



University  
of Basel

Department of  
Biomedical Engineering



Selected research topics in Biomedical Engineering:

## **Quantifying Placebo Effects: Problems and Limitations**

Location: University Campus Basel, Kollegienhaus, Seminarraum 103

Date & Time: Tuesday 18.04.2023 10:15 – 12:00

# **From Social Observational Learning to Open-Label Placebos – Practical Applications of Placebo Effects**

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## **Abstract**

Social observational learning (SOL) of placebo effects has been demonstrated in adults, but not yet in children and adolescents. Results of experimental studies with healthy girls and boys between 8 and 18 years and adults will be presented: They observed an effective analgesic treatment in their own mother/partner or an unknown woman, and then underwent the same, but inert treatment. SOL could be harnessed to improve treatment outcomes through watching videos. Current trends in placebo research are open-label placebos, partly in combination with social learning. Practical implications for placebo research as well as for clinical applications will be discussed.

## **Curriculum**

Dr. Katja Weimer, Dipl.-Psych., is a placebo researcher since 2009, and is interested in the underlying mechanisms of placebo effects and their application in clinical practice. Currently, she is interested in the relationship between placebo effects and the autonomic nervous system. She provides the monthly JIPS Newsletter (<http://jips.online>) with newest placebo research, and is steering committee member of the Society for Interdisciplinary Placebo Studies (SIPS).