

Institute of General Practice

Chair of General Practice

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Research focus

- ACE – Adverse Cascade Effects
- ICF – International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health
- ICE – Ideas, Concerns, Expectations
- Clinical governance
- GAP – Good doctor – patient communication
- WirtMed
- BayFoNet - Bayerisches Forschungsnetz Allgemeinmedizin
- PRICOV-19
- Development of classifications to describe the content of primary care
- BeLa (Beste Landpartie) for general practice
- Competence center vocational training for general practice Bavaria (KWAB)

Structure of the Institute

Institute of General Practice: Professorship: 1
Personnel: 16

- Doctors (of Medicine): 5
- Scientists: 7
(thereof funded externally: 5)
- Graduate students: 18 MVZ Eckental:
- Personnel: 10
- Physicians (general practitioners): 4

Clinical focus area

General practice in the medical care center (MVZ) Eckental and Igensdorf

Research

The Institute of General Practice focuses on health services research with a particular emphasis on medical overuse and underuse in ambulatory care. These topics have been the focus of the research network PRO PRICARE. The funding of PRO PRICARE research by the BMBF ended in 2020 after three years of work. Overuse is not only a problem in the context of limited financial resources in an aging society, but also in a situation of a lack of future GPs. The main challenge is how to identify and reduce overuse and underuse. In PRO PRICARE, we have established a broad and long-term cooperation network together with chairs and institutes of the FAU, the UK Erlangen, practice networks in the region of Northern Bavaria, the Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians of

Bavaria (KVB) and the GWQ ServicePlus AG (representing the company health insurance funds). Within the network, three research projects are being carried out:

ACE – Adverse Cascade Effects

Analysis of pathways of healthcare for patients with thyroid problems with a focus on cascade effects initiated by non-indicated ultrasound examinations. Three studies are conducted:

- 1) Routine data analysis: comparison of different groups of patients regarding morbidity, health care utilization and costs.
- 2) Medical record analysis and qualitative interviews: Describing individual treatment pathways.
- 3) Multi Criteria Decision Analysis: Exploration of motives and attitudes that influence the decision making of patients and physicians.

ICF – International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health

Development of a core set of the ICF to assess the functional health of old and very old people. For this purpose, a systematic review, qualitative interviews with elderly patients, an expert survey and a quantitative survey of the health status of elderly people were conducted and published. We are currently working on integrating the four preliminary core sets into a final core set. The core set will then be the basis for the development of a self-report questionnaire for patients. In the future application of the ICF in primary care practice, the effects on patient-related outcomes will be examined with the aim of being able to distinguish useful from useless interventions.

ICE – Ideas, Concerns, Expectations

The project aims to examine whether strengthening patient-centered communication according to the ICE technique can reduce unnecessary diagnostic and therapeutic measures in patients with acute uncomplicated low back pain. Quantitative and qualitative surveys are used to evaluate the importance of patient-centeredness in consultations with primary care physicians.

Clinical governance

The upcoming shortage of primary care physicians in combination with an increasingly aging and chronically ill population calls for solutions to ensure a high level of primary care in the long term. With clinical governance, workflows within a group practice should be harmonized through the development of electronic tools (macros/text modules), documentation quality should be improved and treatment should be adapted to the recommendations of current guidelines.

GAP – Good Doctor – Patient Communication

The GAP study is providing primary care physicians and patients with low back pain with the highly navigable and easy-to-understand

internet portal "tala-med". The information is intended to support joint decision-making for diagnostics and therapy. The quality of consultations using the portal will be tested in a prospective, multicenter, cluster-randomized parallel group design. Funding: Innovation Fund of the G-BA.

WirtMed

In WirtMed, new tools are being developed and tested that will enable the associations of statutory health insurance physicians and health insurance funds to review and meaningfully control the cost-effectiveness and quality of drug prescriptions in the future. WirtMed is a consortium project of various universities, KVs and health insurance companies under the leadership of the Department of General Medicine at the Philipps University of Marburg (Prof. Dr. N. Donner-Banzhoff). Our institute is conducting qualitative studies to explore the experiences of GPs and specialists with the Bavarian Agreement on Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (Bayerische Wirkstoffvereinbarung). Funding: Innovation Fund of the G-BA

BayFoNet - Bavarian Research Network General Practice

BayFoNet is a Bavarian-wide research network established by the Institutes of General Practice in Würzburg, Munich (LMU and TUM) and Erlangen. BayFoNet is funded by the BMBF with about 2 million Euros. The aim is to strengthen research on relevant questions of daily care in general practice. The aim is to recruit 240 practices as research partners. A comprehensive training program is being developed to promote the research skills of primary care physicians. It is intended to enable participants to carry out research projects at a high level and to develop their own project ideas.

PRICOV-19 Study - Primary Care in times of Covid-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought unpredictable challenges to the delivery of care in primary care practices. The PRICOV-19 study is an international survey in more than 35 countries that examines the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the organization of care in primary care practices. The focus of this ongoing online survey is to determine access to and assurance of patient care in the primary care physician sector

Development of classifications to describe the content of primary care

Since 2006, Prof. Dr. T. Kühlein is a member of the WONCA International Classification Committee (WICC). Furthermore, he has been a member of the Executive Committee since 2012 and was head of the latter until 2020. The WICC is occupied, among other things, with the actualization and further development of the International Classification of Primary Care (ICPC). WONCA is the international organization for general practitioners. Since October 2014, Prof. Dr. T. Kühlein is the

delegate of WONCA to the "Family of International Classifications Council" of WHO. Joint research and development projects are conducted in cooperation with the universities of Gent (Belgium) and Nijmegen (The Netherlands) on the coding of ICE and concerning the use of the ICF in primary care.

BeLa (Beste Landpartie) for general practice

Due to a lack of young GPs, primary care especially in rural areas is in jeopardy. BeLa is a strategy to secure the recruitment of GP trainees by teaching students the advantages of a rural career track. The BeLa program examines whether financial and contentual support of students during the clinical part of the studies combined with a practical training in rural areas enhances the willingness to a subsequent vocational training and settlement these regions. Individual and motivational factors for a settlement in rural areas are identified in a qualitative process evaluation.

Competence center vocational training for general practice Bavaria (KWAB)

The offers issued by the competence center aim at improving the contentual and didactical quality of vocational training in general practice to secure high quality primary care in Bavaria. Additionally, the undertaken measures will be reviewed and evaluated with regard to their effect. Under the umbrella of the competence center, seminars that accompany vocational training are offered regularly for future general practitioners. Furthermore, an experienced GP mentor is assigned to every young colleague in training. The competence center additionally offers Train-the-Trainer seminars for doctors that are licensed for vocational training in order to strengthen their didactic competence and hence optimize the quality of vocational training in practices. The Institute of General Practice has taken on the lead and coordination of the KWAB.

Teaching

In the light of the COVID 19 pandemic, the Institute of General Practice has revised its entire teaching content to a digital format. Since summer 2020, the curricular lectures "General Practice" and selected preclinical and clinical electives are available purely digitally and asynchronously. This ensures that students can work on the course independent of time and location. In addition to the curricular lecture General Practice, the institute offers specific general practice electives on "Anamesetraining", "Problem-oriented learning on clinical cases" as well as the elective "Smart decisions in everyday clinical practice" certified by the German Network of Evidence-Based Medicine DNEbM e.V.. The newest member of the elective family is "Medical On-Call Service". In this elective, students are introduced to typical primary care emergencies. As soon as the pandemic situation will allow it again, students can also participate as observers in the driving service of the medical on-call service. We are pleased to have been able to recruit the experienced general practitioner and leading emergency physician Dr. Thomas Ruppert as a lecturer for this elective. The teaching program of the Institute of General Practice is rounded off by the interprofessional teaching project "Ohne Sorge in die Niederlassung" ("Without Worry into Establishing a Practice"), which offers a business game on how to take over a practice and establish a contract physician. The Institute of

General Practice cooperates closely with the Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians in Bavaria, the Aktivsenioren e.V. and experts from the fields of law and finance. With this offer, the fears of young physicians about the economic responsibility of the practicing physician are specifically prevented.

Teaching research is primarily concerned with the implementation of digital teaching in medical studies, as well as the integration, analysis and evaluation of scientific competence and the critical handling of medical information in medical studies against the backdrop of the upcoming changes brought about by the Master Plan 2020.

Bachelor's and master's theses as well as medical and scientific promotions are supervised.

Selected publications

Heinmüller, S., Schaubroeck, E., Frank, L., Höfle, A., Langer, M., Saggau, K., Kuehlein, T. (2020). The quality of COPD care in German general practice-A cross-sectional study. *Chron Respir Dis*, 17, doi:10.1177/1479973120964814

Pausch, M., Schedlbauer, A., Weiss, M., Kuehlein, T., & Hueber, S. (2020). Is it really always only the others who are to blame? GP's view on medical overuse. A questionnaire study. *PLoS one*, 15(1), e0227457. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0227457

Tomandl J, Book S, Hoefle A, Graessel E, Sieber C, Freiberger E, Kuehlein T, Susann Hueber, Gotthardt S. (2020) Laying the foundation for a primary care core set of the International Classification of Functioning, disability and health (ICF) for community-dwelling older adults: a qualitative study. *J Rehabil Med*; 52: jrm00150

Book S, Ulbrecht G, Tomandl J, Kuehlein T, Gotthardt S, Freiberger E, Graessel E. (2020) Laying the foundation for an International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health Core Set for community-dwelling elderly adults in primary care: the clinical perspective identified in a cross-sectional study. *BMJ Open*;10:e038434.

van der Keylen, P., Lippert, N., Kunisch, R., Kühlein, T., & Roos, M. (2020). Asynchronous, digital teaching in times of COVID-19: A teaching example from general medicine. *GMS J Med Educ*, 37(7), 1-8. doi:10.3205/zma001391

van der Keylen, P., Tomandl, J., Wollmann, K., Möhler, R. S., Maun, A., Voigt-Radloff, S., & Frank, L. (2020). The Online Health Information Needs of Family Physicians: Systematic Review of Qualitative and Quantitative Studies. *JMIR*, 22(12), e18816. doi:10.2196/18816

Moynihan, R., Brodersen, J., Heath, I., Johansson, M., Kuehlein, T., Minue-Lorenzo, S., Glasziou, P. (2019). Reforming disease definitions: a new primary care led, people-centred approach. *BMJ Evid Based Med*, 24(5), 170-173. doi:10.1136/bmjebm-2018-111148

Schedlbauer, A., Burggraf, L., Hueber, S., Terzakis-Snyder, I. A., Kuehlein, T., & Roos, M. (2019). Referrals for uncomplicated lower back pain: a cluster parallel randomised trial of patient-centred communication to improve the management of acute back pain in primary care. A study protocol. *BMJ Open*, 9(10), e027718. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2018-027718

van der Keylen, P., Maun, A., Hoyer, S., Roos, M., Beier, M., Voigt-Radloff, S., & Frank, L. (2019). "Mind the gap" - Verzahnung von Wissenschaft und hausärztlicher Praxis. *Zeitschrift für Allgemeinmedizin*, 179-184. doi:10.3238/zfa.2019.0179-0184

Voigt-Radloff, S., C. Schöpf, A., Boeker, M., Frank, L., Farin, E., Kaier, K., Maun, A. (2019). Well informed physician-patient communication in consultations on back pain – study protocol of the cluster randomized GAP trial. *BMC Fam Pract*, 20. doi:10.1186/s12875-019-0925-8

International cooperations

Prof. Dr. J. de Maeseneer, Department of Family Medicine and Primary Health Care, Ghent University, Ghent: Belgium

Dr. I. Heath, London: UK

Prof. Dr. G. Stucki, Department of Health Sciences and Health Policy, University of Lucerne, Luzern: Switzerland

Prof. Dr. J. Brodersen, Centre of Research & Education in General Practice, Department of Public Health, University of Copenhagen: Denmark