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### **ZME Services in the Internet:**

- **www.medizinethik-bochum.de**, Homepage of the Centre for Medical Ethics includes Information and Documentation on Medical Ethics and Bioethics, Conferences, List of Publications in 'Medizinethische Materialien', Consultation Rooms for interactive information and communication.
- **MedEthik-list@lists.ruhr-uni-bochum.de**, a discussion list in medical ethics with over 450 participants, moderated by A May and HM Sass.
- **Betreuungsrecht@lists.ruhr-uni-bochum.de**, a discussion list on issues of Care Law and surrogate decision making with over 1800 participants, moderated by B Ackermann, T Fröschle, A May, HM Sass and S Sigusch.
- **www.health-literacy.org**, contains information, materials and discussions concerning health education and health competence of lay people, also issues in E-Health, moderated by M Schmalenbach.
- **www.Zystennieren.de**, contains information and documentation on kidney cysts for carriers and their families, also a discussionlist, moderated by R Knickrehm.

Zentrum für Medizinische Ethik, Bylaws § 3:

„The purpose of the association is the promotion of medical ethics in research and teaching in Bochum. The association particularly promotes interdisciplinary communication among its members and beyond. This includes the collection and distribution of publications and news. The association promotes and offers public symposia, workshops, teaching, regional activities and international contacts with similar institutions abroad.“

### **Zentrum für Medizinische Ethik e.V.**

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The Bochum tax authorities have granted the ZME a tax-exempt status; donations to the ZME are tax-deductible.

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# **CENTRE FOR MEDICAL ETHICS BOCHUM**



**Research  
Teaching  
Consulting  
Documentation**

# CENTRE FOR MEDICAL ETHICS BOCHUM

In 1986 faculty members of the *Ruhr-University* founded the *Zentrum für Medizinische Ethik*. The Centre for Medical Ethics is a non-profit tax-exempt institution for research, teaching and consulting in applied ethics, clinical ethics, and bioethics. The Centre specializes in developing practical instruments for moral assessments in biomedical research and patient care, and in specialized consultation and ethics training of health care professionals.

The *Bochum Centre for Medical Ethics* cooperates worldwide with research institutions such as the *Kennedy Institute of Ethics, Georgetown University* (Washington, DC, USA), the *Research Center for Bioethics, Peking Union Medical College and Chinese Academy of Medical Science* (Beijing, China), the *Centro de Bioetica* (La Plata, Argentina), and the *International Institute for Bioethics and Biolaw, Waseda University* (Tokyo, Japan).

The Chiron is the Centre's logo. According to Greek mythology, Chiron, the most prudent among the centaurs, educated Aesculap, the father of Western medicine, in the arts and sciences of medicine.

## **Research:**

The research program of the *Centre for Medical Ethics* is based on the scholarly interests of the individual faculty members; it includes independent and contract research. Special competence has been demonstrated in the fields of moral assessments in patient care, clinical research ethics, clinical ethics consultation, ethics in genetic prediction and prevention.

- **Case Study Workshops**, specializing in methodological issues of ethical case analysis and scenario assessment, integrating ethical and technical expertise.
- **Research Colloquia**, addressing special issues of moral assessment in medicine, technology, business, and regulation.
- **Conferences, workshops, and lectures**, dedicated to current issues in national and international bioethics.
- **Ethics Committees**, analysis and assessment of methods, membership, and materials of Institutional Review Boards with emphasis on strong and efficient integration of biomedical ethics into biomedical research.
- **Clinical Ethics Consultation**, development of material and procedures, services in continuing education of members of Clinical Ethics Committees.
- **Teaching Material** has been developed for academic teaching and for specialized continuous education.
- **Bochum Protocol for Medical-Ethical Practice**, a 'Points to Consider...' list for evaluating patient's wish-and-value profile and quality of life in patient care for use in single case management and in Clinical Ethics Consultation, in published in 8 languages.
- **Bochum Instrument for Medical Ethics (BIME)**, a reliable instrument for analysis of attitudes and evaluations of physicians in patient communication and in decision making of withholding, withdrawing, and providing treatment.
- **Advance Directives**, including the development of narrative material for lay persons for the preparation of advance directives.
- **Carrier Information and Predictive Medicine**, such as the development of *Zystennieren.de* ([www.Zystennieren.de](http://www.Zystennieren.de))
- **Cultural Aspects in Clinical Ethics and Patient Care**, development and publication of material for better understanding and treatment of religious and cultural minorities in health care.
- **Research and Consultation in E-Health**, validity and governance of internet services in health information and advice for lay people on the Internet ([www.health-literacy.org](http://www.health-literacy.org)).

## **Teaching:**

Classes for medical students, continuous education and interdisciplinary studies instructed by members and staff of the *Centre for Medical Ethics* are offered regularly at the *Ruhr-University*. Special seminars and intensive courses are available on request.

## **Consulting:**

Members and staff of the Centre consult health care institutions, government, professional organizations, and business on issues such as Advance Directives, Allocation of Resources, Clinical Ethics Committees, E-Health, Ethics in Clinical Research, Ethics of Care, Expert Systems, Palliative Care Ethics, Public Health Ethics.

## **Publication and Documentation:**

The series *Medizinethische Materialien* has become a leading vehicle of scholarly exchange and transfer of concepts and information in biomedical ethics in the Federal Republic of Germany; over 190 titles have been published since 1987; for abstracts and order forms see [www.medizinethik-bochum.de](http://www.medizinethik-bochum.de).