



Dear colleagues,
Dear friends of our institute,

Do you also feel this way sometimes?



The commonly cited "knowledge" or "information society" has surprises in store for us every day: on the one hand, we are fascinated by progress and new developments, on the other we increasingly wish we had a mental firewall or spam filter to combat the flood of information. Our Institute is trying to do exactly that: Under conditions of everyday life in general practice, we develop new knowledge, with the aim of making the general practice of the future more transparent, better and safer. We do this by condensing the flood of available knowledge, such as that available in evidence-based and practice-tested guidelines, or by providing advice on how errors can be avoided. And finally we pass this knowledge, as well as "knowledge management" techniques, on to our students.

In the following you will find a few examples of our work – expressed, as always, in a short and sweet way. If you are interested – but only then – you can click on one of the links. After all, we want to channel the flood of information, not cause it to swell ...

With this in mind, we hope you will enjoy your read – and keep an open mind!

Ferdinand M. Gerlach

Advance Notice: 1st Frankfurt General Practice Day

On Saturday, March 1st, 2008, our Institute is launching a new tool for continuing medical education. All Practice Teams (GPs and doctor's assistants) at our teaching and research practices throughout the Rhine-Main area, are invited to participate. Without the involvement of the pharmaceutical industry, a large number of interactive workshops will be offered "by GPs for GPs" at our Institute and the University Clinic, as well as insight into our research and teaching work. Practice teams will also have the opportunity to take part in special additional events (from a guided tour through the clinic to practical exercises). Furthermore, new teaching practices will receive official recognition at a formal accreditation ceremony. General practices that are simply curious are also welcome to take part. Please save the date!

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Tips on how to avoid errors



In February 2007, a new function will be added to www.jeder-fehler-zaehlt.de: Tips on how to avoid errors will be grouped according to error type (e.g. errors in prescriptions, laboratory findings, or vaccinations) and published monthly. The tips come mainly from comments made on www.jeder-fehler-zaehlt.de in response to error reports submitted by

practising colleagues on their experiences.

Of course the list will not be exhaustive, but the tips can help practice teams to think over their work processes and discover sources of errors.

They may not be evidence-based or have been tested in trials, but the tips have proved themselves in the practices of those who made the comments and that is why they have recommended them.

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STERN-Leading article on high blood pressure in cooperation with the Institute

With the cooperation of our Institute, the STERN quality weekly magazine wrote its leading article on high blood pressure (Nr. 9 of 22.02.2007).



The article contains a mixture of critical and informative factual information, along with illustrative case descriptions. In particular, it focuses on the consequences of arterial hypertension and possible therapies, as well as the problems Germany has with the provision of adequate medical care. The research work we do in Frankfurt on the provision of medical care for the chronically ill is also mentioned.

<http://www.stern.de/magazin/heft/582978.html>

2nd part of DEGAM chronic heart failure guideline – long version



The DEGAM guideline on chronic heart failure is of very high quality and fulfils all practical needs, was the view of

the GPs who reviewed it for its suitability for use in practice, before going to print. But they also said the long version is too long, and the wealth of information cannot be easily handled. So we decided to split the long version.

The first, practice oriented, part already appeared in autumn of last year. Now preparations for the second part of the long version have been completed, it is ready for print, and the publisher has announced that it will appear this month.

This volume includes a summary of all the evidence evaluation which went into the guideline's recommendations. The results of systematic reviews, health technology assessments and primary studies were cross-referenced and discussed.

The guideline was developed as part of a project sponsored by the German Ministry for Education and Research and developed independently in industry. Thanks to its methodological quality and the balanced participation of interest groups, the DEGAM guideline was recently judged "exemplary" by the German Agency for Quality in Medicine (AeZQ).

Auhors of the Guideline:

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For further information and procurement:

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Launch of the anonymous error circle!

www.fehlerzirkel.de has now been activated and can be used by the general practices that have regis-

tered, of which there are 57 to date. The error circle is a virtual quality circle and, for the time being, is exclusively available for general practices that have completed the European Practice Assessment (EPA).

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Over 1,000 students trained in evidence based medicine

Since the 2003/2004 winter term, the seminar "evidence-based medicine" has been obligatory for clinical students of medicine. As part of the so-called Section 1 syllabus (epidemiology, medical biometry and medical computing), the basic principles of systematic literature search and the evaluation of diagnostic- and intervention studies, as well as guideline basics, are taught.

Students are required to prepare a term paper which includes individual

case examples which they have to solve independently and then present as part of a *journal club* on the final day.

With the 52nd of these seminars, the number of trained students crossed the 1,000 mark. No other university can boast similar numbers for a seminar explicitly dedicated to EbM. Further information and details on how to register for the courses can be found (in German) under:

<http://www.ebm-frankfurt.de>

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Research assistant wanted

In order to expand our research into errors and their causes in general practice, we are seeking a research assistant for our research and teaching team as soon as possible.

[To job offer \(in German\) \[PDF\]](#)

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