

## **“Clean” knowledge**

***Handout for the Serbian Delegation in March 16<sup>th</sup> 2010 at ÄKB***

**Here we've listed some very important sources, free from industrial influence and support, we regularly recommend to our members. At present, the German doctors have to pay individually for all sources. Till now it is not planned to offer it systematically and for free by the medical associations. We inform about the sources regularly and the doctors have to buy, subscribe and use it on their own initiative. Some of the sources are completely financed by the medical associations.**

## **The Cochrane Collaboration**

The Cochrane Collaboration is an international not-for-profit and independent organization, dedicated to making up-to-date, accurate information about the effects of health care readily available worldwide. It produces and disseminates systematic reviews of healthcare interventions and promotes the search for evidence in the form of clinical trials and other studies of interventions. The Cochrane Collaboration was founded in 1993 and named after the British epidemiologist, Archie Cochrane.

The major product of the Collaboration is the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews which is published quarterly as part of the **Cochrane Library**. It contains high-quality, independent evidence to inform healthcare decision-making. It includes reliable evidence from Cochrane and other systematic reviews, clinical trials, and more. Cochrane reviews bring you the combined results of the world's best medical research studies, and are recognised as the gold standard in evidence-based health care.

**[www.cochrane.org](http://www.cochrane.org)**

## **Drug Commission of the German Medical Association (Arzneimittelkommission der Deutschen Ärzteschaft)**

The Drug Commission of the German Medical Association (DCGMA) is the scientific expert committee for drug-related matters of the German Medical Association. It consists of 40 full members and approximately 100 associate members from all areas of medicine and pharmacy. The DCGMA is financed by the German Medical Association and the National Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians. All members work voluntarily for the DCGMA.

The primary tasks of the commission are

- providing the medical profession with various and up-to-date information on rational drug therapy and drug safety
- advising the German Medical Association in fundamental questions of pharmaceutical policy and special requests of physicians and official institutions of health care
- reporting, documentation and assessment of adverse drug reactions: Together with the Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices (BfArM) the

DCGMA runs the “Medical Committee for Drug Safety” (ÄAAS) and maintains a joint database for the spontaneous recording of adverse drug reactions.

Since 1996 the DCGMA develops therapeutic guidelines (Therapieempfehlungen) which are intended to provide a solid basis of therapeutic rationality. Being evidence based and practice orientated, these guidelines are not supposed to restrict or replace independent and responsible action.

The Drug Commission publishes the book “Arzneiverordnungen” (Pharmaceutical Prescriptions) and the drug bulletin “Arzneiverordnungen in der Praxis“ (Pharmaceutical prescriptions in practice). It provides own medical training seminars and publishes health information for patients based on the therapeutic guidelines.

**[www.akdae.de](http://www.akdae.de)**

## **Agency for Quality in Medicine (Ärztliches Zentrum für Qualität in der Medizin – ÄZQ)**

The Agency for Quality in Medicine (ÄZQ), Berlin, Germany, is a non-profit organization owned by the German Medical Association (BÄK) and the National Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians (KBV). It was established in 1995 in order to appraise, initiate, and organise national and regional health quality programmes on behalf of the self-governing bodies of the German healthcare system in cooperation with national and international partners.

The major focus lies on

- appraising and/or producing guidelines, quality indicators and patient information
- disseminating and implementing evidence-based guidelines
- coordinating error prevention and patient safety measures
- developing methodologies for guidelines and evidence-based healthcare
- identifying and appraising quality innovations.

ÄZQ projects include:

- National Disease Management Guidelines Programme  
[www.versorgungsleitlinien.de/english](http://www.versorgungsleitlinien.de/english)
- High Quality Patient Information and Patient Involvement and Programme for Patient Safety and Error Prevention  
[www.forum-patientensicherheit.de/english](http://www.forum-patientensicherheit.de/english)
- German Medical eLibrary  
[www.arztbibliothek.de](http://www.arztbibliothek.de)

**[www.aeqz.de/aezq/english](http://www.aeqz.de/aezq/english)**

## **Guidelines International Network (G-I-N)**

The Guidelines International Network (G-I-N) is an international non-profit association of organisations and individuals involved in the development and use of clinical practice

guidelines. G-I-N seeks to improve the quality of health care by promoting systematic development of clinical practice guidelines and their application into practice, through supporting international collaboration.

The Network has the world's largest [International Guideline Library](http://www.g-i-n.net/library/international-guidelines-library) (www.g-i-n.net/library/international-guidelines-library). It contains more than 6.700 (by March 2010) guidelines, evidence reports and related documents, developed or endorsed by G-I-N member organisations. The new G-I-N website integrates additional features directly and indirectly related to your searches.

**[www.g-i-n.net](http://www.g-i-n.net)**

## **German Network for Evidence Based Medicine**

The German Network for Evidence Based Medicine is a non-profit Organisation for the Advancement of Public Health Care. It helps doctors to get in touch with new developments, sources, congresses and informations about Evidence-based medicine.

**[www.ebm-netzwerk.de](http://www.ebm-netzwerk.de)**

## **International Society of drug bulletins (IDDB)**

The International Society of Drug Bulletins (ISDB) is a world wide network of bulletins and journals on drugs and therapeutics that are financially and intellectually independent of pharmaceutical industry. It was founded in 1986, with the support of the WHO Regional Office for Europe. The Homepage contains a bulletin.Index in which doctors and medical organisations can find the most important member-publications in their country.

**[www.isdbweb.org](http://www.isdbweb.org)**

### **Examples of independent german drug-bulletins, that are Member of the IDDB:**

#### **Arzneimittelbrief (Pharmaceutical letter)**

This drug bulletin is an independent newspaper, exclusively financed by the subscribers and appears quarterly since 1967. The publishers are in a way idealistic german doctors that are experienced in clinical pharmacology and independent from industrial payment. Some years ago Ärztekammer Berlin supported the publishers with special honours for their courage and engagement.

**[www.der-arzneimittelbrief.de](http://www.der-arzneimittelbrief.de)**

#### **Arzneiverordnungen in der Praxis (Pharmaceutical prescriptions in practice)**

This independent drug bulletin is published by Drug Commission of the German Medical Association (Arzneimittelkommission der Deutschen Ärzteschaft) since 1974. It appears 6-times per year.

**[www.akdae.de/30/30/index.html](http://www.akdae.de/30/30/index.html)**

## The british Journal “Bandolier”

The Bandolier is an independent journal about evidence-based healthcare, written by Oxford scientists, (RAM AND HJM). It has appeared monthly ever since February 1994 and has become a very important source of evidence based healthcare information in the UK and worldwide for both healthcare professionals and consumers.

The award winning electronic version of Bandolier ([www.ebandolier.com](http://www.ebandolier.com)) has over one million visitors each month from all over the world. The impetus behind Bandolier was to find information about evidence of effectiveness (or lack of it), and put the results forward as simple bullet points of those things that worked and those that did not: a bandolier with bullets. Information comes from systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomised trials, and from high quality observational studies.

Each month PubMed and the Cochrane Library are searched for systematic reviews and meta-analyses published in the recent past.

**[www.ebandolier.com](http://www.ebandolier.com)**

## Books

### “Evidence Based Medicine Guidelines

Editor in Chief: Ikka Kunnamo  
2005, Duodecim Medical Publications Ltd.  
Helsinki/Finnland  
ISBN 0-470-01184-X

### Calculated Risks: How to know when numbers deceive you

Gerd Gigerenzer  
2002, Simon & Schuster, New York  
ISBN 0-7432-5434-6  
Translated in different languages,  
in german: **Das Einmaleins der Skepsis**  
Gerd Gigerenzer  
2009, 5. Auflage  
Berliner Taschenbuch Verlag, berlin  
ISBN 978-3.8333-0041-7

### Lehrbuch Evidenzbasierte Medizin

In Klinik und Praxis  
Kunz, Ollenschläger, Raspe, Jonitz, Donner-Banzhoff (Hrsg.)  
2007, Deutscher Ärzteverlag, Köln  
ISBN 978-3-7691-0538-4