

## Enhancing spiritual care through chaplaincy research

MARCH 2019

### Top stories in this newsletter



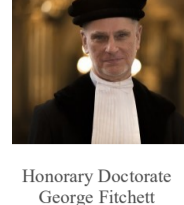
ERICH @ PROMs Research



International Chaplaincy Research Summer School

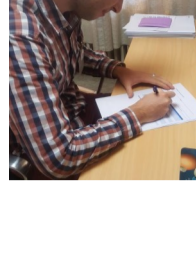


Annual Healthcare Renewal Retreat



Honorary Doctorate George Fitchett

### ERICH @ PROMs Research



Now that we have received approval from the ethics committees for our PROMs Research in Belgium, in the United Kingdom (palliative care) and in The Netherlands (chaplaincy in primary care), we have started with the questionnaires in these countries.

In **Belgium**, we already reached **179 participants** who had a pre and post questionnaire. This large group of participants is still growing and convinces us of the importance of measuring outcomes. We want to thank the **five participating hospitals of AZ Delta** and the **six nursing homes of vzw Zorg-Saam** for participating and working towards a future where chaplaincy and research reinforce each other. Lindsey Desmet was the coordinator of the practical implementation of this research in Belgium. If you are interested in the PROMs spiritual care in Belgium, please contact [lindsy.desmet@kuleuven.be](mailto:lindsy.desmet@kuleuven.be).

Chaplains in primary care for patients at home in **The Netherlands** started in January 2019 with their questionnaires. Nursing homes, mental health and general hospitals are still waiting for the approval of the ethics committees. By March 2020 we are expecting results from The Netherlands. If chaplains in The Netherlands still have questions about the PROMs in The Netherlands, you can contact the PROM Champion Joost Verhoef by emailing to [J.H.A.Verhoef@olv.nl](mailto:J.H.A.Verhoef@olv.nl).

Finally three **AHPCC sites** in the **United Kingdom** started working with the questionnaires: Weston Hospice Care, Arthur Rank Hospice and Strathcarron Hospice. Questions about the PROMs in the United Kingdom can be addressed to [austynsnowden@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:austynsnowden@yahoo.co.uk).

For more information about the PROMs click [here](#).

### ERICH @ Case Study Project Conference



Coordinator of ERICH **Lindsey Desmet** and Supervisor **Frieda Boeykens**, presented their research project at the International Conference on Case Studies Research in Chaplaincy Care "Do we have a case?" in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. In 2017 they started a case study research group of 4 chaplains, based on the work of George Fitchett and Steve Nolan and the format of Sjaak Körver and Martin Walton. Each of the chaplains wrote a case study. By discussing these case studies in the research group, nine interventions and outcomes became clear. Lindsey Desmet presented the results of working with the case studies from a **research perspective**, while Frieda Boeykens explained the process of working with the case studies from a **moderator and supervisor perspective**. By formulating interventions and outcomes, this research wants to contribute to professionalise chaplaincy. All the presentations during the conference are published [online](#).

### International Chaplaincy Research Summer School: July 8-12, 2019, NL



[The European Research Institute for Healthcare Chaplaincy \(ERICH\)](#), the [University Center for Chaplaincy Studies \(UCGV\)](#) and the [University of Humanistic Studies \(UvH\)](#) will organise the first **International Chaplaincy Research Summer School** from **July 8 to July 12, 2019**. The summer school will take place in **Utrecht, The Netherlands**. Lead faculty include Prof. dr. Austyn Snowden, Prof. dr. Gaby Jacobs, Prof. Dr. Anne Vandenhoeck, Dr. Jaques Körver, Dr. Froukje Pitstra, Dr. Carmen Schuhmann and Annelieke Damen. More information can be found [here](#) and by emailing to [a.damen@uvh.nl](mailto:a.damen@uvh.nl).



It prepares chaplains to develop the skills necessary to conduct simple but important **research and quality improvement projects**. Furthermore, participants will begin building a network of both early-career and established chaplains for future collaborations. The content of the summer school provides participants with an introduction to the **research process**, to **various methods relevant for chaplaincy research** (e.g. case studies, qualitative and quantitative methods), and to important examples of **existing chaplaincy-related research**. The summer school includes a number of hands-on activities, including using PubMed to conduct a literature search and working in small groups to develop research questions and proposals which are presented at the end of the conference.

### 14th Annual Healthcare Renewal Retreat: August 14-19, 2019, Italy



A **6 day retreat** workshop designed to help clinicians develop the professional and personal skills to practice compassionate presence in their clinical settings. Health professionals and care providers from all faiths, beliefs and cultures are invited to participate in an **interdisciplinary** retreat, designed to provide respite and renewal, reflection and nourishment, and to reconnect with their original call to serve in the healthcare field. This **retreat** offers a unique environment and opportunity for **health professionals from all faiths, beliefs and cultures to participate in an interdisciplinary retreat** designed to experience respite and renewal, reflection and nourishment and ways to re-ignite one's original call to serve others. This retreat is facilitated by **Christina Puchalski, M.D.**, Carolyn Jacobs, PhD, MSW., Michael Stillwater, Doris Laessar Stillwater, Dipl.Psych and Edward O'Donnell, M.A from **August 14 to August 20, 2019 in Assisi, Italy**. More information can be found [here](#). Watch also the [video](#) to learn more.

### Interprofessional Spiritual Care Education Curriculum: July 9-11, Hawaii



Empirical evidence, patient and family experience, and theoretical frameworks support the critical role spirituality and spiritual care plays in the care of patients, particularly those with chronic and complex illness. Recent clinical guidelines recognize the ethical obligation of all healthcare providers to alleviate pain and suffering, whether physical, psychosocial or spiritual. Health care providers acknowledge the growing momentum calling for patients' spirituality to be addressed, but they often note lack of training as an important barrier to implementing these beliefs. To bridge this gap, The George Washington Institute for spirituality and health (GWish), in partnership with City of Hope, and the Fetzer Institute developed an Interprofessional Spiritual care training program entitled "[Interprofessional Spiritual Care Education Curriculum](#)" (ISPEC)". The next [ISPEC training program](#) will be held on **July 9-11, 2019 at Ala Moana Hotel, Honolulu, Hawaii**.

### Congress Charting Spiritual Care: June 6-7, 2019, Switzerland



The Theologische Fakultät Zurich and the Theologischen Hochschule Chur organise the [congress](#) "Charting Spiritual Care: Conference on the clinical documentation of pastoral care" on **June 6-7, 2019 in Zürich, Switzerland**. The conference is part of the research project "Documentation of Clinical Pastoral Care in the context of Interprofessional Spiritual Care. Interdisciplinary Clarifications from a pastoral and ethical perspective". The congress focuses on the electronic **registration** of spiritual care in hospitals. What can or should be documented and what not? Which form of registration and which language are suitable for this? Does this change the pastoral relationship? What about pastoral secrecy? The **interdisciplinary research** conversation opens up a space in which advantages and disadvantages of different forms of registration are discussed. For this purpose, she sheds light on the topic from an ethical and pastoral-theological perspective and asks for impulses from nursing science as well as psychotherapy and psychiatry. Finally, the conference also provides a space for exchange on already used forms of electronic documentation of chaplaincy care in various hospitals in Switzerland.



### Honorary doctorate George Fitchett



The University of Humanistic Studies, Utrecht awarded one of our board members George Fitchett an [honorary doctorate](#). Prof. dr. [Carlo Leget](#) honored George Fitchett for his enormous effort he had made in his career to strengthen the practice of chaplaincy, to increase awareness of what chaplains contribute and to promote interdisciplinary relationships. Congratulations, George!

### Chaplaincy Research Summer Institute: July 22-26, 2019, Chicago



The 2019 [Chaplaincy Research Summer Institute](#) will take place in **Chicago from July 22 to July 26, 2019**. Participants must be working or otherwise engaged as a chaplain, or providing consultation to chaplains, in a health-related setting (e.g., hospitals, clinics, hospices, or long-term care facilities). The content of the CRSI provides participants with an introduction to the research process, to various methods relevant for **chaplaincy research** (e.g. case studies, qualitative and quantitative methods), and to important examples of existing chaplaincy-related research. The CRSI includes a number of hands-on activities, including using PubMed to conduct a literature search. Participants also work in small groups to develop research questions and proposals which will be presented at the end of the

### Call for Research Projects



ERICH is collecting all research projects in Europe on a designated [webpage](#) in order to inform European and international chaplaincy researchers. Are **you involved in research about chaplaincy in healthcare**? Please send us an **abstract** of your research project and send it to [lindsy.desmet@kuleuven.be](mailto:lindsy.desmet@kuleuven.be). Thank you for your cooperation in chaplaincy research and keep on researching!