

Petra Gastmeier

Curriculum Vitae

Petra Gastmeier was born in Potsdam on 28 June 1957.

After graduating from upper secondary school at Weinberggymnasium Kleinmachnow, specialising in mathematics/physics, she decided to study medicine in 1976, first in Halle, switching to the Charité in Berlin after her preliminary examination. She received her licence to practice medicine in 1983.

Her daughter Anne and son Bernd were born in 1982 and 1983 respectively.

In 1984, she began her specialist medical training in hygiene and environmental medicine at the Potsdam Institute of Hygiene.

In 1985, she completed her doctoral thesis at the Charité Institute for Hygiene on a "Contribution to Eliminating Salmonella from the Waste Water of Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants". This thesis was recognised with the Humboldt University's Robert Koch Award in 1986.

After the German Reunification and the closure of the Potsdam Institute of Hygiene in 1990, she decided to work as a hospital hygienist at the Ernst von Bergmann Clinic in Potsdam.

From 1990 on, she worked as a lecturer at the Hygiene Institute of the Free University of Berlin under Prof. Dr. Henning Rüden, and from 1993, she worked there as a research assistant, then as a senior physician, and was involved in the establishment of the Hospital Infection Surveillance System (KISS) from the outset.

In 1999, she completed her post-doctoral thesis at the Free University on "Nosocomial Infections in Intensive Therapy: Opportunities and Limits of a Surveillance System."

In 2000, she was appointed to a C3 specialist professorship for hospital hygiene at the Hannover Medical School, in the Institute for Medical Microbiology and Hospital Epidemiology under the Directorship of Prof. Dr. Dieter Bitter-Suermann.

In 2003, she was presented with the top award of the German Society for Hygiene and Microbiology (DGHM), and was honoured with the Hygiene Prize of the Rudolf Schülke Foundation in 2007. During this time, she headed up the General and Hospital Hygiene Specialist Group at DGHM, and she was Vice-President of DGHM from 2006 to 2010.

In 2007, she was appointed to a W3 professorship in hygiene at the Charité, and has been Director of the Institute of Hygiene and Environmental Medicine at Charité since early 2008, leading the National Reference Centre for Surveillance of Nosocomial Infections. She has also been running the national "Clean Hands Campaign" since 2008.

In the last 10 years, Petra Gastmeier has worked in multiple Robert Koch Institute (RKI) committees, is a Member of the Supervisory Board of the Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research (HZI), has contributed to many working groups of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), and was involved in various WHO advisory boards.

In 2013, she was the Local Congress President of the European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, with over 10,000 participants.

She is a member of the editorial boards of several specialist journals and author of approximately 350 academic publications.