



Swiss Summer School in Palliative Care Research

The National Research Programme “End of Life” (NRP 67) of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and the research network “palliative care research switzerland” (pcrs) are organizing a Summer School for doctoral/postdoctoral researchers and academics involved in research projects. The Summer School is intended to strengthen participants’ skills in end-of-life and palliative care research in Switzerland.

Dates: 22 to 24 August 2018

Place: Murten (Switzerland), Münchenwiler Castle



Bern University
of Applied Sciences



SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION



End of Life
National Research Programme NRP 67



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The Summer School will foster knowledge exchange and collaboration between disciplines, provide education and training, and serve as a platform for networking and development of new projects in end-of-life and palliative care research.

General information about the Summer School

- Dates: 22 to 24 August 2018
- Place: Murten (Switzerland), Münchenwiler Castle
- Language: English
- Costs: CHF 300.–
- Deadline for submission of projects: 28 February 2018
- Contact person: Claudia Michel, claudia.michel@bfh.ch

Target Audience

The Summer School’s target audience comprises doctoral candidates / early postdoctoral candidates and other researchers who wish to deepen their skills in end-of-life and palliative care research. For each topic, there will be an input by experts, followed by a case study session to discuss ongoing research projects. Therefore, researchers are invited to submit descriptions of their projects (details below). Note: Submitting a research project is not a requirement for participating in the Summer School.

The interdisciplinary Steering Committee of the research network “palliative care research switzerland” will review the submitted project descriptions. Candidates will be informed regarding their submission in April 2018.

For further details and inquiries, please contact Claudia Michel: claudia.michel@bfh.ch

For general information, consult our website: www.palliative-care-forschung.ch/

Expert Insights and Case Study Sessions

Senior-level international and national researchers from a broad spectrum of disciplines have been invited to serve as experts at the Summer School. They will provide insights into their own research and offer advice regarding participants’ projects during case study session.

Contributions are structured according to the following topics (and researchers):

1. Public Health and Palliative Care

Luc Deliens, Ghent University and VUB Brussels, Georg Bosshard, University Hospital Zurich

There has been an increase of awareness, that in order to improve the circumstances surrounding dying a “Public Health Approach” is required in addition to clinical or health service approaches. Next to looking at clinical aspects of palliative care services and professionals, we need to also consider aspects of health beyond those within the mandate of palliative healthcare services and engage the different actors, other than health professionals, involved in palliative care and end-of-life care.

Currently, within the domain of palliative care service, the most under-developed approach is the Population Health Approach. Yet, it is the approach that has the most potential to enhance the quality of life and sense of wellbeing to the widest number of people in sickness and in health, in dying and in loss, and in all caring experiences towards one another. The growing interest in a Public Health Approach in palliative care can be witnessed worldwide in international research literature, conferences and professional associations, as well as in a reference group on public Health and Palliative Care in the European Association for Palliative Care. In the upcoming Summer School we will demonstrate a number of Public Health Research Approaches and discuss research designs that use a population wide perspective, such as nationwide surveys, the use of national administrative databases, etc.



Münchenwiler Castle

2. Ethics of Decision-Making

Manuel Trachsel, University of Zurich, Samia Hurst, University of Geneva

Decision-making in medicine involving palliative care comprises manifold ethical issues, including: the tension between medical indications, clinical evidence, and the actual intervention; economic considerations with regard to scarce resources; and the ubiquitous ethical conflict between patients' rights of self-determination and the need to protect vulnerable patients from harm. Key concepts pertaining to the latter ethical conflict are informed consent, decision-making capacity, and voluntariness. Conceptual, ethical, and practical issues as well as empirical findings regarding the concept of decision-making capacity are discussed with a focus on palliative care.

3. Palliative Care, Chronic Care, and Dementia

Michael Ewers, Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Florian Riese, University of Zurich

This session will focus on the situation of patients suffering from different physically or mentally debilitating chronic illnesses – especially in their later stages – and the healthcare they need and receive. Special attention will be paid to needs-based, patient-centred, cross-sectional, and multi-professional models of palliative care for different target groups (e.g. patients with dementia or technology-dependent patients with chronic respiratory insufficiency).

4. Caring Communities and Family Caregivers

Werner Schneider, Augsburg University, Corina Salis Gross, University of Bern

Over the last 10 years, community partnerships in palliative care have become a priority in end of life care in many cities and countries all over the world. In this session, we will explore the social and political reasons for this movement, as well as discuss the main theoretical frameworks, practice methods, and research approaches on this topic. The focus will be on anthropological and sociological perspectives (exchange theory, action research, community development, discourse/dispositive analysis etc.).

5. Communication, Rituals, and Spiritual Care

Dorothea Lüddeckens, University of Zurich, Claudia Kohli, University of Bern

Within the sphere of palliative care, matters of spirituality frequently arise. A growing body of empirical evidence confirms the critical nature of exploring the many ways meaning-making takes place in such contexts. Indeed, it is from the setting of palliative care that spiritual care first emerged. In this session, some crucial topics will be discussed, providing tools for all care providers within the sphere of palliative care, beyond those in the chaplaincy.

Extra Workshop: Writing a scientific paper for peer reviewed international journals

In addition to the Summer School, we also offer a workshop on peer-reviewed writing. In a three hour workshop the participants will learn how to write a scientific paper for peer reviewed international journals. The model and step-wise process of writing up a paper has been developed over the years within the experienced End-of-Life Care Research Group (Ghent University & Vrije Universiteit Brussel). The team generates around 30 to 40 papers per year.

Coordinator: Prof Dr Luc Deliens, Head of the EOLC research group, Belgium

Submission of Project Descriptions

If you are interested in discussing your research project, please send us a description. Applications from both Swiss and international institutions are welcome to be submitted. Please send the following information as an MS Word document or a PDF file to Claudia Michel (claudia.michel@bfh.ch):

Assignment to session

To what session(s) of the Summer School does your research project belong?

1. Public Health and Palliative Care
2. Ethics of Decision-Making
3. Palliative Care, Chronic Care, and Dementia
4. Caring Communities and Family Caregivers
5. Communication, Rituals, and Spiritual Care

Provide five keywords to describe your project.

What is your research project about?

Please provide information (2–5 pages) about your research project according to the following format: Title, abstract, purpose, methods, scope, results, and conclusions (if already available)

Reason(s) for your interest in the Summer School

For example, topics and questions you wish to receive insight into.

General information

Dates available for contact; name, organization, address, city, phone, e-mail

Your information will be sent to the inter-/national experts to help them prepare for their sessions.

The Submission Deadline is 28 February 2018.

Summer School registration

Those who wish to participate in the Summer School without submitting a project are kindly requested to send an e-mail to Claudia Michel (claudia.michel@bfh.ch). They will be informed as soon as registration opens for the Summer School.

Organization

The research network „palliative care research switzerland“ (pcrs) is in charge of organizing the Summer School. An interdisciplinary steering committee leads the network, assisted by a broad membership committee. The coordinator is responsible for operational issues.

Coordinator

Dr. Claudia Michel, Institut Alter, Berner Fachhochschule (BFH), Bern

Steering Committee

- **Prof. Dr. Sophie Pautex**, Unité de gériatrie et de soins palliatifs communautaires, HUG, Genève
- **Prof. Dr. Steffen Eychmüller**, Palliativzentrum, Universitäts-spital Bern
- **Prof. Dr. Marc-Antoine Berthod**, Haute école spécialisée de Suisse occidentale, Domaine travail social (EESP), Lausanne
- **Dr.ssa Claudia Gamondi**, Clinica di Cure Palliative e di Supporto, IOSI, Bellinzona
- **Dr. Corina Salis Gross**, Institut für Sozialanthropologie, Universität Bern, Schweizer Institut für Sucht- und Gesundheitsforschung, Universität Zürich

Membership Committee

- **Prof. Dr. Regina Aebi-Müller**, Rechtswissenschaftliche Fakultät, Universität Luzern
- **Dr. Mathieu Bernard**, Service de soins palliatifs et de support, CHUV, Lausanne
- **Dr. Gora da Rocha**, Haute école de santé, HES-SO Genève
- **PD Dr. Monica Escher**, Equipe mobile douleur et soins palliatifs, HUG, Genève
- **Dr. Claudia Kohli Reichenbach**, Theol. Fakultät, Universität Bern
- **Prof. Dr. Andrea Koppitz**, Institut für Pflege, ZHAW, Zürich
- **Prof. Dr. Brigitte Liebig**, Hochschule für Angewandte Psychologie, FHNW, Privatdozentin Institut für Soziologie, Universität Basel
- **PD Dr. Claudia Mazzocato**, Service de soins palliatifs, CHUV, Lausanne
- **Barbara Steffen-Bürgi**, Zentrum Schönberg, Bern
- **Dr. Monika T. Wicki**, Interkantonale Hochschule für Heilpädagogik (HfH), Zürich
- **Dr. Karin Zimmermann**, Kompetenzzentrum Pädiatrische Palliative Care, Universitäts-Kinderspital Zürich, Departement Public Health - Pflegewissenschaft, Universität Basel
- **Dr. Franziska Zúñiga**, Departement Public Health – Pflegewissenschaft, Universität Basel

Bern University of Applied Sciences

Social Work
Hallerstrasse 10
3012 Bern

Phone +41 31 848 36 00

soziale-arbeit@bfh.ch
soziale-arbeit.bfh.ch