

**Saskia Franke, *Psychoendocrinology and Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders*,
Department of Clinical and Theoretical Psychobiology, University of Trier, Germany,
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This dissertation investigates the psychological and endocrinological make-up of patients with functional gastrointestinal disorders (FGD). Patients with irritable bowel syndrome and/or non ulcer dyspepsia were compared with healthy control subjects on several parameters: psychological disorders, bodily complaints, depressed mood, anxiety, chronic stress, personality and basal activity, reactivity (hCRH-test) as well as feedback-sensitivity (Dexamethasone-suppression-test) of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenocortical (HPA) system. Patients with FGD had different -mostly higher- scores in almost every psychological/psychometric measure. Furthermore, results of the endocrinological studies indicate a down-regulated HPA activity in patients with FGD.