

- ▶ The **COVID-19 pandemic** generated an enormous need for knowledge. To pick up the momentum and coordinate closely within the research community, the **Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft** (DFG, German Research Foundation) established the **Interdisciplinary Commission for Pandemic Research** in June 2020.
- ▶ Until November 2023, the interdisciplinary commission broke **new ground** in order to bring together the creativity and problem-solving expertise of knowledge-driven research with an interdisciplinary vision.
- ▶ The commission consisted of **21 members** from **all academic disciplines**. The Chair of the Commission was **Professor Dr. Katja Becker**, President of the DFG.
- ▶ The aim was to make a contribution to pandemic monitoring from a scientific perspective by observing the **national and international pandemic research landscape**, continuously identifying **research gaps** and supporting evidence-based research in all pandemic-related subjects.
- ▶ A special feature was its **independence from direct political advisory contexts**.
- ▶ **Work** of the commission:
 - **Identify research needs and gaps** in a long-term perspective, beyond current political and social debates.
 - Contribution to **research networking**, through participation in international conferences and workshops.
 - Provide **scientific background** through exchange and publications and **closing information gaps** by means of targeted contributions by its members.
- ▶ Between June 2020 and June 2021, the Commission prepared a total of seven calls for **“COVID-19 Focus Funding”**. Call topics covered a broad spectrum of particularly pressing scientific issues:
 - **„Immunity, Host Susceptibility and Pathomechanisms of SARS-CoV-2 Infection”**
 - **„Measures to Prevent Infection in Social Settings and Population Groups”**
 - **„SARS-CoV-2 Sequencing Projects“**
 - **„Impacts of the Coronavirus Pandemic in the Global South: Health Systems and Society”**
 - **„Aerosol Particles and their Distribution“**
 - **„Education and Corona – The Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on Educational Processes in the Life Course”**
 - **„Exploiting Spatial Data as a Basis for Decision-making as Part of Pandemic Control”**
- ▶ The interdisciplinary composition made it possible to take a stand on **various current topics**:
 - **Final Report** issued by the DFG’s Interdisciplinary Commission for Pandemic Research (March 2024)
 - **Statement** on a **pandemic agreement** planned by the World Health Organisation (July 2023)
 - **Statement** „**The Sciences and Humanities** in the Coronavirus Pandemic” (September 2022)
 - **Statement** „**Long COVID** as a Multidisciplinary Research Challenge” (November 2021)
 - **Statement** „Urgent Action Required concerning **Health Research Data**” (October 2021)
 - **Position paper** „Coronavirus pandemic: How is it possible to prevent infection through **aerosols**?” (July 2021)
 - **Dossier** „Know more – **make informed decisions**” (January 2021)
 - **Interview series** in the DFG’s print magazine “forschung”
- ▶ By organising its international, virtual scientific **conference „Preparedness for Future Pandemics from a Global Perspective”** on 15 November 2021, the DFG and the Commission has actively contributed to the **interdisciplinary networking of DFG-funded research projects** in the field pandemic and epidemic research and strengthen the structure of **national and international cooperation**.



Members of the Interdisciplinary Commission for Pandemic Research

- ▶ Chair: Professorin Dr. Katja Becker, President of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, Bonn
- ▶ Professor Dr. Frank Allgöwer, Institute for Systems Theory and Automatic Control, University of Stuttgart
- ▶ Professor Dr. Marcus Altfeld, Institute for Immunology, University Hospital Hamburg-Eppendorf
- ▶ Professor Dr. Christian Apfelbacher, Institute of Social Medicine and Health Systems Research, Medical Faculty of Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg
- ▶ Professorin Dr. Cordula Artelt, Leibniz Institute for Educational Trajectories (LifBi) and Chair of Longitudinal Educational Research, University of Bamberg
- ▶ Professorin Dr. Cornelia Betsch, Heisenberg Professor of health communication and health behavior, University of Erfurt;
- ▶ Dr. Carsten Butsch, Institute of Geography, University of Cologne
- ▶ Professor Dr. Christian Drosten, Institute of Virology, Charité Berlin
- ▶ Professorin Dr. Eva Grill, Institute for Medical Information Processing, Biometry, and Epidemiology, LMU Munich
- ▶ Professorin Dr. Susanne Herold, Department of the Infectious Diseases Unit, Justus Liebig University in Giessen
- ▶ Professor Dr. Stefan Liebig, German Institute for Economic Research (DIW), Berlin
- ▶ Professor Dr. Stephan Ludwig, Institute of Virology, University of Münster
- ▶ Professor Dr. Micheal Meyer-Hermann, Department of Systems Immunology, Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research
- ▶ Professor Dr. Jörn Müller-Quade, Working group Cryptography and Security Research, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
- ▶ Professorin Dr. Carla Nau, Department of Anaesthesiology and Surgical Intensive Care, University Medical Center Schleswig-Holstein, Lübeck Campus
- ▶ Professorin Dr. Karen Nolte, Institute of Medical History and Ethics, University of Heidelberg
- ▶ Professor Dr. Micheal Schlüter, Institute for Multiphase Flows, Technical University of Hamburg
- ▶ Professor Dr. Jonas Schreyögg, Center of Health Economics, University of Hamburg
- ▶ Professorin Dr. Britta Siegmund, Medical Clinic for Gastroenterology, Infectiology and Rheumatology, Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin
- ▶ Professorin Dr. Simone Sommer, Institute for Evolutionary Ecology and Conservation Genomics, University of Ulm
- ▶ Professorin Dr. Caren Sureth-Sloane, Professor of Business Administration, in particular Business Taxation, University of Paderborn
- ▶ Professor Dr. Uwe Volkmann, Chair of Public Law and Philosophy of Law, Goethe University Frankfurt

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