Editorial

Dear colleagues, dear friends,

This newsletter presents a European research program hosted in the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS). The program aims to bring together European and international researchers, to produce comparable data on patients and care givers and to coordinate publications. The program will be described in more detail in the topic section. We thank the FRIAS Group for their contribution.

The integration of religion and spirituality into patient care will be the overall topic of the 4th European Conference on Religion, Spirituality and Health in Malta, taking place May 2014, 22-24 (see www.ecrsh.eu). The first announcement and registration will be available soon. Save the date! Take also note of the Pre-conference Research Workshop with Prof. Harold Koenig.

Further events you will find at the end of the newsletter. Please let us know about your conferences, projects and publications. Just send us an e-mail: info@rish.ch.

Stefan Rademacher, PhD
René Hefti, MD

Topic

European Research Program

For a considerable period of time an opposition has existed between theology and the health sector. Today the picture is changing with growing recognition that faith often plays a major role when disease and traumatic events assail people. It is easy to recognise that religious belief in various ways impacts quality of life and recovery from disease. It can do so both positively and negatively in at least three areas: in the analysis of the causes of the disease, in meaning making, and in decisions regarding intervention. It is therefore of the highest importance that believers hit by calamity receive proper support by care givers both in the health and the religious sectors. Such support may be enhanced by constructive integration of knowledge between medical science, psychology and theolo-
ideas of the FRIAS research group has been to bring these workers together in order to discuss how the research can continuously be improved and how, if possible, their results could be compared. This was why in February 2013, FRIAS hosted a seminar with researchers from the US (Farr Curlin and Ryan Lawrence), Germany (Klaus Baumann, Arndt Büsing, Eunmi Lee, Franziska Fraas, Hannah Ritter, Anne Zahn, Philipp Kerksee and Karin Jors), Denmark (Niels Chr. Hvidt and Christian B.v. Randwijk), and Switzerland (René Hefti and Stefan Rademacher).

At this seminar, a two-fold research agenda was advanced: (1) To compare existing results from the different countries that have already collected comparable data, and (2) On the basis of the existing data to improve the research instruments for future data collection.

In 2014, FRIAS will host a further seminar with researchers who focus on patients’ spiritual needs, particularly how they can be perceived and measured, and how they can be addressed and supported.

Primary publications 2013
The work of the members of the FRIAS research group has already led to some results that soon will be brought to the interested reader:


Correspondence:
Prof. Dr. Theol Klaus Baumann
Prof. Dr. Med. Arndt Büsing
Prof. Dr. Niels Christian Hvidt
Research Fellows
Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies
Stadtr. 5, D-79104 Freiburg i. Bg

Publications:

**Spirituality in Patient Care**
by Harold G. Koenig
For further information see: http://templetonpress.org/book/spirituality-patient-care

**Spirituality, Theology and Mental Health**
by Christopher Cook, SCM Press, 2012
For further information see: www.scmpress.co.uk/books/9780334046264/Theology-Spirituality-and-Mental-Health

**Heilung in den Religionen: Religiöse, spirituelle und leibliche Dimensionen**
ed. by Veronica Futterknecht, Michaela Nosek-Licul & Manfred Kremser
Wien: Schriftenreihe d. Österreichischen Ges. für Religionswissenschaft (ÖGRW)

New APA Journal:
**Spirituality in Clinical Practice**
edited by the psychologists Lisa Miller (Columbia University) and Len Sperry (Florida Atlantic University/Medical College of Wisconsin). Its first quarterly issue is scheduled Jan. 2014.

Those wishing to submit an article contact: alexandra.jordan@gmail.com

**Psyche & Geloof (Psyche & Faith)**
a Dutch journal of religion and mental health (started in 2011) ed. by Dr. P.J. Verhagen, Secretary of the WPA Section on Religion, Spirituality and Health.
For more information contact: athegger@tefort.nl

**Spirituality and Psychiatry Newsletter**
The WPA Section on Religion, Spirituality and Psychiatry has begun publishing the newsletter “Psyche & Spirit”.
For downloads see: www.religionandpsychiatry.com/

Meetings & Conferences:

**IAPR Congress 2013**
International Association for the Psychology of Religion & the University of Lausanne
August 27-30, Lausanne VD (Switzerland)
For further information see: www.psychology-of-religion.com/conferences/

**TASK Meeting 2013**
The 6th meeting of the Transdisziplinäre Arbeitsgruppe Spiritualität und Krankheit
September 9/10, 2013, FRIAS, Freiburg i.Bg. (Germany)
For further information contact: anna.blattner@frias.uni-freiburg.de

“Einführung in die Achtsamkeitsbasierte Kognitive Therapie zur Rückfallprophylaxe bei depressiven Erkrankungen”
November 7-9, Oberberg-Akademie, Berlin (Germany)
For further information see: www.oberberg-akademie.de/programm.html

“Spiritual Care - Modewort, Trend oder echte Notwendigkeit”
Gem. Herbsttagung von AGEAS und VKAS
November 9-10, Quarten SG (Switzerland)
For further information see: www.ageas.ch

**4th European Conference on Religion, Spirituality and Health ECRSH14**
“Integrating Religion/Spirituality into Clinical Practice: Focus on Health Care Professionals”
May 22-24, 2014, Univ. of Malta (Malta)
For further information see: www.ecrsh.eu

Pre-conference Research Workshop
May 18-21, 2014
Contact: info@rish.ch

**TASK Conference 2013**
Pre-conference Research Workshop
May 22-24, 2014, Univ. of Malta (Malta)
For further information see: www.ecrsh.eu

**Pre-conference Research Workshop**
May 18-21, 2014
Contact: info@rish.ch