SUMMER COURSE

Ethics in Dementia Care

Course Coordinator
Chris Gastmans, PhD

Organised by
Centre for Biomedical Ethics and Law
Faculty of Medicine
KU Leuven, Belgium
The Centre for Biomedical Ethics and Law consists of a number of experts in medical ethics and medical law. The Centre aspires to provide education, research and scientific and societal service in both fields. It was created in 1986 and celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2016.
The number of persons with dementia will rise considerably in the years to come. The increasing prevalence of dementia and the treatment and care for people with dementia present a myriad of important ethical questions and responsibilities. What do we think of the quality of life of people with dementia and of their subsequent end of life? What are the opinions about vulnerability and dignity in case of dementia? What do we consider to be ‘good care’ and ‘a good death’ for persons with dementia?

The objective of the course is to foster exchanges on foundational, clinical-ethical and organisational-ethical approaches to dementia care. More specifically, the aims of this course are:

(1) To analyse fundamental notions that occupy centre stage in the field of dementia care ethics (i.e. various notions of care, the human person, vulnerability, and dignity). As such, extensive understanding will be provided into the philosophical and ethical foundations of dementia care practices.

(2) To educate participants on a range of ethical topics that figure largely in contemporary debates on dementia care, namely, use of physical restraints, use of robotics, dealing with sexual expression, advance care planning, euthanasia and other end-of-life issues. These topics will be explored from philosophical-ethical and empirical-ethical perspectives.

(3) To introduce participants into a variety of stakeholders’ perspectives on ethics in dementia care: patients, relatives, nurses, physicians, institutional managers, and society as a whole.

(4) To establish exchange among national and international experts with respect to ethics in dementia care.

FORMAT

This course starts from an interdisciplinary perspective (incorporating philosophy, theology, medicine, nursing, as well as normative and empirical ethics). During the course, national and international experts will give presentations on various ethical topics in the domain of dementia care. Time will be provided for intensive discussion and interaction. The language of instruction will be English.

PARTICIPANTS

The course is of interest to participants from diverse professional backgrounds, such as health care administration, medicine, nursing, psychology, social work, philosophy and theology, and is open to healthcare and social workers, people from universities, university colleges, and patient associations, and members of ethics committees, and to PhD students undertaking courses of study in these areas.

The reading materials will be distributed electronically before the start of the summer course. Accreditation points ‘Economy and Ethics’ for Belgian physicians are requested.
Wednesday, 5 July 2017
Foundational Approaches

9h00-10h30: Dignity-Enhancing Dementia Care
Chris Gastmans

10h30-11h00: Refreshments

11h00-12h30: Dignity-Enhancing Dementia Care
Chris Gastmans

12h30-13h30: Lunch

13h30-15h00: International Perspectives on Vulnerability & Dignity in Dementia Care: Small Group Discussion

15h00-15h30: Refreshments

15h30-17h00: Current Societal Images of Dementia
Baldwin Van Gorp
Thursday, 6 July 2017
Clinical-Ethical Approaches

9h00-10h30: Advance Care Planning in Dementia Care: What does Really Work?
Lieve Van den Block

10h30-11h00: Refreshments

11h00-13h00: Dealing with Ethical Issues of Dementia in Clinical Practice:
Physicians’ Perspectives
Ruth Piers

13h00-14h00: Lunch

14h00-15h30: Dealing with Ethical Issues of Dementia in Clinical Practice: Small
Group Discussion and Case Study
Linus Vanlaere

15h30-16h00: Refreshments

16h00-17h30: Euthanasia in Persons with Dementia: What Are the Ethical
Issues?
Chris Gastmans

19h30: Dinner in the Faculty Club [www.facultyclub.be/en/], Grand Beguinage of
Leuven (listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List)
Friday, 7 July 2017
Clinical- and Organisational-Ethical Approaches

9h00-10h30: Sexual Expression in Dementia Care
Bernadette Dierckx de Casterlé

10h30-11h00: Refreshments

11h00-12h30: Ethical Infrastructure in Institutionalized Dementia Care: Organisational-Ethical Perspectives
Yvonne Denier

12h30-13h00: Lunch

13h00-15h00: Ethical Infrastructure in Institutionalized Dementia Care: Small Group Discussion
Yvonne Denier

15h00-16h30: Socially Assistive Robots in Dementia Care: What Are the Ethical Issues?
Tijs Vandemeulebroucke
VENUE

Park Inn by Radisson Leuven Hotel
Martelarenlaan 36
3010 Leuven, BELGIUM
http://www.parkinn.com/hotel-leuven

REGISTRATION

The course fee will be € 695 if you register and pay as a participant before May 15th 2017; € 795 for registration and payment from May 15th 2017 onwards. Reduced registration fee for participants from Eastern Europe and Low Income Countries is € 495 (before May 15th 2017) and € 595 (from May 15th 2017 onwards). This fee includes tuition and course materials, as well as refreshments, three lunches, and a dinner. Deadline for registration and payment: June 19th 2017. Detailed information on registration and payment can be found at our website www.cbmer.be under Summer Course.

Participants are expected to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. Reduced room rates for summer course participants are available at Park Inn by Radisson Leuven Hotel (Booking a room at the Park Inn Hotel consists of sending an e-mail with “KU Leuven Summer Course” in the subject of the e-mail.)

- http://www.parkinn.com/hotel-leuven
- info.leuven@rezidorparkinn.com
- Tel. 0032 16 61 66 00

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- http://ec.europa.eu/education/opportunities/higher-education/staff_en.htm

INFORMATION

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