

INTRODUCTION

New developments in health care strengthen the promise of a better life for everyone. This process also influences the way societies deal with the end of life and with questions regarding the meaning of suffering and death.

International debates often centre around the question whether medically hastening death is a proper means to preserve human dignity and quality of life. The other side of this issue is palliative care, defined by the WHO as the active total care of patients whose disease is not responsive to curative treatment. The suggestion that adequate palliative care helps prevent the cry for euthanasia and assisted dying, needs careful investigation.

Questions raised by these developments require thorough conceptual interpretation as well as ethical reflection. Objective of this course is to educate the participants on two main aspects: ethical questions of palliative care and medically assisted death, and philosophical, theological and medical reflections on the concepts of death and suffering. Attitudes towards death and dying, and the ethical aspects of continuing or foregoing medical treatment, and of medically assisted death receive considerable attention in this course. In addition, the dimensions of spirituality, rituals and intercultural diversity are covered.

Radboudumc
university medical center

PARTICIPANTS

Past participants for this course came from diverse professional backgrounds, such as nursing, medicine, health care administration, ethics, philosophy, theology and pastoral care, and PhD students in these areas.

A participants [impression](#) of this course is available on online.

At the conclusion of the course participants will receive a certificate. Participants are reminded that they may be eligible for continuing education credits from their professional association. Registration for accreditation from the Dutch Medical Association (KNMG) and the Dutch register for Pastoral carers (SKGV) will be submitted. Please contact the program coordinators for further details or if you have any questions regarding this issue.

COURSE FEES and PAYMENTS

The course fee is € (Euro) 690 for registration before or on 31 December, 2016, € (Euro) 790 for registration after 31 December, 2016.

This price includes tuition and course materials, as well as refreshments, three lunches and a dinner. For cancellation after January 16, 2017 a banking and administrative fee of € 91,- will be charged. Fees are non-refundable if applicants cancel after January 31, 2017. You will be contacted with payment details after registration.

REGISTRATION and CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us:

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Twitter: [@palcarecourse](#)

For an online [registrationform](#) please follow the link.

Advanced European Bioethics Course SUFFERING, DEATH AND PALLIATIVE CARE

Ethical Issues of Medically Assisted Death and Palliative Care
in a Pluralistic World



14-17
February
2017
Nijmegen,
Netherlands

Keynote speaker: Philip Larkin

President European Association for Palliative Care

Associate Professor of Clinical Nursing (Palliative Care) at University College Dublin and Our Lady's 'Hospice

COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE COORDINATOR: Gert Olthuis PhD,

Gert Olthuis is an assistant professor medical ethics at the Radboudumc. He wrote his PhD-thesis 'Who cares' on the moral attitude of professionals in palliative care practice. Currently he is a researcher on various topics, including informal carers and end-of-life decision making.

COURSE SUBJECTS AND METHODS

The course consists of a series of lectures, discussions, parallel sessions and audiovisual materials centered around a variety of topics:

autonomy and dependence; palliative sedation and euthanasia; spirituality and palliative care; quality of life and a good death; scientific research in palliative care; moral deliberation.

The parallel sessions are devoted to in-depth small group discussions and moral deliberation on different real life cases and particular contemporary issues in the area of end-of-life decisions. Each group will consist of ten to fifteen participants, led by a faculty member.

The course management strives for a diverse group of participants, with a large diversity in professional and cultural background.

This diversity among both faculty and participants stimulates fruitful exchange of ideas and enhances understanding of others' professional and cultural perspectives on suffering, death and palliative care. The course language is English.

Prior to the course participants will receive a syllabus with introductory readings. Since the program schedule is strict, participants are advised to study these materials in advance. Lecturers will assume acquaintance with these basic readings.

FACULTY

KEYNOTESPEAKER: Philip Larkin, president of the European Association for Palliative Care (and Professor of Clinical Nursing (Palliative Care)). Philip Larkin trained as a Registered Nurse and Paediatric Nurse in the UK. He has worked in Palliative Care in Ireland since 1992, in both in-patient and community settings. He currently leads the palliative care research programme within the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems. His current research interests include the place of compassion in the delivery of 21st century palliative care.

LECTURERS:

- **Kris Vissers MD, PhD**, professor in pain and palliative care, Radboudumc
- **Ghislaine van Tiel PhD**, assistant professor of medical ethics, UMC Utrecht
- **Jeroen Hasselaar PhD**, assistant professor in palliative Care, Radboudumc
- **Kees Besse PhD, MD**, anesthesiologist, Radboudumc
- **Marianne Dees PhD**, general physician, post-doctoral researcher
- **Jelle van Gurp PhD** assistant professor clinical bioethics, Radboudumc
- **Theo Boer, PhD**, professor of medical ethics, Protestant Theological University
- **Eric Ettema MA**, lecturer and researcher metamedica, VU University Medical Center (invited)
- **Jacqueline van Meurs**, spiritual caretaker/ pastor, Radboudumc
- **Yvon van der Pijl PhD**, assistant professor cultural anthropology, University of Utrecht (invited)
- **Claudia Venhorst PhD**, postdoctoral researcher, Centre for Thanatology, Radboud University (invited)
- **Joanna Wojtkowiak PhD**, assistant professor Ethics of Care and Spiritual Counseling Sciences,

PROGRAMME

Tuesday afternoon February 16th

Registration, welcome and introduction
Introduction to palliative care, Kris Vissers
Keynote lecture: Philip Larkin
Reception and course dinner

Wednesday, February 17th

Scientific research in palliative care: ethical issues, Ghislaine van Tiel
Autonomy and Dependence, Gert Olthuis
Parallel session: Autonomy and beneficence in terminal illness
Suffering, Jelle van Gurp
Workshop: From the patients perspective,
Documentary: 'Choosing to Die'

Thursday, February 18th

Palliative sedation, Jeroen Hasselaar, Kees Besse
Physician assisted dying, Marianne Dees
Euthanasia, Theo Boer
Presentation of the Nijmegen Method of Moral Deliberation, Jelle van Gurp
Parallel sessions: case discussion using the Nijmegen method of moral deliberation

Friday, February 19th

Quality of life and a good death in palliative care, Eric Ettema
Case discussion: in search of a good death
Symposium on cultural issues in death and dying, Yvon van de Pijl, Claudia Venhorst, Jacqueline van Meurs
Introduction to rituals regarding death and suffering, Joanna Wojtkowiak
Interactive plenary session death, spirituality and rituals
Evaluation of the course and Farewell reception