

EDITORIAL

CURE OR CURSE? COMPLIANCE IN DIGITAL HEALTHCARE

Digitization – a term one cannot avoid nowadays. Some even speak of a digital revolution with reference to the industrial revolution more than 200 years ago. And both revolutions are truly comparable in the ways they disruptively change our working and living conditions up to the socio-economic structure.

After addressing aspects of Legal Tech in our last issue, we will focus on the field of healthcare in this fall's edition of CEJ. It is especially in the healthcare sector where digitization is to develop its enormous disruptive potential. Not only will there be new techniques of diagnosis and treatment, but also massive changes to the relationships between physicians and patients, providers and users of healthcare services: "The patient will see you now" – the title of Eric Topols bestselling book is not just a play with words! Everything we thought we knew for sure about the structures of our healthcare system may be put upside down. Needless to say that data generation, processing and usage are gamechangers in this regard. Patient data are the lubricant for a developing healthcare system and keep it running. However, the question remains open whether digitization will empower patients to emancipate and to meet physicians at eye level or whether it will make them even more dependent and vulnerable.

Digital (r)evolution is progressing rapidly and legislators seem to struggle keeping pace. The legal framework for the (digital) healthcare sector is complex and uncertain. It often seems to fail to take the "glocality" of digital health care services into account.

New forms of healthcare – new legal questions: questions concerning contract design, liability, settlement, data generation, compatibility with professional regulations as well as with national and supranational law. A bunch of questions remain to be answered. CEJ aims to put these pieces together in a couple of issues focusing on "E-Health and Telemedicine". This edition is the first one and has been supported by Prof. Dr. Michael Lindemann, who holds the chair for Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure and Criminology at the University of Bielefeld, Germany. In his research, Prof. Lindemann focusses (amongst other) on commercial and medical criminal law as well as on the criminological aspects of white collar and corporate crimes. Prof. Lindemann is also coordinator of the Bielefeld Center for Healthcare Compliance (BCHC).

The edition features first-rate articles by specialists in the field of healthcare and data security. Apart from that we will face some classical compliance topics and last but not least CEJ Founder Michele DeStefanos new book *Legal Upheaval* will be introduced and reviewed.

We hope you enjoy our fall edition! Because no matter whether you appreciate the recent developments or find them even frightening – the radical changes digitization causes in the health care industry do affect each of us and are not to be ignored.

With our best regards,



Michele DeStefano, Hendrik Schneider & Michael Lindemann
Founder and Content Curators of CEJ