Background
Families exercise a manifold influence on the health of its members. This may be in a positive way when the family takes on protective and sustaining functions, but can also be a risk for the family members in relation to their health. This awareness requires for good health care both professional and scientific discussions about the meaning, situation and role of the family in establishing and maintaining in the overall health of each person.

Research cooperation
Both at the University of Applied Sciences Osnabrück and at the Witten/Herdecke University it has been rea-
alyzed that empirically founded insights the family are a central aspect in their everyday practice. The cooperation research group “FamiLe” is currently working on the context of health and disease. Two interdisciplinary teams in Osnabrück and Witten are working on the topic of family-oriented nursing and midwifery science.

Funding periods
As in the research projects of the first funding period (2012 – 2015), the 12 research projects of the second funding period (2015 – 2018) will be focusing on health behaviour during the family building phase, on coping with illness/care dependency in families, and on families coping with the last phase of life of one of its members. The “FamiLe” research concept has been extended to include topics that are examined from a systemic perspective from a social scientific discourse, such as the influence of social determinants on a family’s health, or the Doing Family approach, which deals with familial everyday practices. Publications are ongoing and the first findings of the second funding period were presented at a congress at the Witten/Herdecke University in October 2016. In May 2018 the research group will continue its projects by organizing an international congress at the University of Applied Sciences in Osnabrück.

Qualifying concept
Intensive cooperation between both locations will promote the development of each individual research pro-
ject dealing with family health. During this process the graduates will be supported by supervisor tandems from among the scientists involved. Two postdoctoral fellows will provide mentoring and every three months a research colloquium is to be held. The graduates and post-docs will be involved in both national and interna-
tional research in which they will be supported by national and international experts, will visit congresses and take part in topic-oriented research abroad. Thus, the interdisciplinary research requirements will be fulfilled and a placement facilitated in the overall family health context.

Objectives
The research group “Family Health in Life Course – FamiLe” would like first of all to gain in-depth knowledge about the role of the family in promoting health and in coping with illness and care dependency. Secondly, it is intended to promote the development and importing of methodic competence to generate knowledge about familial processes and thirdly, to consolidate and advance the thematic field of family-oriented nursing and midwifery science at a high level. This includes the internationalization of research activities. Finally, the research group “Family Health in Life Course – FamiLe” aims at supporting the consolidation of the scientific development of both disciplines and the professionalization of healthcare.