

## *New Year's letter & annual review 2024*

Dear members of the Institute for Gender-Sensitive Medicine,

We wish you all a Happy New Year! We start 2025 full of energy and look back on an eventful 2024, in which we were able to take many important steps in the right direction thanks to your great support.

Let's start with some great news for 2025: the application for funding for the establishment of a junior professorship with the full gender denomination 'Gender-sensitive medicine taking genetic mechanisms into account' at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Duisburg-Essen has just been approved by the Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (<https://www.uni-due.de/2025-01-10-geschlechtersensible-medizin-wird-ausgebaut>). We are very pleased about this relevant step towards the further development of our institute!

But now to our review: the first highlight in 2024 was the official opening of the Institute for Gender-Sensitive Medicine together with the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Essen College for Gender Studies on March 8<sup>th</sup> 2024 by the Minister of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia Brandes, the Rector of the University of Duisburg-Essen Professor Albert and the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine Professor Buer.

Another important milestone was the composition of our Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), which supports us with its expertise. We are proud to be able to work with the renowned experts Prof Dr Sabine Oertelt-Prigione (Bielefeld), Prof Dr Marie von Lilienfeld-Toal (Bochum), Prof Dr Haijun Wang (Beijing), Prof Dr Ineke Klinge (Arnhem), Prof Dr Barbara Buchenau (Essen) and Prof Dr Marcus Zepf (Paris).

The elective subject 'Gender-sensitive medicine', which has been established since 2020, was a great success and was again held very successfully in 2024. The high demand and positive feedback confirm our work. We were able to get even more students interested in gender-sensitive medicine. It will start again in February 2025!

We were also very pleased to be able to establish the 'Gender-sensitive medicine' core as part of the 'BIOME' graduate school in October 2024. This will enable doctoral students to gain a solid foundation in this field and to reflect on the relevance of gender-sensitive aspects for their own research projects and, if necessary, put them into practice.

The Institute's media presence, for example in the WDR programmes 'Lokalzeit Ruhr' and 'Hier & Heute' as well as in print media such as the Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung (WAZ) and the *Laborjournal*, has given us the opportunity to communicate the importance of gender-sensitive medicine to a broad public. These publications, as well as our contributions in other media, have helped to emphasise the urgent need to give more specific consideration to women and men and gender diversity in medical research and care.

Over the course of the year, we were able to strengthen our team with Dr Corinna Wnuck, Stefanie Richter and Alina Garofalo. With their knowledge and commitment, they support us.

In 2024, we welcomed 48 members to the IGSM. Together with you, we are working to integrate gender aspects in all areas of medical studies, research and practice and thus make healthcare fairer and more differentiated.

Many exciting projects are already in the pipeline for 2025. For example, we have submitted a BMBF application for a summer school, we are also involved in 4 other BMBF and two Innovation Fund applications; a DFG-ANR application is in preparation.

We would like to thank you for your commitment and are looking forward to what we will achieve together this year!

With best wishes for a successful and healthy year 2025!



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Institute for Gender-Sensitive Medicine