National Reference Centres
Influenza · Measles, mumps, rubella · Poliomyelitis and enteroviruses · Salmonellosis and other enteric pathogens · Staphylococci

Consultant Laboratories
Electron microscopic diagnostics in infectious diseases · Noroviruses · Poxviruses · Rotaviruses · Tick-borne encephalitis (TBE) · Cryptococcosis, scedosporiosis and imported systemic mycoses

International Collaborating Centres
WHO Regional Reference Laboratory for Poliomyelitis · WHO Regional Reference Laboratory for Measles and Rubella · Organisation of the European Network for Diagnostics of “Imported” Viral Diseases (ENIVD)

Scientific Committees
► Advisory Board for Public Health Microbiology
► Central Ethics Committee for Stem Cell Research
► Committee Antimicrobial Resistance and Therapy
► Commission on Genetic Testing
► Committee for Health Reporting
► Committee for Hospital Hygiene and Infection Prevention
► Committee for Environmental Medicine
► National Advisory Committee Blood
► National Certification Committee for Polio Eradication
► National Verification Committee for Measles and Rubella Elimination
► Standing Committee for Vaccination

Publications
► Bundesgesundheitsblatt (Journal for Public Health, Health Research and Health Protection), co-editor, monthly
► Epidemiologisches Bulletin, weekly
► RKI-Publications (books, journals)
► Gesundheitsberichterstattung des Bundes (Federal health reporting)
► Infektionsepidemiologisches Jahrbuch (Yearbook of Infectious Disease Epidemiology)
► RKI-Ratgeber Ärzte (Info sheets for doctors)
► Recommendations by the Commission for Hospital Hygiene and Infection Prevention
► UMID – Umwelt und Mensch-Informationsdienst (Information about environmental medicine), co-editor
► Publications in peer reviewed scientific journals

History
1891 Founded as the Royal Prussian Institute for Infectious Diseases. Robert Koch led the Institute until 1904
1952 The Institute became part of the newly founded Federal Health Office (Bundesgesundheitsamt)
1994 The Federal Health Office is replaced by independent institutions. RKI continues its work as a federal health authority (under the auspices of the Federal Ministry of Health)

Locations
Central Location
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Further Locations
Seestraße 10, 13353 Berlin (Wedding)
General-Pape-Straße 62–66, 12101 Berlin (Tempelhof)
Burgstraße 37, D-38855 Wernigerode

The Robert Koch Institute at a Glance

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Type-Setting: Peter Wust, Berlin
Prod.: RKI-Hausdruckerei

The Robert Koch Institute is a Federal Institute within the portfolio of the Federal Ministry of Health
Main Areas of Activity

Department of Infectious Diseases

Head: Prof. Dr. Martin Mielke

- Viral infections
  - Virus-host-interactions (pathogenetic mechanisms)
  - Molecular epidemiology / Public Health Microbiology
  - Viral infections in newborns and immunosuppressed patients
  - AIDS: immunopathogenesis, molecular epidemiology and resistance of HIV, retrovirology, microbial safety and xenotransplantation
  - Influenza and other respiratory viruses
  - Measles, mumps, rubella
  - Herpesviruses
  - Poliovirus and other enteroviruses
  - Gut associated viruses (norovirus, rotavirus)
  - Hepatitisviruses

- Bacterial infections
  - Bacterium-host-interactions (pathogenetic mechanisms)
  - Antibiotic resistance
  - Molecular epidemiology of healthcare associated infections
  - Molecular epidemiology of salmonella and other enteric pathogens
  - Listeria
  - Legionella
  - Persistent infections

- Fungal and parasitic infections
  - Pathogen-host-interactions (pathogenetic mechanisms)
  - Diagnosis of invasive mycotic infections

- Pathogenesis, molecular biology and diagnosis of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies

- Healthcare associated infections and hospital hygiene
  - Prevention and control of healthcare associated infections
  - Inactivation of infectious agents/tolerance

Department of Infection Disease Epidemiology

Head: Dr. Osamah Hamouda

- National surveillance for infectious diseases
  - Notifiable diseases
  - Early warning, risk assessment
  - Reporting

- Focal point for infectious disease control
  - Public health service
  - International Health Regulations

- Research in infectious disease epidemiology

- Applied Epidemiology (investigation of outbreaks)

- Disease prevention
  - Immunization strategies
  - Pandemic preparedness
  - HIV/AIDS

- Training in infectious disease epidemiology
  - Courses for Public Health Professionals
  - Postgraduate training for applied epidemiology (PAE), Master of Science in Applied Epidemiology (MSAE) with Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin

- Epidemiologic assessment and analysis
  - Vaccine preventable diseases
  - Sexually transmittable diseases
  - Food borne diseases
  - Zoonotic diseases
  - Respiratory infections
  - Antimicrobial resistance

Department for Infectious Disease Epidemiology

Head: Dr. Bärbel-Maria Kurth

- Nationwide health monitoring: continuous monitoring on the health of the German population via the following three components:
  - KiGGS: study on the health of children and adolescents in Germany (longitudinal study)
  - DEGS: study on the health of adults in Germany (longitudinal study)

- GEDA: annual population survey on health-related issues (cross-sectional study)

- All data generated by monitoring are available as public use files.

- Federal Health Reporting (GBE)
  - Comprehensive reports on health in Germany
  - GBE booklets on specific issues
  - Timely health reports based on monitoring data for articles in health reporting

- Epidemiological research on
  - Health of children and adolescents
  - Health and care of the elderly
  - Risk factors of common non-communicable diseases (lifestyle, environment, nutrition)
  - Prevention concepts and their evaluation

- German Cancer Registry Data Centre

- Tasks defined by the Federal Cancer Registry Data Act:
  - Pooling and quality control of data from regional cancer registries
  - Regulation of a verified overall dataset
  - Analyses on cancer incidence, prevalence and survival
  - Reporting on cancer in Germany

Centre for Biological Threats and Special Pathogens (ZBS)

Head: Priv. Doz. Dr. Lars Schaade

- Health threats caused by highly pathogenic and bioterroristic important biological agents (microbes and toxins):
  - Identification
  - Assessment
  - Support of management

- Federal Information Centre for Biological Threats and Special Pathogens (IBBS)

- Cooperation with national and international partners in the field of biological security

- Diagnostics and rapid diagnostics

- Research in diagnostics, epidemiology, pathogenesis and countermeasures

- Planning and operating of a biosafety level 4 laboratory

Project Groups

- Acquired immunity: effector systems against viral and bacterial pathogens, pathogenesis of chronic inflammatory diseases induced by infections, development of novel vaccines for induction of cytotoxic T cells

- Acinetobacter

- Emerging zoonooses

- Epidemiological Modelling of Infectious Diseases

- Emerging zoonoses

- Acinetobacter

Junior Research Groups

- Salmonella virulence factors

- Bioinformatics

- Sexually transmitted bacterial pathogens

Regulatory Authority for the Import and Use of Human Embryonic Stem Cells

Head: Dr. Peter Löser

- Review of applications according to the German Stem Cell Act

- Registry on human embryonic stem cell (hESC) research in Germany

Staff

About 990 employees, including 390 scientists (graduate students and trainees incl.). Approx. 410 are on limited-term contracts and 270 work part-time. In addition, there are numerous undergraduate students.