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New insights in mechanical ventilation

This supplemental issue of *Medizinische Klinik – Intensivmedizin und Notfallmedizin* focuses on different aspects of mechanical ventilation and the potential role of extracorporeal support in severe respiratory failure. These “insight” articles are based on lectures that were given during the last GERMAN SMART MEETING in January 2017 in Frankfurt. Well-recognized experts in the field of respiratory failure and support were asked not to give the typical state-of-the-art presentation providing facts, beliefs, and seeming paradigms of a topic but much more to raise doubts and to challenge rules and habits that were applied in daily clinical practice of respiratory support and even in our own thinking. The motto *dubio ergo sum* was chosen to underline the intention to scrutinize what we do and to show that, for example, logic and reasonable sounding paradigms like the opening and closing story as a mechanism for inducing or promoting lung injury finally represents more a well-accepted belief than factual knowledge. The meeting offered high end knowledge, physiology and left finally—as wished—more open questions than definite answers. It was likewise challenging and motivating for participants and speakers. The organizers of this meeting asked some of the speakers to summarize their presentation for this journal, fortunately five of them agreed and submitted their manuscripts.

Finally, their efforts created an appealing issue transporting recent knowledge, limitations, and doubts in the treatment of respiratory failure. The editors hope that the readers will appreciate the content of this issue as they did during the editing process. In addition,

the idea of challenges and doubts—the *dubio ergo sum*—will be continued. The next GERMAN SMART MEETING to rethink respiratory medicine took place on 12 and 13 January 2018 in Frankfurt. Maybe reading of the articles in this issue of *Medizinische Klinik – Intensivmedizin und Notfallmedizin* will drive attention to the meeting.

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