

## First Announcement

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

## “Religious, Spiritual and Existential Aspects in Mental Health Care”

June 2-4, 2022 • Amsterdam (Netherlands) • [www.ecrsh.eu](http://www.ecrsh.eu)

The next European conference is organized in cooperation with the Free University of Amsterdam and an academic local committee. The conference will be held as a hybrid event combining in person and online participation. The main focus is on mental health care integrating religious, spiritual and existential aspects. European and international keynote speakers from a wide variety of disciplines will contribute to the topic. Invited symposia and selected presentations allow researchers to discuss their research projects and findings. The social and online interactive program promotes exchange and networking among researchers, health professionals and other experts from many disciplines and nations.

### Keynote Speakers

- Prof. Dr. Hanneke Schaap-Jonker  
Religion/Theology, Free University Amsterdam (NL)  
**How can Clinical Psychology of Religion support Mental Health Care?**
- Dr. Suvi-Maria Saarelainen PhD  
School of Theology, University of Eastern Finland (FI)  
**Religious Capital as a Central Factor in Coping with the recent Covid-19 Pandemic**
- Prof. Dr. Siebrecht Vanhooren PhD  
Faculty of Psychology, KU Leuven, Leuven (BE)  
**The Existential Dimension in Psychotherapy - more than Meaning in Life.**
- Prof. Dr. Harold G. Koenig MD  
Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC (USA)  
**Moral Injury in Mental Health Care - what can we learn from the Veterans Studies**
- Prof. Dr. Rania Awaad MD  
Psychiatry/Behavioral Science, University of Stanford (USA)  
**Religion and Suicide Prevention in Muslim Mental Health**
- Dr. Helena Larsson PhD  
Care Science, Kristianstad University, Malmö (SE)  
**Person-centered Care as a Remedy for Existential Loneliness**
- Prof. Dr. Christopher Cook PhD  
Dep. of Theology, Durham University, Durham (UK)  
**Theological Perspectives on Mental Health and Suffering - what do they add?**

- Prof. Dr. Samuel Pfeifer MD  
Evangelische Hochschule TABOR, Marburg (DE)  
**Religion and Spirituality as Relevant Dimensions in Psychiatry - from Research to Practice**
- Prof. Dr. Alfried Längle MD  
Sigmund Freud University, Vienna (A)  
**What is the Contribution of Existential Psychotherapy to the Understanding and Treatment of Mental Disorders**
- Prof. Dr. David Rosmarin PhD  
Dep. of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School, Boston (USA)  
**Religious Interventions for Anxiety Disorders in the Jewish Tradition**

### The Donia Baldacchino Lecture

- Prof. Dr. Robert Emmons (invited)  
Dep. of Psychology, University of California, Davis (USA)  
Editor-in-Chief, The Journal of Positive Psychology  
**Gratitude - Do Positive Attitudes and Feelings help in Coping with Mental Disorders?**

### Call for Abstracts

Please submit your abstracts for oral or poster presentations until December 15, 2021

[www.ecrsh.eu/abstract](http://www.ecrsh.eu/abstract)

## Conference Fees

The conference fee's are graded according the economic conditions of the countries (categories I-III). The classification can be found on the conference website [www.ecrsh.eu/registration](http://www.ecrsh.eu/registration). The fee's for on-line and in person participation differs by 40 Euro. In person participation additionally includes coffee breaks and reception (but not lunch breaks!).

	Early Fee (until Dec. 15, 2021)	Normal Fee (from Dec. 16, 2021)	Early Student (until Dec. 15, 2021)	Norm. Stud. (from Dec. 16, 2021)
Cat. I	240/280	280/320	120/180	180/220
Cat. II	180/220	220/260	80/120	120/160
Cat. III	120/160	160/200	40*/60	60/100

Note: All fee's are in Euro! The first number is the online fee.

## Scientific Committee

Prof. Arndt Büssing, MD, Universität Witten/Heddeke, Germany (Head); 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; Prof. Silvia Caldeira, Catholic University of Lisbon, Portugal; René Hefti, MD, Research Institute for Spirituality and Health RISH and University of Basel, Switzerland; Prof. Dr. Niels Christian Hvidt, University

of Southern Denmark, Denmark; Prof. Dr. Deborah Lycett, Coventry University, United Kingdom; Prof. Dr. Wilf McSherry, Staffordshire University, United Kingdom; Prof. Dr. Tatjana Schnell, University of Innsbruck, Austria; Prof. Dr. 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 European experts**  
**May 29 - June 2, 2022; Free University of Amsterdam**

Preceding the ECRSH22 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

The European experts that contribute to the workshop are: Prof. Deborah Lycet, Prof. Jessie Dezutter, Prof. Arndt Büssing, Prof. Niels Hvidt, Dr. René Hefti.

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

Combined participation of ECRSH22 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: the number of participants is limited!**

Organised by the Research Institute for Spirituality and Health (RISH), Switzerland, in collaboration with the European Board on Religion, Spirituality and Health and the Free University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands.