

Summary

Aim of research module 3.1 “Medical vulnerability” is the search and identification of bioclimatological-medical parameters (vital signs) referring an increased vulnerability (sensitivity and exposure) of patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) to heat stress and heat-related disease exacerbation. The project is focused on heat stress of COPD-patients at home as well as in hospital. Therefore relations between heat stress and emergency room visits on the one hand and duration of hospital admission otherwise will be analysed epidemiological and by using a model patients room with air-conditioning.

A strong interdisciplinary research approach is necessary. Inside the research unit the research module 3.1 “Medical vulnerability” is additionally a synergistic clinical-epidemiological link, providing access to patients (chronic diseases) most vulnerable to heat stress. Medical data are an essential contribute to obtain the goals of the whole research unit.