Institute of the History of Medicine and Medical Ethics
Chair of the History of Medicine

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Research Focus
• 200 Years of UK Erlangen, 1815–2015
• 275 Years Faculty of Medicine at FAU
• Galen – Compendium and catalogue of Galenic writings
• Receptions of ancient psychopathology
• “Health as a behavioral code”. Systematic aspects of public health in pre-modern Europe
• Medical crime and the social practice of terror: SS-physicians in concentration camps, 1934–1945
• NS-“euthanasia” in Erlangen: “T 4-Aktion” and “8-Kost”
• The German Society for Gynecology under nazism
• Polish-German cooperation in the history of medicine
• History of hospitals
• Medical history in objects – Collecting and displaying medical past

Structure of the Chair
Professors: 1
Personnel: 7
• Doctors (of Medicine): 1
• Scientists: 6 (thereof funded externally: 3)
• Graduate students: 2

Special structural feature
The Chair of the History of Medicine and the Professorship for Medical Ethics constitute the Institute of the History of Medicine and Medical Ethics.

Research
Concerning modern medical history, research focuses on the history of medicine at FAU and the surrounding area. This includes medicine in National Socialism which is studied both from a prosopographical and thematic perspective. Other research is concerned with ancient medicine, medicine in pre-modern times and medical historian museology.

200 Years of UK Erlangen, 1815–2015
PI: Prof. Dr. K.-H. Leven, A. Plöger
Duration: 2013–2015
Funding: UK Erlangen
A historiographical monograph dedicated to the 200 years of its history will be published in autumn 2015 to mark the bicentenary of UK Erlangen. From its modest beginnings to the modern internationally noted institution the book chronologizes the development of the branches, important individuals and innovations, and the edifical sprawl of UK Erlangen. It focuses on the 20th century, including UK Erlangen during the NS regime.

275 Years Faculty of Medicine at FAU
PI: Prof. Dr. K.-H. Leven, Dr. S. Ude-Koeller, P. Rauh, A. Thum, Prof. Dr. R. Witten-Sterzel
Duration: 2016–2018
Funding: Faculty of Medicine
To mark the upcoming 275th birthday of FAU, a historiographical monograph will outline the chronological and structural development of the Faculty of Medicine outlining its protagonists and prevalent interests before their scientific, cultural, social and political backgrounds. A special focus rests on the 20th and beginning 21st centuries.

Galen – Compendium and catalogue of Galenic writings
PI: Prof. Dr. K.-H. Leven
The Greek physician Galenus of Pergamum (129 – approx. 210 AD) figures as the most influential medical author of the Roman imperial period. This research project aims at a comprehensive depiction of Galenism both, in its time of emergence and its impact on medicine in the historical contexts. Furthermore an annotated catalogue of all remaining Galenic writings is devised.

Receptions of ancient psychopathology
PI: Dr. N. Metzger
The look back to ancient medicine and its most illustrious protagonists has been seminal to physicians, their learning and identity for centuries. They have drawn onto ancient texts for orientation, legitimation, and distancing, thus using the ancient for their own purposes. Madness is intertwined like no other medical concept with its cultural background, therefore reception of ancient psychopathology is deeply affected by new medical outlooks, epistemological developments, and cultural surroundings and can be used to line out the changing faces of medicine in history.

This project focuses on reception in Byzantine late antiquity, early modern times, and the 19th century. In all three epochs, fundamental social and epistemological changes left their mark on how physicians read their ancient counterparts. Case studies include the medical encyclopedia of Paulus Nikaios (approximately 7th/8th AD), the early modern receptions of ancient illnesses contributed by physicians to the contemporaneous witchcraft debate (lycanthropy, incubus), and trauma concepts in Byzantine late antiquity and 19th century medicine.

„Health as a behavioral Code”.
Systematic aspects of public health in pre-modern Europe
PI: PD Dr. F. Dross
At the beginning of modern Europe, the critical junctures are studied which connect individual and public health care. Back then, health was first configured as both public asset and trans-individual value, arbitrated between medical expertise, professional practice by diverse health care professions, municipal administration and personal plight.

Medical crime and the social practice of terror – SS-physicians in concentration camps, 1934–1945
PI: Prof. Dr. K.-H. Leven, P. Rauh
Funding: Johannes and Frieda Marohn-Founda-
tion, DFG
This project surveys the biographical development of SS-physicians active in German concentra-
tion camps between 1934 and 1945, focusing on their group-specific characteristics. Consisting of two parts, the study aims at outlining socialization, mentality, and actions, including their role in concentration camps on the one hand and their subsequent careers in both German states after 1945 on the other hand. In this second part of the project, a well-defined group is employed to methodically analyze – for the
first time – how both German states dealt with these people and their criminal past.

**NS-“euthanasia” in Erlangen – “T 4-Aktion” and “B-Kost”**

*Pl: Prof. Dr. K.-H. Leven, Dr. S. Ude-Koeller*

Funding: Research Foundation of Medicine at UK Erlangen, Staedtler-Stiftung

The so-called “T 4-Aktion” (forced euthanasia) and systematic starvation to death were implemented in Erlangen Heil- und Pflegeanstalt (Erlangen mental hospital) during the Nazi regime. This interdisciplinary project examines these killings of patients from multiple perspectives, both within its clinical context and the town of Erlangen. Until now unstudied source material will provide the basis for reconstructing both, the (criminal) acts of individuals or institutions and the life stories of their victims.

**The German Society for Gynecology under Nazism**

*Pl: PD Dr. F. Dross, PD Dr. W. Frobenius, Dr. U. Thoms*

Under nazism, the German Society for Gynecology acted as an agent between the official NS race and health policies, the involved government authorities and party institutions, and their physician members. The society adapted to the changed powers and policies early on. Their presidents functioned as communicational links between government and their members, not only in implementing policies, but in lobbying gynecological interests. Significant sources are the large society conferences in 1933, 1935, 1937 and 1947, and their two publication organs, the Archiv für Gynäkologie and the Zeitschrift für Gynäkologie.

**Polish-German cooperation in the history of medicine**

*Pl: PD Dr. F. Dross*

Since 2005 the project manager has been board member of the German-Polish Association for the History of Medicine. Main activities are biennial joint conferences and the publication of the conference proceedings.

**History of hospitals**

*Pl: PD Dr. F. Dross*

The history of hospitals can be addressed as the history of the distribution of medical care via large institutions. They serve as an essential framework for modern medicine – the endpoint of a long and intricate development since medieval times. In January 2014, the project manager was elected president of the German Society for the History of Hospitals.

**Medical history in objects – Collecting and displaying medical past**

*Pl: PD Dr. F. Dross*

Funding: Universitätsbund Erlangen-Nürnberg

In 2000, the Medical Collection Erlangen was constituted to preserve instruments and devices no longer needed in clinical practice, medical research and education. Aim is to make accessible this important source for medical historiography.

**Teaching**

Curricular teaching by the Chair for History of Medicine includes both compulsory and elective courses for students of human, dental and molecular medicine. Each semester and in collaboration with the Chair of Anatomy I, the interprofessional seminar „Death and Dying in Cultural Perspective“ is held. Furthermore, the wide range of teaching includes excursion seminars preparing field trips to the Flossenbürg KZ memorial site or the Deutsches Medizinhistorisches Museum Ingolstadt. Regularly, seminars are held in conjunction with colleagues from the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Theology. We supervise medical doctorate theses.

**Selected Publications**


Rauh P. Der Krieg gegen die „nutzlosen Esser“. Psychiatrische Patienten als Opfer der NS-„Euthanasie“. In: Dieckmann C, Quinkert B (Hg.). Kriegführung und Hunger. Zum Verhältnis von militärischen, wirtschaftlichen und politischen Interessen, Wallstein: Göttingen 2015 (= Beiträge zur Geschichte des Nationalsozialismus, Band 30): 33–58


Brinkschulte E, Dross F, Magowska A, Moskalewicz M, Teichlischer P (Hg.). Medizin und Sprache – die Sprache der Medizin = Medycyna i język – język medycyny, Frankfurt am Main 2016


**International Cooperations**

Dr. M. Moskalewicz, Poznan University of Medical Sciences, Poznan: Poland

Prof. Dr. V. Nutton, Centre for the History of Medicine, The University College, London: UK

Prof. Dr. P. E. Pormam, Classics and Graeco-Arabic-Studies, The University of Manchester, Manchester: UK

Prof. Dr. E. Samama, Institut d’études culturelles et internationales (IECI), Université de Versailles, St-Quentin-en-Yvelines, Versailles: France

Dr. P. Singer, Department of History, Classics and Archaeology, University of London, London: UK