

First Announcement

10th European Conference on Religion, Spirituality and Health

“Heart, Brain and Spirit - A Holistic Approach to Modern Healthcare”

June 4-6, 2026 • University Hospital Basel (CH) • www.ecrsh.eu

The 10th European Conference will be held at the University Hospital Basel (ZLF), Switzerland, in cooperation with the International Society of Spirituality and Health (IGGS). **It will be a jubilee conference and therefore a landmark in the evolution of the topic in Europe**, promoting spirituality and health for the last 18 years at European universities and university hospitals. International and European keynote speakers from a variety of disciplines and professional backgrounds will share their perspectives and results on the main topic “Heart, Brain and Spirit - A Holistic Approach to Modern Healthcare”. Symposia and free communications allow researchers to discuss their projects and findings (submit your abstracts). The interactive program promotes exchange and networking.

Keynote Speakers

- Prof. Niels Christian Hvidt
Public Health, University of Southern Denmark (DK)
Theological Reflections on Heart, Brain and Spirit - A Holistic Anthropology
- Dr. René Hefti, MAS Spiritual Care
Research Institute RISH; University of Basel (CH)
The Spiritual Heart: A Holistic Approach to Cardiovascular Health and Medicine
- Prof. Lisa J. Miller
Teachers College, SMBI, Columbia University (US)
The Spiritual Brain: Neural Correlates of Personalized Spiritual Experiences (online)
- Prof. Uffe Schjødt
Dep. of the Study of Religion, University of Aarhus (DK)
Spirituality, Prayer and Predictive Minds
- Prof. Edouard Battegay
Center for Multimorbidity, University of Zurich (CH)
Multimorbidity in a Holistic Perspective
- Prof. Dr Tove Giske
Nursing Department, VID Specialized University (NO)
Spiritual Care in Nursing - What it Means and How it Contributes to Modern Healthcare
- Prof. Arndt Büsing
Faculty of Health, University of Witten-Herdecke (DE)
A Program for Existential and Spiritual Care
- Prof. Loren Toussaint
Department of Psychology, Luther College (US)
Forgiveness in Mental and Physical Health

- Prof. Arjan W. Braam
Psychiatrist, University of Humanistic Studies, Utrecht (NL)
A Holistic Approach to Mental Health Care
- Prof. Deborah Lycett
Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Coventry University (UK)
Embracing a Biopsychosocial-Spiritual Model of Care in Nutrition and Behaviour Change
- Prof. Harold Koenig
Duke Medical Center, Duke University, Durham (US)
Main Achievements in Religion, Spirituality and Health Research since 2008 (online)

Jubilee Lecture

- Prof. Andrew Newberg
Department of Integrative Medicine and Nutritional Sciences, Thomas Jefferson University (US)
Neurotheology: How God Changes our Brain and its Implications for Modern Healthcare

hybrid event
also offering
German symposia

Call for Abstracts

Please submit your abstracts for oral or poster presentations until December 15, 2025
www.ecrsh.eu/abstract

Conference Fees

	Early Fee (until Dec. 15, 2025)	Normal Fee (from Dez. 16, 2025)	Early Student (until Dec. 15, 2025)	Norm. Stud. (from Dez. 16, 2025)
Cat. I	280/320	340/380	180/220	240/280
Cat. II	220/260	280/320	120/160	180/220
Cat. III	160/200	220/260	60/100	120/160

Note: All fees are in Swiss Franks (CHF)! The first number is the online fee. Its also possible to participate only for single days. Therefore contact the conference office info@ecrsh.eu.

The conference fees are graded according the economic conditions of the countries (categories I-III). The classification can be found on the conference website www.ecrsh.eu/ecrsh-2026/registration. The fees for online and onsite participation differs by CHF 40. Onsite participation additionally includes coffee breaks and reception (but not lunch breaks!).

Scientific Committee

Prof. Dr. Arndt Büssing, University of Witten/Herdecke, Germany (Head); Prof. Dr. Klaus Baumann, University of Freiburg, Germany; Prof. Dr. Arjan Braam, University of Humanistic Studies, Utrecht, The Netherlands; Prof. Silvia Caldeira, Catholic University of Lisbon, Portugal; Prof. Dr. Mary Rute Gomes Esperandio, PUC, Brazil; Dr. René Hefti, Research Institute for Spirituality and Health and University of Basel, Switzerland; Ass. Prof. Dr. Niels Chr. Hvidt, University of Southern Denmark, Denmark; Prof. Dr. Harold G. Koenig, Duke University, Durham, NC, USA; Jenny Kubitza, M.Sc., Professorship of Spiritual Care, Technical University of Munich, Germany; Prof. Dr. Deborah Lycett, Coventry University, United Kingdom; Prof. Piret Paal, University of Tartu, Estonia.

Cooperation with IGGS

The International Society for Health and Spirituality is a non-profit organization founded in 2011 to promote research, teaching, and the practical implementation of spiritual care.



see www.iggs-online.org

Pre-Conference Research Workshop

Prof. Dr. Harold G. Koenig and European experts
June 2-3, 2026; onsite/online (possibly hybrid)

Preceding ECRSH 2026 we invite you to participate in the 2-day Pre-Conference Research Workshop with Prof. Dr. Koenig and European Experts. The workshop is open to all interested in doing research on religion, spirituality and health.

Prof. Harold Koenig, Duke University Medical Center, is known as the senior author of the "Handbook of Religion and Health". Furthermore Prof. Dr. Koenig is director of the Center for Spirituality, Theology and Health at Duke University, and Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Psychiatry in Medicine.

The following topics will be discussed:

By Prof. Harold Koenig

- Previous research on religion, spirituality and physical as well as mental health
- Strengths and weaknesses of previous research
- Highest priority studies for future research
- Strengths and weaknesses of R/S measures
- Designing different types of research projects
- Funding and managing a research project
- Writing a research paper for publication
- Developing an academic career in this area

By Ass. Prof. Dr. Niels Chr. Hvidt, Prof. Dr. Deborah Lycett, Prof. Dr. Arjan Braam, Dr. Michael Ackert, Dr. René Hefti and Prof. Dr. Arndt Büssing:

- Theological reflections RSH research
- Modeling Religion, Religiosity and Spirituality
- Scientific classification of religious practices
- Longitudinal studies and qualitative research
- Using physiological measures in RSH-research
- R/S Scales - the European perspective

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

Combined participation of ECRSH 2026 and the research workshop is possible. For further information contact: rene.hefti@rish.ch or info@rish.ch.

Notice: the number of participants is limited!

Organized by the European Board on Religion, Spirituality and Health in collaboration with the International Society for Health and Spirituality (IGGS), Germany, and the Research Institute for Spirituality and Health (RISH), Switzerland.