



Dear colleagues and friends of Evidence-based Medicine,
Dear members of the German Network for Evidence-based Medicine!

For the second time in its history, the Annual Conference of the German Network for Evidence-based Medicine is to be held in Austria. With the support of the ebm.at network the conference will take place under the motto **Building Bridges – from evidence to patient well-being** at the Medical University of Graz from March 8-10, 2018.

At the Conference, we are going to make a conscious effort to focus on the outliers of evidence-based medicine (EBM) and to look at situations where the evidence base is rather thin. This means that a practical, diagnostic or therapeutic decision must be made, as so often happens, under uncertainty. For the individual at the family practice, at outpatient facilities and in hospitals, where the highest level of evidence, the preferences of the patient, and the doctor's experience must all be taken into account, we need new practical and pragmatic implementation approaches to both communication and communicating what we know. This will enable us to ensure that EBM is not just an empty theory, but something we practice every day.

We are very pleased to announce that Paul Glasziou and Susan Michie, two internationally renowned scientists in the field of EBM, have confirmed their participation as keynote speakers. At the conference, we want to reflect upon new approaches, and to study the limitations of evidence-based knowledge and the difficulties and opportunities involved in its implementation.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all health care professionals who are interested in joining us, and would be interested in any contributions that will enable us to come closer to our aim, which is to make the daily practice of providing medical services easier and safer.

Contributions on the following topical subjects would be particularly appreciated:

- **Implementation of the EBM Triad, taking a look at the everyday life of patients and health professionals**, and focusing on issues such as communication, evidence-based health information, variegated access to information
- **Pragmatic approaches to the implementation of EBM in practices**, featuring a review of guidelines, decision aids, Choosing Wisely and further international initiatives
- **Dealing with uncertainty in medical decisions**, highlighting the significance of communication, information materials etc.
- **Patient-relevant research**, examining the importance of background knowledge, participatory research approaches
- **Implementation of Evidence-based Practice in the education/training of Health Professionals**, discussing such subjects as risk- and health literacy, curricula, didactic preparation for communication of EbP



- **Barriers within the health care system**, exploring the influence of misplaced cost incentives, lack of transparency, influence of industry etc.
- **Methodological innovations in the EBM scene**
- **Further EBM topics**

The Medical University of Graz, which is hosting the conference, is a center of innovative, state-of-the-art medicine in the south of Austria with more than 4,200 students of human medicine, dental medicine, nursing, and medical science, as well as working on PhD programs, or on one of the numerous post-graduate courses. The newly inaugurated MED CAMPUS building project has made its mark internationally, mainly in the field of sustainability. In combination with the art nouveau ensemble of buildings that comprise the Graz University Hospital, tradition and future are linked in an architecturally unique manner.

We are looking forward to numerous contributions as well as a stimulating and interesting discussion of new ideas at the conference.

In the name of the German Network for Evidence-based Medicine, the ebm.at network and the Austrian Society of General Practice and Family Medicine, we are looking forward to welcoming you to Graz in March 2018.

Yours sincerely,

Univ.-Prof. Dr. med. univ. Andrea Siebenhofer-Kroitzsch
Congress President