

Dear Colleagues,  
Dear Friends of our Institute,



Like the world around us, work at our institute is becoming increasingly international.

A productive exchange with colleagues in other countries has always been an enrichment for our team. Thanks to the EU's Seventh Research Framework Programme, which is sponsoring two of our new projects, and the support of the Commonwealth Fund, we can now intensify our cooperation with colleagues abroad.

The subject matter we will work on varies greatly, ranging from medical homes for the chronically ill to patient safety in primary care.

However, our activities have and will continue to have their roots in the region in which we live and work. In order to support and intensify our excellent cooperation with general practice teams nearby, we are cordially inviting all those who are interested to participate in the Second Frankfurt General Practice Day on May 9. You can find out more about this and other subjects in this issue of short @nd sweet.

Enjoy your read!



Ferdinand M. Gerlach

### International Study on Medical Homes

With the support of the Commonwealth Fund, the Institute for General Practice and four European partners are conducting a study on the subject of medical homes.

In a medical home, a doctor and his or her team of health staff provide comprehensive medical care that is geared to the individual and embedded in the community.

Medical care is improved as a result of such features as extended consulting and telephone answering services, and additional group visits. The medical home concept leads to improved treatment quality and to fewer treatment errors and repeat examinations, and thus raises patient satisfaction.

The aim of our study is to investigate how medical homes can lead to an improvement in medical care, especially for chronically ill patients.

To achieve this, 50 chronically ill patients from 36 family practices will be interviewed by the Institute for General Practice by means of a short written questionnaire. In addition, selected family doctors will also give telephone interviews (lasting 10-15 minutes).

The study will begin in March/April 2009 and end in February 2010.

If you are interested in participating, please get in touch with:

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### Learning from mistakes

Along with partners from Great Britain, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland and Denmark, the Institute for General Practice is taking part in an international study on patient safety in primary care.

The project, which is called LIN-NEAUS-EURO-PC (Learning from International Networks About Errors and Understanding Safety in Primary Care, EUROpa), is financed by the EU. Our task is the development of a category system to classify errors and to develop error reporting systems for European health systems.

Furthermore, the Institute for General Practice will support its partners in other subprojects covering the subjects patient safety culture, medication errors, diagnostic errors and learning from patient safety. The project will kick off in spring 2009 and will last a total of four years.

If you are interested in receiving further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch with:

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**30.09. – 03.10.2009**  
**43rd Congress of General Practice, together with the German Congress on Medical Care Research, Heidelberg**



### Optimizing medication for elderly, multimorbid patients

In March 2009, the Institute for General Practice is launching a study of family practices in which it will take a close look at the medication regime of elderly, multimorbid patients.

GPs in particular often face the challenge of having to prescribe a large number of different medicines for such patients.

At the same time, taking more than five medicines increases the risk of undesired medication effects and interactions.

In order to optimize the therapy both the health risks and the patients' views should be taken into account. To achieve this a computer supported decision support system (AiD) can be used, which it is the aim of the present study to develop further.

Furthermore all consumed medicines and the symptoms of potentially undesired medication effects are recorded in detail with the help of a medical assistant in the practice and are then evaluated by the physician, who has also to take the patient's perspective into account.

We are currently looking for interested family doctors for both a pilot study in the year 2009 (lasting around six months) and the main study from the year 2010 (lasting 12-18 months).

If you can imagine taking part in the study we would be very pleased to hear from you.

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### The Safety culture in German family practices

We are carrying out a nationwide study in order to find out what constitutes the safety culture in German family practices. We are interested, not only in the current state of affairs but also in how it may be possible to influence the safety culture.

In addition, the effects the Frankfurt patient safety matrix (FraTrix) has on the practice, its error management and its safety culture are being investigated by means of a regional sub-project.

FraTrix enables practice teams to assess how they deal with the subject of patient safety themselves and determines measures to improve it.

If you wish to find out more about the study, please do not hesitate to contact us:



#### Contact:

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### 2nd Frankfurt General Practice Day: Now online

At the Second Frankfurt General Practice Day, 24 workshops, a guided tour, a talk replete with anatomical anecdotes and a meeting of

those doctors accredited to train students are all waiting for you.

On account of strong demand, some of the workshops which were provided last year will be repeated in 2009. These will include Emergencies in the Practice, Quality Management, Travel Medicine and others.

There will also be new workshops on the subjects:

Communication training  
Participative decision making  
Increasing hygiene in the practice  
Adiposity management  
Complementary medicine  
and many more

If you are interested why not find out more on our homepage <http://www.allgemeinmedizin.uni-frankfurt.de/> and register by fax.

**Save the date!**  
**2nd Frankfurter General Practice Day on May 9, 2009**

### Newsletter subscription free of charge

Would you like to receive our newsletter "short @nd sweet" on a quarterly basis and free of charge? If so, write an email to:

[kurzundknapp@allgemeinmedizin.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:kurzundknapp@allgemeinmedizin.uni-frankfurt.de)

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