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Declaration pursuant to Section 7(1)(2) of the doctoral degree regulations

I hereby declare in lieu of oath that this dissertation is my own original work except where otherwise stated. All data or concepts drawn directly or indirectly from other sources have been correctly acknowledged. **The persons listed below** assisted me in selecting and evaluating the following material **in the manner described**

- unpaid assistance**
- paid assistance:**

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2		
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No other persons contributed to the content or physical production of this dissertation. Specifically, I did not make use of any agency or consulting services (placement assistance, ghostwriting services, etc.). Apart from the persons listed above, no person has received from me, either directly or indirectly, benefits in kind for any work associated with the content of the dissertation submitted for examination.

This dissertation has not been submitted in its present or similar form to any other examining body either in Germany or abroad for the award of a doctoral degree.

I declare in lieu of oath that to the best of my knowledge I have told the truth and have not concealed information.

I am aware of the significance of my declaration in lieu of oath and of the consequences under criminal law should such declaration be false or incomplete.

Place, Date

Signature of the doctoral research student

Declaration of original authorship [*Eidesstattliche Versicherung*]

Legal background

The Faculty of Medicine at Saarland University requires a declaration of original authorship for academic work. This declaration is to be made as a declaration in lieu of oath. Particular significance is attached to declarations in lieu of oath in German law and such declarations can have serious consequences. Making a false declaration in lieu of oath is a punishable offence. Any person who purposely (i.e. knowingly) makes a false declaration may be liable to imprisonment not exceeding three years or a fine. Any person who makes a declaration negligently (i.e. the person should have known that the declaration made was contrary to fact) may be liable to imprisonment not exceeding one year or a fine. The relevant penalties are set out in Section 156 ('Falsely sworn declaration in lieu of oath') and Section 161 ('Negligent offences') of the German Criminal Code (StGB).

Section 156 German Criminal Code (StGB) Falsely sworn declaration in lieu of oath

Whoever before a public authority competent to administer a declaration in lieu of oath, falsely makes such a declaration or falsely testifies while referring to such a declaration shall be liable to imprisonment not exceeding three years or a fine.

Section 161 German Criminal Code (StGB) Negligent offences

(1) If a person commits one of the offences listed in Sections 154 to 156 negligently, the penalty shall be imprisonment not exceeding one year or a fine.

(2) The offender shall be exempt from liability if he corrects his false testimony in time. The provisions of Section 158(2) and (3) shall apply mutatis mutandis.