

First Announcement

## 7<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Religion, Spirituality and Health

“Aging, Spirituality and Health”

May 28-30, 2020 • Lisbon (Portugal) • [www.ecrsh.eu](http://www.ecrsh.eu)

The 2020 Conference will be a joint venture of the European Initiative on Religion, Spirituality and Health and the Catholic University of Portugal. The Conference takes place in Lisbon. The main topic is “Aging, Spirituality and Health”. Keynote speakers from a variety of disciplines will provide a comprehensive overview on the topic. Invited symposia and abstracts allow researchers to present and discuss their research projects. The social program promotes exchange and networking amongst researchers, health professionals and other experts from many disciplines and nations.

### Keynote Speakers

- Prof. Dr. Niels Christian Hvidt  
University of Southern Denmark, Odense (DK)  
**Theological Perspectives on Aging and Health - Why Spirituality matters?**
- Prof. Dr. Andreas Kruse  
Gerontology, University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg (D)  
**The Importance of Spirituality in Aging and Health – A Gerontologist’s Perspective**
- Prof. Dr. Ellen Idler  
Samuel Candler Dobbs Chair of Sociology, Department of Epidemiology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA (USA)  
**The Importance of Spirituality in Aging and Health – A Sociologist’s Perspective**
- Prof. Dr. Harold G. Koenig  
Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC (USA)  
**Research on Religion/Spirituality, Aging and Health - What do we know?**
- Prof. Silvia Caldeira  
Institute of Health Science, Catholic University, Lisbon (P)  
**Religion and Spirituality in the Care of older Patients - The Contribution of Nursing**
- Prof. Wilf McSherry  
Faculty of Health, University Staffordshire (GB)  
**Dignity in the Care of older, fragile People – what does it really mean?**
- Prof. Dr. Jessie Dezutter  
School of Psychology, Catholic University of Leuven (BE)  
**Meaning in life and its role for the health of frail older adults?**

### The Lisbon Lecture

- Prof. Dr. Stephen G. Post  
Director, Center for Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care & Bioethics, Stony Brook University, New York (USA)  
**Does Altruism make Senior’s healthier, happier and living longer?**

### Call for Abstracts

Please submit your abstracts for oral or poster presentations until December 15, 2019  
[www.ecrsh.eu/ecrsh-2020/abstract](http://www.ecrsh.eu/ecrsh-2020/abstract)

## Conference Fees

The conference fees are graded according country categories I-III (see table beside). The country codes you find on the conference website [www.ecrsh.eu](http://www.ecrsh.eu). Fees include lunch, coffee breaks and the conference booklet. They don't include the social evening. Students (BA, MA, PhD) must provide proof of status.

	Early Fee (until Dec. 15, 2019)	Normal Fee (from Dec. 16, 2019)	Early Student (until Dec. 15, 2019)	Norm. Stud. (from Dec. 16, 2019)
Cat. I	EUR 280	EUR 320	EUR 180	EUR 220
Cat. II	EUR 220	EUR 260	EUR 120	EUR 160
Cat. III	EUR 160	EUR 200	EUR 60	EUR 100

## Scientific Committee

Prof. Arndt Büssing, MD, Universität Witten/Hededecke, Germany (Head); Prof. Dr. Fereshteh Ahmadi, Uppsala University, Sweden; Prof. Dr. theol. Klaus Baumann, University of Freiburg, Germany; Prof. Dr. Alex Vicentim Villas Boas, CITER, Catholic University of Lisbon, Portugal; Prof. Arjan Braam, MD, Utrecht/Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Prof. Jean-Marc Burgunder, MD, University of Bern, Switzerland; Ass.-Prof. Dr. Barbara Hanfstingl, University of Klagenfurt, Austria; Prof. Silvia Caldeira, Catholic University of Lisbon, Portugal; René Hefti, MD, Research Institute for Spirituality and Health RISH and University of Bern, Switzerland; Prof. Dr. Niels Christian Hvidt, University of Southern Denmark, Denmark; Prof. Dr.

Constantin Klein, University of Munich, Germany; Prof. Dr. Deborah Lycett, Coventry University, United Kingdom; Prof. Dr. Wilf McSherry, Staffordshire University, United Kingdom; Prof. Dr. Tatjana Schnell, University of Innsbruck, Austria; Katarzyna Skrzypinska, PhD, University of Gdansk, Poland.

International members: Prof. Mary Rute Gomes Esperandio, PUC, Brazil; Prof. Harold G. Koenig, MD, Duke University, Durham, NC, USA; Prof. Dr. Kevin Ladd, University South Bend, Indiana, USA.

## Pre-Conference Workshop

**Prof. Harold. G. Koenig MD and other experts  
May 24-27, 2020; Catholic University of Lisbon (P)**

Preceding the ECRSH20 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 of Duke University Medical Center is known as senior author of the "Handbook of Religion and Health". 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 compressed into 4-day workshops.

### 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 and 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

European experts such as Prof. Arndt Büssing, Prof. Niels Hvidt, Dr. Constantin Klein and Dr. René Hefti also contribute to the program.

Individual mentorship meetings allow participants to discuss their own research projects.

Combined participation of ECRSH20 and the research workshop is possible. For further information contact: [rene.hefti@rish.ch](mailto:rene.hefti@rish.ch) or [info@rish.ch](mailto:info@rish.ch).

**Notice: number of participants is limited!**

Organised by the Research Institute for Spirituality and Health, Switzerland, in collaboration with the Catholic University of Portugal, Lisbon, CITER and Health Sciences