

Bio Kirsten Hoepfer



Kirsten Hoepfer is Managing Director, Rheumatology Center Lower Saxony, e.V., Hannover and Research Associate, Clinic for Rheumatology and Immunology, Hannover Medical School (MHH).

Her main focus is on health care innovations in rheumatology to improve access to care as well as improving quality of care. Kirsten is involved in several projects to develop and promote nurse-led-care in Germany. She initiated the first trial in Germany “Effectivity in nurse-led-care in Rheumatology” in 2018. She is a member of a working group of the German Society of Rheumatology which has defined national

recommendations for a legal framework for nurse-led-care in rheumatology. In cooperation with the German Society for Rheumatology, the German Association of Rheumatologists, the Educational Academy in Rheumatology and German HPR Association she developed a new curriculum for rheumatology nurses to obtain certification with the German Medical Association. Trained in Economics and Business Administration, with a focus on Organizational Development, her approach to innovative care is defined by public health and institutional perspectives. Furthermore, she is adding and promoting health economic aspects within the context of the German health care system and statutory health insurance. Her access to nurse-led-care was initiated while working as a Registered Nurse in Denver, Colorado, USA. In her role as a researcher in health care at a medical university, she is constantly challenged with mediating between the two fields.

Previously, she was Research Associate, Institute of Standardized and Applied Hospital Management (ISAK), MHH (2013 – 2015), Research Associate, Institute Epidemiology, Social Medicine, and Health System Research, MHH (2011 – 2013) and Research Associate, Department Immunology and Rheumatology, MHH (2008 – 2011). She worked in various positions as a critical care nurse (1988 – 2000), including in Denver, Colorado, USA with obtaining the National Council Licensure Examination Registered Nurse, RN (1993 – 1995). Scientific Manager, Department Cardiology, MHH (2000 – 2006) and Study Coordinator, Department Immunology and Rheumatology, MHH (2006 – 2008).

Kirsten holds a Ph.D. in Public Health from the Faculty Epidemiology, Social Medicine, and Health System Research at Hannover Medical School, a Diploma Degree in Economics and a Diploma Degree in Business Administration, both from FernUniversität in Hagen.