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A Century of BG Research in the International Context

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ABSTRACT:

Research has long been an indispensable instrument by which the institutions for statutory accident insurance and prevention in Germany (the BGs) fulfil their statutory mandate, effectively and efficiently. This activity had its beginnings a century ago, and even in its infancy, experience in many areas of research was shared across national borders, and joint activities undertaken.

The historical development of BG research will first be sketched; its scope, organization, and foci will then be described in its modern context. The particular features of BG research will be addressed: what is its strategic function within the mandate of the statutory accident insurance system (prevention – rehabilitation – compensation)? How does it differ from research conducted by other bodies? What are its particular strengths? How does research interact with the other tasks and instruments of the accident insurance institutions? And how are research findings implemented sustainably?

Practical examples of prevention and rehabilitation research serve to show how the BGs become aware of topical issues, how pressing scientific challenges are addressed, and finally, how the results are implemented in the field.

The international contacts and joint activities in which BG research institutions are involved are also described in their diversity. The focus of BG research activity is compared to that in other countries by way of an example.