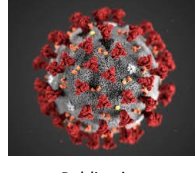


DECEMBER 2020

## Top stories in this newsletter



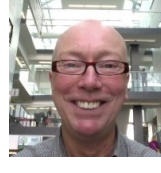
Publication  
Special Issue JPCC  
Covid-19 & chaplaincy



Interview with  
Annie Bolger

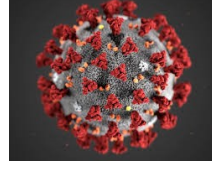


Interview with  
Marie-José Gijsberts



Video about PROMs  
Austyn Snowden

## Publication of the Special Issue of the Journal of Pastoral Care and Counseling on ERICH's Covid-19 Survey (end of January 2021)



In the wake of the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic ERICH launched an online international survey of chaplain activity and experience. The goals of our project were to:

- Understand how chaplains in different parts of the world were involved in Covid-19 care
- Understand the different problems chaplains encountered
- Discover new ways of doing chaplaincy/interprofessional spiritual care in the context of a pandemic that we can use in the future
- Develop a model of spiritual care for a future pandemic or comparable serious event

Since the results of the survey have come in, a team of researchers from around the world have worked tirelessly on translating the outcomes into research papers. These papers will be peer reviewed and published in a special issue of the *Journal of Pastoral Care and Counseling* at the end of January 2021. More information on the survey, the special issue and Covid-19 and chaplaincy on our [website](#).

### Interview: Annie Bolger



Annie Bolger currently serves as a deacon in the Church of England, at Holy Trinity Brussels, and is training to be ordained as a priest in 2021. As part of her master's in theology at KU Leuven, Belgium she did a placement in a NHS hospital chaplaincy in the UK, during which she also conducted research for her thesis.

In an interview with ERICH Annie tells about her thesis entitled 'Selfhood, Shame and Shit: Chronic Illness in the Perspective of Disability Theology' and her experience doing research as a chaplain volunteer. Speaking of the challenges of research and the invaluable lessons she learned during her placement, she leaves us with the welcome reminder 'to keep in mind that there could be researchers that are not chaplains yet, students still, or people who are volunteering who might have really important questions and perspectives that they can bring to a research project'.

You can read the interview on our [website](#).

### Interview with Marie-José Gijsberts



Marie-José Gijsberts is a researcher at the End-Of-Life Care (EOLC) Research Group of Vrije Universiteit Brussel & Ghent University and chair of the Reference Group Spiritual Care in Palliative Care of The European Association of Palliative Care (EAPC).

In an interview with ERICH Marie-José tells about her (research) interests in the spiritual dimension of end-of-life care. Ever since her training to become a specialist in elderly care medicine and a palliative care specialist, she noticed patients' limited capacities to make sense of things and to find meaning in life. The discrepancy between this reality and the way physicians focus on the physical, motivated her to do research and resulted in the publication of her PhD thesis on spiritual care at the end of life in Dutch nursing homes. She tells about her passion for providing interdisciplinary training on spiritual care in palliative care and shares a tip for those chaplains seeking collaboration: 'Too much theory sets people off but if you can come up with practical examples you can really encourage and support other care workers'.

You can read the interview on our [website](#).

### Video: Austyn Snowden about PROMs



In a short video, ERICH's lead researcher, prof. Austyn Snowden (Chair in Mental Health at Edinburgh Napier University), walks us through the specifics of the PROM spiritual care (Patient Reported Outcome Measure). What is it? Why do you need it? Questions like these and more are answered in this 5-minute video.

View the video on our [website](#).

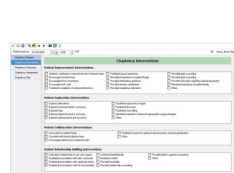
### Grieving in times of a pandemic



In the meeting of the Innovation and Development Forum of ERICH in June 2020 the idea came up to do research on how Covid-19 impacts grieving and spiritual well-being of people who lost a loved one during the pandemic. The recent pandemic appears to have compromised the usual experience of grief. Researchers from the UK, Ireland, Belgium and the Netherlands work together in this study, which is designed to understand if and how that is true. The study is grounded in the dual process model of bereavement developed by Stroebe & Schut (1999). Understanding the impact could help health care professionals support better those who have lost someone during the pandemic and help them to be prepared for a next wave or a next pandemic, and improve the ways that spiritual care can support people in any circumstance. The study uses a cross sectional mixed methods survey design within a single international cohort.

You can read more on this on our [website](#).

### Chaplaincy charting



ERICH is coordinating a research group consisting of chaplains and researchers from across Europe with the intent to publish a 'white paper' on chaplaincy charting in electronic patient files. Far from a dry academic text, it will be an accessible document intended to encourage and inspire European chaplains by covering numerous topics such as the importance of charting, what charting is, theoretical underpinnings of charting, how to chart and many more aspects. A proposal for a White Paper will be presented for discussion during the consultation of ENHCC.

You can read more on this on our [website](#).

### ENHCC 2021 Consultation— online event



The 16th Consultation of the ENHCC in 2021 would have taken place on the beautiful island of Crete. The committee foresees that because of the corona-crisis there still will be restrictions for travelling and meetings. For that reason the 16th Consultation will be an online-Consultation and will last only three days, from **May 12th till 14th**. Each day there will be an online gathering from 1 PM till 4.30 PM (CET). There will be plenary sessions and breakout rooms. The theme is: *With hope in our Hands. Being Chaplains through challenging times.*

**First day May 12:** *Opening Session and subtheme: experiences of Corona*

**Second day May 13:** *subtheme: selected papers*

**Third day: May 14:** *subtheme: charting (in cooperation with ERICH) and Closing Session*

All those who enrolled for the 16th Consultation will receive notice about these plans by December 30, 2020. Further information is to be found at [www.enhcc.eu](http://www.enhcc.eu). All those who still want to register for the online consultation can do so from January 4th, 2021 on [www.enhcc.eu](http://www.enhcc.eu). Registration fee is 65 euro.

You can also read more on this on our [website](#).

### New research? Tell

Are you working on a PhD research project? Please let us know. We are happy to give you the opportunity to talk about your research on our website. You can report this via our e-mail address: [erich@enhcc.eu](mailto:erich@enhcc.eu)

**We wish you a Christmas celebration in which we all can feel connected despite all the restrictions.**

**Let's hope 2021 will be full of health, hope and healing!**