Is geography destiny in health care? A growing body of research shows that geographic variation in health care within countries is the rule. A recent OECD report calls for action. Variation is important for patients, and challenges both health policies and the medical professions. If variation cannot be avoided, can it be used to better understand and improve our health care systems? This is the first open international conference that addresses fundamental questions on the causes of variation and how analyses can help build better health care systems: Is health care equitable? Is technical quality at its best? Are patients appropriately engaged in decision-making? Are public funds spent efficiently? In many countries geographic analysis of health care delivery has revealed unwarranted variations and has identified examples of best practice to guide improvement efforts.

At this conference we will discuss current methods and results in geographic analysis of variations to improve health care. Experts from the field will present at plenary sessions. Breakout sessions will focus on practical methods, interpretation, communication of variation, and strategies for using the information. If you like to make a difference, then join this event!

How to join or present a paper?
The conference is based on open enrollment. A small registration fee (< 200 €) will be required. The conference website for online registration will be available by the end of January. If you would like to present a paper (there are limited spaces), please provide an abstract no later than March 15th, 2015. Abstract forms can be downloaded from the conference website.

Wennberg International Collaborative (WIC) is a research network committed to improving healthcare by examining organizational and regional variation in health care resources, utilization, and outcomes. The WIC is a joint initiative established by The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice and the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Zentralinstitut für die kassenärztliche Versorgung in Deutschland (Zi) is the research unit of the 17 Regional Physician Associations and the Federal Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians in Germany. It is a not-for-profit foundation in support of equitable and efficient ambulatory health care in Germany.
Location

The conference will be held at Villa Elisabeth, Invalidenstrasse 3, 10115 Berlin. Built at the beginning of the 20th century as congregation hall by the Lutheran Community of the neighbouring St Elisabeth Church it is now a venue for cultural events of all kinds. Villa Elisabeth is located in the Eastern part of the city in a neighborhood thriving with small restaurants and particular shops close to the Berlin Wall memorial. Hotels can be found in walking distance. The venue is also easily reached from both airports by public transport.

There will be simultaneous translation (English/German).

The registration fee includes catering during the conference and a dinner on June 4, 2015. The dinner will be held in the St Elisabeth Church which has been a ruin for 60 years and is now an architectural monument. Please note that partners may register to attend the dinner.