

Preface

In 2012 the editors developed the idea of bringing together the research results from the disciplines of history, concept-based ethics, applied research ethics and health economics into one volume on “Individualized Medicine”. These different disciplines constitute one project area as an integral part of the overall “Greifswald Approach to Individualized Medicine” (GANI_MED) research consortia. From their respective disciplinary affiliations, the editors and authors of the different sections hope to contribute to the ongoing debate on ethical, economical and societal implications of Individualized Medicine by focusing on the specific Greifswald approach. To address the challenges of this new approach in medicine, IM is first and foremost a research program capable of converging persons with different backgrounds and disciplines. This volume is also the result of intense interdisciplinary discussions and close cooperation with researchers from the clinic and information technology.

Our first thanks go therefore to all the Greifswalder researchers of any discipline and background for their readiness to cooperate and discuss these issues. Without this interdisciplinary exchange based on complimentary expertise, it would have been impossible to carry out some of the research projects, particularly to find together ethically adequate solutions to clinical and IT problems, to inform our conceptual understanding and to make economical analysis possible. Our special thanks go to Hans-Jürgen Grabe, the project leader and his assistants Claudia Richardt and Vivian Werner, who supported this publication from conception to completion.

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Last but not least, we are thankful to all the writers of this volume. The editors thank all who have contributed to the success of this project. Our thanks especially go out to them for their time, hard work and for their understanding for the gentle pressure which we sometimes had to put on them in order to keep to the tight time plan.

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