First Announcement

**4th European Conference on Religion, Spirituality and Health**

“Integrating Religion/Spirituality into Clinical Practice: Focus on Health Care Professionals”

May 22-24, 2014 • Malta • [www.ecrsh.eu](http://www.ecrsh.eu)

The 4th European Conference on Religion, Spirituality and Health will focus on the integration of religion and spirituality into clinical practice. The keynote speakers approach the topic from their specific professional background. The Malta Lecture will be held by Prof. Harold G. Koenig, an expert in this field. Symposia invite for discussion and free communications allow research groups to present their research projects. **Submit your abstract!**

### Keynote Speakers

- **Prof. Dr. Donia Baldacchino**  
  University of Malta, Malta  
  *Educating Health Care Professionals on Spiritual Care*

- **Prof. Dr. med. Arndt Buessing**  
  Universität Witten/Herdecke, Germany  
  *Spiritual Care for Patients with Chronic Illness: What Do They Need and How Do They Get It*

- **Rev. Prof. Christopher Cook, MD PhD**  
  Dep. of Theology and Religion, Durham University, UK  
  *Recommendations for Psychiatrists on Spirituality & Religion: The Royal College of Psychiatrists Position Statement*

- **Prof. Farr A. Curlin, MD**  
  Program on Medicine and Religion, The University of Chicago, IL, USA  
  *What Has Religion to do with the Practice of Medicine?*

- **Prof. George Fitchett DMin, PhD**  
  Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, IL, USA  
  *Assessing Spiritual Needs in a Clinical Setting*

- **Rev. Dr. Ewan Kelly**  
  NHS Education for Scotland, National Health Service, Edinburgh, UK  
  *Rituals in Pastoral and Medical Care: Bridging the Gap*

- **Dr. Piotr Krakowiak**  
  Nicolaus Copernicus University Torun, Poland  
  *Who Should Do What? Improving End-of-Life Care in Poland*

- **Prof. Dr. Christina Puchalski**  
  George-Washington-University Washington, DC, USA  
  *Curricula on Medicine and Spirituality in the US: Between Aspiration and Reality*

- **Rev. Prof. John Swinton**  
  King’s College University of Aberdeen, UK  
  *Caring for the Mental Ill - a Holistic Approach*

- **Dr. Jackie Watts**  
  The Open University, London, UK  
  *Role-Models in Health Care: Should Spiritual Care of the Dying be the Concern of Health Professionals?*

### The Malta Lecture

- **Prof. Harold G. Koenig, MD**  
  Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC, USA  
  *Integrating Religion/Spirituality into Clinical Practice: An Overview*

### Call for Abstracts

Please submit your abstracts for oral or poster presentations until December 15, 2013  
[www.ecrsh.eu/abstract](http://www.ecrsh.eu/abstract)
The ECRSH14 is organised by the Research Institute for Spirituality and Health, Langenthal/Switzerland, www.rish.ch, in collaboration with the University of Malta.

Conference Fees

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<th>on/before December 31, 2013</th>
<th>on/before February 29, 2014</th>
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<tr>
<td>participant</td>
<td>EUR 270.-</td>
<td>EUR 300.-</td>
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Concerning tickets and fees for single lectures or days ask the conference office or at the conference desk. The conference fee includes the costs for lunch, coffee breaks and the conference booklet. Students (BA, MA, Dr., MD, PhD) must provide proof of status. Please register at www.ecrsh.eu.

Scientific Committee

Prof. Arndt Büssing, MD, Universität Witten/Hedecke, Germany (Head); Prof. Dr. Donia Baldacchino, University of Malta; Prof. Dr. theol. Klaus Baumann, Universität Freiburg, Germany; Prof. Arjan Braam, MD, Utrecht/Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Prof. Jean-Marc Burgunder, MD, University of Bern, Switzerland; Ass.-Prof. Dr. Barbara Hanfstingl, Universität Klagenfurt, Austria; René Hefti, MD, Research Institute for Spirituality and Health RISH, Langenthal, Switzerland; Prof. Dr. Niels Chr. Hvidt, University of Southern Denmark/Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany; Dipl. psych., Dipl. theol. Constantin Klein, Universität Bielefeld, Germany; Prof. Harold G. Koenig, MD, Duke University, Durham, NC, USA; Peter La Cour, PhD, Gedhjem, Denmark; Prof. Kevin Ladd, PhD, Indiana University South Bend, IN, USA; Prof. Dr. Tatjana Schnell, Universität Innsbruck, Austria; Prof. Dr. John Swinton, Kings College University, Aberdeen, UK

Queries related to the conference may be sent to the Organising Committee: office@ecrsh.eu.

Pre-Conference Workshop

Prof. Harold G. Koenig MD and other experts
May 18-21, 2014

Preceding the ECRSH14 we invite you to participate in the 4-day Pre-Conference Research Workshop with Prof. Koenig. The workshop is open to all interested in doing research on religion, spirituality and health (accepting participants of any educational level or degree, including theologians, chaplains, physicians, nurses, psychologists, pastoral counselors, public health specialists, epidemiologists, or other). Prof. Koenig is known as senior author of the “Handbook of Religion and Health”. Prof. Koenig holds a university teaching position as full professor at Duke University Medical Center (Internal Medicine, Psychiatry, and Behavioral Sciences). Furthermore Prof. Koenig is director of the Center for Spirituality, Theology and Health at Duke University and Distinguished Adjunct Professor at King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

The center at Duke University used to offer a 1-year post-doctoral fellowship in religion and health, which Prof. Koenig has now compressed into 4-day workshops like the one being offered here.

The following topics will be discussed:
• Historical connections between religion & health
• Previous research on religion, spirituality and physical as well as mental health
• Strengths and weaknesses of previous research
• Theological considerations and concerns
• Highest priority studies for future research
• Strengths and weaknesses of religion/spirituality measures
• Designing different types of research projects
• Funding and managing a research project
• Writing a research paper for publication, getting it published
• Presenting research to public audiences, working with the media
• Developing an academic career in this area
• Overview on RSH research in Europe

Mentorship meetings will allow the participants to discuss individual research projects.

Combined participation on ECRSH14 and on the pre-conference workshop is possible. The detailed program and payment information may be downloaded from the institute homepage: www.rish.ch.

For further questions contact: rene.hefti@klinik-sgm.ch or info@rish.ch.

Notice: number of participants is limited!