

Interdisciplinary Center for Health Technology Assessment and Public Health (IZPH)

Speaker

Prof. Dr. med. Hans Drexler

Contact

Prof. Dr. med. Peter Kolominsky-Rabas, MBA
Managing Director

Address

IZPH
Schwabachanlage 6
91054 Erlangen
Phone: +49 9131 8535855
Fax: +49 9131 8535854
Peter.Kolominsky-Rabas@fau.de
www.public-health.de

Aims and structure

In societies with demographic shift and budget constraints, the greatest challenges in health care – especially for the German Health Care System – are the efficient provision of health care services, quality improvement, and cost reduction. Solving those socially important challenges requires multi-professional outcomes research.

The Interdisciplinary Center for Health Technology Assessment and Public Health (IZPH) of the FAU is the first thematically inter-professional German research platform on health outcomes research across the faculties of the FAU. It was founded in 2001 and systematically merges scientific insights from the three Faculties of Medicine, of Engineering, and of Business, Economics, and Law, respectively. Central aims of the IZPH are the scientific-oriented and evidence-based political consulting using population and registry data as well as an analysis of health care under everyday conditions (“real-world evidence”).

Research

Outcomes research/ health services research

Every day, there are about 890 new diagnoses of dementia and about 590 new diagnoses of stroke in Germany. Those numbers are vividly illustrating the huge importance of both widespread diseases, dementia and stroke, in health politics and their consequences for the social security system in Germany. Population-based registries for the purpose of outcomes research of dementia and stroke are therefore the scientific focus of the IZPH, according to the slogan ‘you can only manage what you measure’. The Erlangen Stroke Registry (ESPro) is an ongoing, population-based registry, including patients with stroke and vascular dementia.

Founded in 1994, ESPro is one of the oldest and most comprehensive population-based registries in the EU, involving 8,800 documented cases and 1,500 follow-up examinations per year. Based upon its sustainable data collection, ESPro provides population-based, representative, epidemiological data (incidence, time course, and long-term survival rates), data according to the course of the disease (risk factors, cognitive function, and complications), data according to the utilization of care services as well as health economic data (patterns of care, use of health care services, costs of illness). ESPro is part of the Federal Health Monitoring (Gesundheitsberichterstattung (GBE)) and is evaluated and continuously funded by the German Federal Government since 2010.

The Bavarian Dementia Survey (BayDem) is a multi-center, longitudinal study at three different Bavarian sites. Participants are people with dementia defined by ICD-10 and their informal caregivers. Data was collected by standardized face-to-face interviews in cooperation with local actors.

Funding: Bavarian Ministry of Health and Care

Health technology assessment

In Germany, a growing number of people are injured or die due to dangerous implanted medical devices and prostheses. In 2017 alone, in total 14,000 injuries, deaths, and other problems related to medical devices were reported. Usually, the recall of medical devices or announcements of security warnings are left to the manufacturers themselves instead of being carried out by public authorities. Since 2010, there are about 1,000 recalls per year and three per day on average, initiated by manufacturers. In the same time, there were only six recalls mandated by public authorities. Implant registries are therefore required in order to secure sustainably and effectively citizens of defective medical devices, in particular dangerous implants and prostheses. In cooperation with the leading edge cluster Medical Valley EMN, IZPH is analyzing the requirements regarding the structure and content of implant registries in order to secure the safety of citizens. Concepts of quality assurance, transparency of data, public reporting and aspects of an independent funding of implant registries are prioritized. The work and publications of the IZPH regarding implant registries had an impact on the draft legislation ‘Entwurf eines Gesetzes zur Errichtung eines Deutschen Implantateregisters (Implantateregister-Errichtungsgesetz – EDIR)’ of the Federal Ministry of Health (BMG), published in January 2019.

Health economics

For the first time ever, the German health expenditures exceeded the threshold of 1 billion euros per day in 2017. According to Destatis, the health expenditures amounted to 374 billion euros in total for the year 2017, which accounts for a share of 11.3% of the gross domestic product. The high increase occurred in particular due to high health care costs for chronic diseases. In respect to the demographic development in Germany, associated with an ageing of the population, a further increase of health care costs in the area of age-related diseases is expected. On the one hand, IZPH is therefore focusing on cost-of-illness studies of widespread diseases with high public health relevance, such as dementia, stroke, and heart failure. In Germany, the annual costs of heart failure are about 23,000 euros, the lifetime costs are about 113,000 euros per patient. Those studies are fundamental in the context of health care planning for payers, service providers, and political decision makers. On the other hand, the IZPH is performing health economic evaluations of pharmacological and non-pharmacological treatments. Furthermore, novel methodological approaches are explored in order to make the benefits of innovative health technologies transparent. By doing this, IZPH facilitates a comprehensible and balanced reimbursement decision for the members of the conjoint self-administration (Gemeinsame Selbstverwaltung) in the German health care system (G-BA, GKV-Spitzenverband).

Teaching

Interdisciplinary lectures are done by researchers of the IZPH. Thematically, those lectures include issues of Public Health, outcomes research, and health technology assessment in cross-sectional lecture rounds like “Q3-Gesundheitsökonomie, Gesundheitssystem, öffentliche Gesundheitspflege” and “Q10-Prävention und Gesundheitsförderung”. A particular focus is on interdisciplinary lectures for students of the master’s degree program Medical Process Management.

Frequent tutorials for young scientists (“Young Researchers Tutorials”) as well as the supervision of Master’s theses, MD, and PhD theses are completing the field of activity.