation Interest Group - Acute Care Hospital.

Selected publications

Klotz SGR, Ketels G, Behrendt CA, König HH, Kohlmann S, Löwe B, Petersen J, Stock S, Vettorazzi E, Zapf A, Zastrow I, Zöllner C, Reichensperner H, Girdauskas E. Interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral perioperative care model in cardiac surgery: implementation in the setting of minimally invasive heart valve surgery (INCREASE)-study protocol for a randomized controlled trial. *Trials*. 2022, 23(1): 528. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13063-022-06455-x>.

Klotz SGR, Begerow A, Girdauskas E. Development of a core outcome set for Enhanced Recovery After Surgery in minimally invasive cardiac surgery. Results of an interprofessional Delphi consensus study. *Interdiscip Cardiovasc Thorac Surg*. 2024, 40(1):ivae218. <https://doi.org/10.1093/icvts/ivae218>.

Baumbach L, Feddern W, Grube F, König HH, Hajek A, Klotz SGR. Facilitators and barriers for physiotherapists to engage in goal-setting with patients during their hospital stay - An explanatory sequential mixed-methods study. *Physiother Res Int*. 2025, 30(1):e70024. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pri.70024>.

Gertz G, Ketels G, Klotz SGR. Facilitators and barriers to physical activity in patients in an acute care hospital setting from an interprofessional perspective: A qualitative study. *Clin Rehabil*. 2025, 39(5):668-678. <https://doi.org/10.1177/02692155251325614>.

Selected research projects

Development, implementation, and piloting of a hospital mobility concept to improve physical activity among patients during their hospital stay (Hos-Mo AKTIV) (2026-2029), The Federal Joint Committee (G-BA); PI: S. Klotz

Development of a hybrid intervention to promote movement-related health literacy among nursing professionals (BeGeKo-Care) (2025-2028), DAK-Gesundheit; PI: S. Klotz

German Research Agenda for Physiotherapy in Gender Issues (GRAPe-Gender) (2025-2026), Federal Ministry of Research, Technology, and Space; PI: S. Klotz

Accompanying evaluation of the program to promote physical activity in daycare centers, "I may be small, but I need to move!" (2024-2026), Health Department, Gifhorn District, Lower Saxony; PI: S. Klotz



Imprint

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