

# Institute of the History of Medicine and Medical Ethics

## Chair of the History of Medicine

### Address

Glückstraße 10  
91054 Erlangen  
Phone: +49 9131 8522308  
Fax: +49 9131 8522852  
www.igem.med.fau.de

### Director

Prof. Dr. med. Karl-Heinz Leven

### Contact

Prof. Dr. med. Karl-Heinz Leven  
Phone: +49 9131 8522094  
Fax: +49 9131 8522852  
karl-heinz.leven@fau.de

### Research focus

- 275 years Faculty of Medicine at FAU
- Constitutional medicine and medical theory, 1910–1930
- Medical crime and the social practice of terror: SS-physicians in concentration camps, 1934–1945
- NS-“euthanasia” in Erlangen: “T 4-Aktion” and “B-Kost”
- Galen – Compendium and catalogue of Galenic writings
- Receptions of ancient psychopathology
- The German Society for Gynecology and Obstetrics under nazism
- Health and society in early modern Europe
- Polish-German cooperation in the history of medicine
- History of hospitals
- Medical history in objects – objects in the web
- The world-wide correspondence of Johann Lukas Schönlein

### Structure of the Chair

Professorship: 1

Personnel: 8

- Doctor (of Medicine): 1
- Scientists: 7 (thereof funded externally: 5)
- Graduate students: 8

### 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 region up to the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. This includes medicine in National Socialism which is studied both from a prosopographical and the-

matic perspective. Constitutional medicine before, during, and after World War I and the emergence of statistical methods in medical research is studied in a habilitation project. Other research is concerned with ancient medicine, medicine in pre-modern times and medical historian museology.

### 275 years Faculty of Medicine at FAU

PI: Prof. Dr. K.-H. Leven, Dr. S. Ude-Koeller, P. Rauh, A. Thum, Prof. Dr. R. Wittern-Sterzel  
Duration: 2016–2018

Funding: Faculty of Medicine

The project studied the chronological and structural development of the Faculty of Medicine outlining its protagonists and prevalent interests before their scientific, cultural, social, and politic backgrounds. A special focus rested on the 20<sup>th</sup> and beginning 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Contemporary history was approached by comprehensive use of oral history during which faculty members underwent structured interviews.



Cover of the Festschrift, published in 2018

### Constitutional medicine and medical theory, 1910–1930

PI: Dr. N. Metzger

This habilitation project studies the modern constitutional medicine emerging since 1911 in German-speaking countries and dominating medical research of various disciplines during the 1920s. This interdisciplinary research program broached the issue of individual factors in emergence and development of diseases in patients' bodies, thus promoting the wider introduction of medical statistics into medical research. Additionally, constitutional medicine furthered discussion on medical theory with med-

ical professionals, especially regarding the definition of the normal and the pathological and - during the 1920s - the limits of metrical methodologies.

### 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-Foundation, DFG (2013–2019)

This project surveys the biographical development of SS-physicians active in German concentration 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”

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

The project examined a certain analyze of cases of forced euthanasia (“T 4-Aktion”) and systematic starvation to death (“B-Kost”) in Erlangen Heil- und Pflegeanstalt (Erlangen mental hospital) during the Nazi regime from multiple perspectives, both within its clinical context and the town of Erlangen. Until now unstudied source material provided the basis for reconstructing both, the (criminal) acts of individuals or institutions and the life stories of their victims.

### Galen – Compendium and catalogue of Galenic writings

PI: Prof. Dr. K.-H. Leven

The Greek physician Galenus of Pergamum (129–approximately 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 cen-

turies. 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 Paulos Nikaios (approximately 7<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> century medicine.

### **The German Society for Gynecology and Obstetrics under Nazism**

PI: Prof. Dr. F. Dross, PD Dr. W. Frobenius, A. Thum (2016–2019)

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 also in lobbying gynecological interests. After publishing the findings in one monograph (2016) and a series of articles intended for the professional gynecologist reader (2017), the project is currently focusing on a commemorating book acting as a memorial to persecuted, exiled, and murdered members of the society during the Nazi years.

### **Health and society in early modern Europe**

PI: Prof. 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. The project focuses on the segregation of leprose persons as practiced by early modern urban societies.

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

PI: Prof. Dr. F. Dross

Since 2005, the imately 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**

PI: Prof. 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. The PI is president of the German Society for the History of Hospitals and editor of its annual research journal "Historia Hospitalium".

### **Medical history in objects – Objects in the web**

PI: Prof. Dr. F. Dross

Funding: BMBF (2017–2020)

Funded by the BMBF, the academic collections of FAU and the Germanische Nationalmuseum Nuremberg joined to develop a shared strategy for making the objects in their collections digitally accessible. The Medical Collection Erlangen preserves instruments and devices no longer needed in clinical practice, medical research, and education and is one of six university collections

### **The world-wide correspondence of Johann Lukas Schönlein**

PI: Prof. Dr. F. Dross, Prof. Dr. R. Wittern-Sterzel, Prof. Dr. B. Manger

In late summer 2017, a large number of letters to Johann Lukas Schönlein (1793–1864) in private Erlangen ownership was discovered. Originally from Bamberg, Schönlein held chairs at the medical faculties of Würzburg, Zurich, and Berlin, being the major historical figure in the transitional phase between a natural philosophy à la Schelling and science-oriented modern medicine. The approximately 1,200 formerly unknown letters are currently undergoing inventory in preparation to making them accessible to scholarship. In late 2018, the corpus was introduced into scholarly discourse by holding a conference and presented to the wider public via an exhibition.

### **Teaching**

Curricular teaching by the Chair for History of Medicine includes both, compulsory and elective courses for students of Medicine, Dentistry

and Molecular Medicine. Each semester and in collaboration with the Chair of Anatomy and Cell Biology, 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 MD theses.

### **Selected publications**

Frobenius W, Thum A, Dross F. Die Deutsche Gesellschaft für Gynäkologie im Nationalsozialismus. Teile 1-4. in: Der Frauenarzt 58 (2017), Nr. 2-4

Metzger N. Es sind noch große Forschungserträge zu erhoffen. Entwicklungen der Konstitutionslehre in den 1920er Jahren. in: Medizinhistorisches Journal 52 (2017): 270-307

Dross F. Wallensteins Zipperlein. in: B. Emich, D. Niefanger, D. Sauerer, G. Seiderer (Hg.), Wallenstein: Mensch - Mythos – Memoria. Berlin: Duncker & Humblot 2018: 253-269

Leven KH. Ethics and Deontology. In: Pormann PE (Hg.): The Cambridge Companion to Hippocrates. Cambridge 2018: 152-179

Leven KH, Rauh P, Thum A, Ude-Koeller S. Die Medizinische Fakultät der Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg. Kontexte, Köpfe, Kontroversen (1743-2018). Wien, Köln, Weimar: Böhlau 2018

Metzger N. Not a Daimon, but a Severe Illness. Oribasius, Posidonius and Later Ancient perspectives on superhuman agents causing disease. in: Mental Illness in Ancient Medicine. From Celsus to Caelius Aurelianus. Singer P, Thumiger C (Hg.). Leiden: Brill 2018 (Studies in Ancient Medicine 50): 79-106

### **International cooperations**

S. Hildebrandt, MD, Boston Children's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts: USA

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

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

Prof. Dr. P.E. Pormann, 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