Name, Title, Date of Birth

Pletz, Mathias W., Prof. Dr. med., 1973

Contact Information (address, phone, email)

Institut für Infektionsmedizin und Krankenhaushygiene
Universitätsklinikum Jena
Am Klinikum 1
07740 Jena
mathias.pletz@med.uni-jena.de
mobile 015111826252 (privat)
03641-932-4794 (Chefsekretariat)

Current position

Full Professor (W3) of Infectious Diseases
Founding Director, Institute for Infectious Diseases and Infection Control
Faculty of Medicine / Jena University Hospital
Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany

Positions & Employment

Since 2024	Speaker of the Else Kröner Research College for Young Physicians: Infections in the cardiovascular system: pathophysiology, therapy and diagnostics (IKARUS)
	Elected member of the German-Research Foundation (DFG) Review-Board (2024-2028)
2020-2024	Member of the WHO Guidance Development Group on COVID-19
	Member of the American Thoracic Society Guidance Development Group on COVID-19
since 2019	Member of the international steering committee and country lead Germany of the global REMAP-CAP study
	Member of the international steering committee of the Global Sepsis Alliance
2017-2021	Member of the board of Directors, German Sepsis Society
	Member of the Steering Committee of the Antibiotic Resistance Program of the Swiss National Foundation
2016-2020	Elected Member of the German Research Foundation (DFG)-Review Board
since 2015	Scientific Advisory Board of Infectognostics Research Campus
2012-2015	Deputy Director, Center for Sepsis Control and Care (www.cscc.uniklinikum-jena.de)
since 2013	Pandemic advisory board of the German Robert Koch Institute (www.rki.de)
2013-2019	Scientific Advisory Board of the German Society for Infectious Diseases (www.dgi-net.de)
2013-2024	Scientific Advisory Board of the German Robert Koch Institute
since 2009	Deputy Directors CAPNETZ, Germany (www.capnetz.de)
since 2009	Member of the board of Directors, Paul-Ehrlich-Society for Anti-infective Chemotherapy, Germany (www.p-e-g.de)
2005-2010	Project leader “Antibiotic resistance in respiratory tract infections” (funded by German Ministry for Science and Education), Hannover Medical School, Germany

Education & Degrees

Since 2023	Chamber of Physician Training Authorization (i.e. 36 months) for “Infectious Diseases”
2016	Board Certification for Hospital Epidemiology
Since 2011	Chamber of Phyisician Training authorization for 12 months “Infectious Diseases” and 6 months Internal Medicine
2011	Board Certification for Pulmonology
2010	Board Certification for Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases
2008	Habilitation (lecture-thesis) in Experimental Internal Medicine “Molecular epidemiology of fluoroquinolone-resistant pneumococci”, Hannover Medical School, Germany
2006/7	Study Physician, Fraunhofer Institute for Respiratory Research, Hannover, Germany

2003-2005	Guest Researcher, Respiratory Diseases Branch, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, USA and Postdoc, Department of Global Health, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, Atlanta, USA (supported by a scholarship of the German Research Foundation)
2003-10	Physician, Department of Pulmonary Medicine, Hannover Medical School
2001-3	Resident, Department of Chest and Infectious Diseases, City Hospital Heckeshorn, Berlin, Germany
2000	Thesis in Virology "Rubella virus induced apoptosis" (summa cum laude), University of Leipzig, Germany
2000	Medical Graduation (1,0)
1998	Training at the FDA (Laboratory of Parasitic Pathology and Biochemistry) Bethesda, Maryland
1996/97	Scholarship of the State of Saxony for Graduate Studies in Virologie
1993 – 2000	Studies of Medicine, University of Leipzig, Germany; Baylor College, Houston, USA and University of Basel, Switzerland

Additional Qualifications

2025	Certificate AI in Medicine according to the EU AI Regulation Act

Honors and Awards

2024	President of the Annual Meeting of the Thuringia Society for Internal Medicine
2022-24	President of the Paul-Ehrlich-Society for Antiinfective Chemotherapy
Since 2021	Editor in Chief "Zeitschrift für Infektionstherapie", Official Educational Journal of the Paul Ehrlich Society for Antiinfective Chemotherapy
Since 2020	Editorial Board Member of CHEST (IF10) and Clinical Infectious Diseases (IF9) and BMC Pneumonia (IF
2019	President of the 19th Annual Conference of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Berlin
2019	Top Peer Reviewer in Immunology (www.publons.com)
2019	Section Editor for Sepsis in "Infection" (IF 5)
2018	Top Peer Reviewer in Immunology (www.publons.com)
2016	Elected President for the 18th 2-annual National Congress on Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine (KIT) in Cologne
2013	President of the Annual Meeting of the Thuringia Society for Internal Medicine
2007	Mentoring Program of the American College of Chest Physician
2004	Honor Award Certificate of the Centers for Diseases Control, Atlanta
2004	Kass Award of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA)
2003	Respiratory Infections Award of the European Respiratory Society (ERS)
2003-5	Scholarship of the German Research Foundation
2000	Best oral presentation, Eastern Atlantic Students Research Forum, Miami
1999	Best oral presentation, European Students Conference, Berlin
1995-2000	Scholarship, German Academic Scholarship Foundation

Participation in National and International Treatment Guidelines

2025	Revision S2K Empiric antibiotic treatment, Paul-Ehrlich-Society
2024	Surviving Sepsis Campaign (German delegate, in progress)
2024	Phage Therapy, in progress Targeted Treatment of multi-drug-resistant pathogens (co-coordinator, in progress)
2024	Bronchiectasis
2024, 2017, 2012	German S3 Nosocomial Pneumonia
2021, 2015	German S3 Community-acquired Pneumonia
2020-24	Living WHO Guideline on COVID-19 Infection Prevention
2018	German S3 Sepsis
2015	S2K Empiric antibiotic treatment, Paul-Ehrlich-Society

Leadership in Training

Training of 9 residents within the last 5 years, who have successfully taken the Chamber of Physician Board Examination in Infectious Diseases
scientific advisory board of “Infectioupdate”, the largest German spoken educational conference on Infectious Diseases and “Infektio Live” reaching up to 5000 physicians in Germany, Austria and Switzerland
Design and moderation of several different Infection Control and Antibiotic Stewardship Courses hosted and certified by the State Chamber of Physicians including e-learning moduls between 2hours to 120 hours for different medical specialties with up to date 887 participating physicians

Extramural Funding acquired

Please refer to the Appendix

Five most important Publications last 3 years

Bahrs C, Andreas N, Lehmann T, Baumgart S, Jørgensen CS, Makarewicz O, Röll D, Moeser A, Hagel S, Watzl C, Bogdan C, Kamradt T, **Pletz MW**. A randomized trial of simultaneous versus sequential pneumococcal vaccination in elderly. Clin Microbiol Infect. 2025 Dec;31(12):2003-2010 (IF 10.9)

Liang C, Begier E, Hagel S, Ankert J, Wang L, Schwarz C, Bayer LJ, von Eiff C, Liu Q, Southern J, Vietri J, Uppal S, Gessner BD, Theilacker C, **Pletz MW.** Incidence of RSV-related hospitalizations for ARIs, including CAP: Data from the German prospective ThEpiCAP study.
J Infect. 2025 Mar;90(3):106440 (IF 14.3)

Pletz MW, Dürrwald R, Reiche J, Rose N, Scherag A, Weis S for the CoNAN study group. Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on influenza and respiratory syncytial virus antibody titres in the community: a prospective cohort study in Neustadt, Thuringia, Germany Eur Respir J. 2022 Nov 10,60(5):2200947. (IF21.2)

Hagel S, Bach F, Brenner T, Bracht H, Brinkmann A, Annecke T, Hohn A, Weigand M, Michels G, Kluge S, Nierhaus A, Jarczak D, König C, Weismann D, Frey O, Witzke D, Müller C, Bauer M, Kiehntopf M, Neugebauer S, Lehmann T, Roberts JA, **Pletz MW** for the TARGET Trial Investigators. Effect of therapeutic drug monitoring-based dose optimization of piperacillin/tazobactam on sepsis-related organ dysfunction in patients with sepsis: a randomized controlled trial Intensive Care Med. 2022 Mar,48(3):311-321. (IF 27.1)

Bahrs C, Kesselmeier M, Kolditz M, Ewig S, Rohde G, Barten-Neiner G, Rupp J, Witzenrath M, Welte T, **Pletz MW** for the CAPNETZ Study Group. A longitudinal analysis of pneumococcal vaccine serotypes in pneumonia patients in Germany Eur Respir J. 2022 (IF 21.2)
Weis S, Scherag A, Baier M, Kiehntopf M, Kamradt T, Kolanos S, Ankert J, Glöckner S, Makarewicz O, Hagel S, Bahrs C, Kimmig A, Proquitté H, Guerra J, Rimek D, Löffler B, **Pletz MW**; CoNAN Study Group. Antibody response using six different serological assays in a completely PCR-tested community after a coronavirus disease 2019 outbreak-the CoNAN study.Clin Microbiol Infect. 2021 Mar;27(3):470.e1-470.e9. (IF 10.9)

List of all Publications (separate peer reviewed publications and reviews/book chapters)

over 550 PubMed listed publication, H-Index 73 (Google Scholar), over 20.000 citations on pneumonia, sepsis, vaccines, antibiotic resistance (AMR), antibiotic tolerance (biofilms)

more than 300 invited talks on AMR, pneumonia, sepsis, vaccines and COVID-19 within the last 5 years please refer to the Appendix

Preferred Disease Area/Platform/DSWG Membership

Please check off at least one DA or PL. Participation in a DSWG is optional but highly encouraged.

☐ Disease Area Asthma & Allergy (AA)
☐ Disease Area Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

☐ Disease Area Cystic Fibrosis & Bronchiectasis (CFBE)
X Disease Area Pneumonia & Acute Lung Injury (PALI)
☐ Disease Area Diffuse Parenchymal Lung Disease (DPLD)
☐ Disease Area Pulmonary Hypertension (PH)
☐ Disease Area Regeneration & Organ Replacement (ROR)
☐ Disease Area Lung Cancer (LC)

☐ Biobanking & Data Management Platform (PLB)
☐ Imaging Platform (PLI)

x DSWG Artificial Intelligence & Digital Tools (AID)
☐ DSWG Lung Environment Interaction (LEI)
x DSWG Microbiome – Metagenome (MM)
☐ DSWG Single-Cell Analysis (SCA)

Rationale for Membership in the DZL (not more than half a page)

As an external Principal Investigator for BREATH, my main contribution would be to strengthen the DZL focus on pneumonia and other respiratory infections across the full translational spectrum, from population-based cohorts and vaccine studies to -machine learning based (e.g. PMID: 31537702)- individualized anti-infective strategies in patients with chronic lung disease. BREATH has a long-standing emphasis on pneumonia and acute lung injury, closely linked to CAPNETZ and the Disease Area "Pneumonia – acute lung injury", which provides an ideal framework for this focus. My primary scientific focus is community-acquired pneumonia, where I serve as deputy speaker of CAPNETZ, the world's largest observational study on CAP with a central coordinating office, biobank and data infrastructure located at MHH and tightly integrated with BREATH. In this role, I have helped to expand the cohort to more than 15.000 patients and to open the database for multinational collaborations, generating e.g. key data on pneumococcal serotype distribution and vaccine coverage that have informed national pneumococcal vaccination recommendations. In addition, my group has built and led prospective population-based cohorts and deep-phenotyping studies on respiratory infections and vaccines, including the CoNAN field y on SARS-CoV-2 immunity in a fully PCR-tested community and the ThEpiCAP study on RSV- and CAP-related hospitalizations, which are directly aligned with DZL core datasets and cohort-building strategies. These efforts demonstrate the ability to design, implement and sustain large, high-quality cohorts that could be leveraged for BREATH questions in cystic fibrosis, bronchiectasis and end-stage lung disease, particularly at the interface of chronic structural lung damage, infection and vaccination. My translational work also extends to antibiotic resistance and biofilm-associated infections, including plasmid-mediated resistance, genotype–phenotype correlations, and preclinical models of biofilm infection and bacteriophage or nanoparticle-packaged antibiotic therapy, all highly relevant for chronic infections in CF and bronchiectasis. Together with long-standing collaborations with MHH Pneumology, Fraunhofer ITEM and CAPNETZ—originating from my own clinical and academic training in Hannover—this profile and network can help to partially fill the scientific gap left by the untimely death of my mentor Tobias Welte and to further develop BREATH's role as a leading DZL site for pneumonia-focused translational lung infection research.