

After studying medicine at the University of Münster, Germany, **Prof. Dr. Marcus Hoffmann** worked as a medical officer of the German Armed Forces at the headquarters of the NATO Armed Forces in Mons/Belgium, which provided an international and inter-professional environment requiring direct patient care covering a wide range of ages and illnesses. He then worked as a research assistant in Public Health at the renowned Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Bielefeld, Germany and subsequently completed further clinical training in internal medicine and trauma surgery (Prof. Dr. Peter Habermeyer) as well as a voluntary deployment with the German Armed Forces in Afghanistan during the ISAF mission. For several years afterwards he worked for the Sanofi Pasteur and Merck joint venture in Europe eventually being responsible as Head of Marketing for the HPV vaccine from where he was recruited as personal aid to the executive medical director at Heidelberg University Hospital and Medical School (Prof. Dr. J. Rüdiger Siewert). From this position he received full professorship at the Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University (DHBW) and established Germany's first "Physician Assistant" degree program.

Prof. Dr. Hoffmann played a major role in the establishment of the Further Education Decree "Physician Assistant" of the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany, which grants an academic degree to successful graduates of his program and entitles to use the additional professional designation "State Approved Physician Assistant". He was also a key member of the joint working group "academic healthcare professions" of the German Medical Association and the National Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians, which developed the concept paper "Physician Assistant – A New Profession in the German Healthcare System". Prof. Dr. Hoffmann acted as subject matter expert in numerous accreditation procedures for patient-oriented academic study programs and represents his university in the German University Federation of Healthcare Professions.

With regard to grants and third-party funding as well as the management of large projects, especially noteworthy is the successful acquisition of funding from the federal state of Baden-Wuerttemberg to establish integrated academic study programs in nursing and midwifery together with appropriate staffing and equipment. Furthermore, Prof. Dr. Hoffmann was able to implement various other projects including innovations in teaching, the development and evaluation of more efficient university processes and in the field of evaluating the actual medical care provided by physician assistants. He is currently coordinating a multi-national project funded by the European Union addressing the use of modern teaching and learning formats in international and inter-professional teaching. As elected and long standing managing director of the DHBW expert committee, he established the necessary committees and led the development of the study model for an independent department of health sciences.

Prof. Dr. Hoffmann serves as Dean of the Department of Health Sciences, which he established and leads his own Research Center for Public Health. He is a Visiting Professor at Keck School of Medicine of USC (University of Southern California), USA.