Our Research

In Germany, approximately 400,000 to 600,000 patients contract hospital infections each year, and of these patients 10,000 to 15,000 die. The reasons are manifold — for instance, infectious agents are becoming increasingly resistant to classic anti-infective substances, particularly in the hospital environment.

At the same time, infections with pan-resistant pathogens, i.e. germs that can no longer be treated with antibiotics, are on the rise. At least two million nosocomial infections occur worldwide each year, around 100,000 of which are fatal and are ascribed to antimicrobial resistance (AMR) alone. By 2050, the number of AMR-related deaths is expected to reach over 10 million, thus significantly surpassing other major causes of death. Consequently, infections with multi-resistant pathogens and nosocomial infections are among the central medical problems of our times.

The goal of the Campus Research Focus “Hospital Hygiene” is to implement active management of infection prevention and infection control in hospital hygiene.

Our Key Questions

- How do multi-resistant pathogens arise and spread?
- How can we prevent hospital infections?
- How can we prevent hospital pathogens from spreading?
- How can their resistance to antibiotics be prevented?

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Current Research Projects

- Hessian Competence Centre for Hospital Hygiene (funded by the Hessian State Ministry for Higher Education, Research and the Arts)
- MIRACUM – Medical Informatics in Research and Care in University Medicine (funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research)
- LOEWE-Centre DRUID—Novel Drug Targets against Poverty-Related and Neglected Tropical Infectious Diseases Surveillance of Carbapenem-Resistant Germs in Hessen (SurvCARE Hessen)(funded by the Hessian Ministry for Social Affairs and Integration)
- Translational approach for genomics-based classification, characterisation and epidemiology of multidrug-resistant organisms (TARGET) as part of the German Centre for Infection Research (DZIF)

Research Infrastructures

- German Centre for Infection Research (DZIF)
- German Centre for Lung Research (DZL)
- University Hospital of Giessen and Marburg GmbH (UKGM) of the Rhön-Klinikum AG

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