



## Swiss Summer Academy in Palliative Care Research

The research network “palliative care research switzerland” (pcrs) is organizing a Summer Academy for post-/doctoral researchers and academics involved in research projects. The Summer Academy intends to strengthen participants’ skills in end-of-life and palliative care research in Switzerland.

**Date:** 23<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2021

**Place:** Murten (Switzerland), Münchenwiler Castle



Bern University  
of Applied Sciences



SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION



**End of Life**  
National Research Programme NRP 67



# Swiss Summer Academy in Palliative Care Research

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The Summer Academy will promote knowledge exchange and collaboration between disciplines, provide education and training, and serve as a platform for networking and development of new projects in end-of-life and palliative care research.

## General information about the Summer Academy

- Date: 23<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2021
- Place: Murten (Switzerland), Münchenwiler Castle
- Language: English
- Costs: CHF 500.–
- Deadline for project submissions: 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2021
- Contact person: Claudia Michel, [claudia.michel@bfh.ch](mailto:claudia.michel@bfh.ch)

## Target Audience

The Summer Academy’s target audience comprises doctoral candidates, postdoctoral candidates and other researchers who wish to exchange with peers and to deepen their skills in end-of-life and palliative care research. For each topic, there will be an input by experts, followed by a case study session to discuss ongoing research projects. Therefore, researchers are invited to submit descriptions of their projects (see details below). Note: Submitting a research project is not a requirement for participating in the Summer Academy.

For further details and inquiries, please contact Claudia Michel: [claudia.michel@bfh.ch](mailto:claudia.michel@bfh.ch)

For general information, consult our website: [palliative-care-forschung.ch](http://palliative-care-forschung.ch)

## Expert Insights and Case Study Sessions

Senior-level researchers from a broad spectrum of disciplines have been invited to serve as experts at the Summer Academy. They will provide insights into their own research and offer advice regarding participants’ projects during case study sessions.

Contributions are structured according to the following topics:

### 1. Access to Palliative Care for Vulnerable Groups

Philip Larkin, Chair of Palliative Care Nursing, Palliative and Supportive Care Service, Lausanne University Hospital and University of Lausanne

In recent years, the belief that palliative care is a human right has been proposed. Linked to this is a fundamental shift and broadening in the application of palliative care to a wider cohort of people living with chronic life-limiting illness. However, despite the positive developments evident in both literature and clinical practice, there remains clear evidence of a lack of equity and access for some groups who may be considered vulnerable



Münchenwiler Castle

## Submission of Project Descriptions

If you are interested in discussing your research project, please send us a description. Applications from both Swiss and international institutions are welcome to be submitted. Please send the following information as an MS Word document or a PDF file to Claudia Michel ([claudia.michel@bfh.ch](mailto:claudia.michel@bfh.ch)):

### Assignment to session

To what session(s) of the Summer Academy does your research project belong?

1. Access to Palliative Care for Vulnerable Groups
2. Self-determination in End of Life Care
3. The intersection between Health Promotion, Community Health and Palliative Care

**Provide five keywords to describe your project.**

### What is your research project about?

Please provide information (2–5 pages) about your research project according to the following format: Title, abstract, purpose, methods, scope, results, and conclusions (if already available)

## Reason(s) for your interest in the Summer Academy

For example, topics and questions you wish to receive insight into.

## General information

Please provide: name, discipline, organization, address, city, phone number and e-mail address

**Your information will be sent to experts to help them prepare for their sessions.**

**The Submission Deadline is the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2021.**

## Summer Academy registration

Those who wish to participate in the Summer Academy without submitting a project are kindly requested to send an e-mail to Claudia Michel ([claudia.michel@bfh.ch](mailto:claudia.michel@bfh.ch)). They will be informed as soon as registration opens for the Summer Academy.

based on misplaced assumptions and understanding of their palliative care needs.

Using a framework of social justice as a lens to understand inequity, this presentation will argue that human rights are not enough to understand the reality of vulnerability in society and how it can be addressed in the context of palliative and end-of-life care. Using specific examples from clinical practice, the challenge and opportunities to enhance better access to palliative care will be addressed and its outcome in terms of “real-world” service delivery.

## 2. Self-determination in End of Life Care

Ralf Jox and Eve Rubli Truchard, Chair of Geriatric Palliative Care, Palliative and Supportive Care Service and Service of Geriatric Medicine and Geriatric Rehabilitation, Lausanne University Hospital and University of Lausanne

Since its beginning in the 1960s, modern palliative care has been characterized by a particular focus on respecting the autonomy and self-determination of every patient, but also of the family members. More than ever, our current Western societies are individualistic and cherish the value of self-determination, including Switzerland. At the end of life, however, we do not only want to be self-determined, but we also tend to depend heavily on others and sometimes we want to delegate decisions to others. Moreover, self-determination at the end of life is limited by impaired decision-making capacity, conflicting values such as the protection of life, as well as organizational and financial restraints. Concrete questions and controversies arise around the following topics (not exclusive): respecting patient autonomy in daily care and nursing practices, patient autonomy and surrogate decision making, advance care planning, wishes to hasten death and assisted dying, tension between the autonomy of the patient and that of the family or the professionals.

## 3. The intersection between Health Promotion, Community Health and Palliative Care

Annika Frahsa, TT Assistant Professor for community health and health care systems, Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM), University of Bern

Health Promoting Palliative care is a public health approach to the practice of palliative care. Where we usually think of public health in terms of the surveillance sciences – epidemiology, health services research, or public health ethics –, health promoting palliative care aims to address the social dimensions of health and care. It emphasizes public health methods for change – community engagement, supportive environments, and policy development. Looking at palliative care from a social science-based health promotion perspective, such an emphasis does not only require action and professional interventions ‘in the community’ but also asks for community-based participatory action and reorientation in interprofessional collaboration, beyond direct service provision and interaction with medical, nursing, and allied health professions, and thus, ultimately for whole-system-change.

The input and this session will outline and discuss key characteristics of health promoting palliative care as an intersectional approach describing the key practice methods, potential levels of interventions, relevant actor perspectives to consider as well as links of this approach with other existing traditions in population health research and individual clinical practice.

## Organization

The research network „palliative care research switzerland“ (pcrs) is in charge of organizing the Summer Academy. An interdisciplinary steering committee leads the network, assisted by a broad membership committee. The coordinator is responsible for operational issues.

## Coordinator

**Prof. Dr. Claudia Michel**, Institut Alter, Berner Fachhochschule (BFH), Bern

## Steering Committee

- **Prof. Dr. Sophie Pautex**, Unité de gériatrie et de soins palliatifs communautaires, HUG, Genève
- **Prof. Dr. Steffen Eychmüller**, Palliativzentrum, Universitäts-spital Bern
- **Prof. Dr. Marc-Antoine Berthod**, Haute école de travail social et de la santé (EESP) Lausanne
- **Dr.ssa Claudia Gamondi**, Clinica di Cure Palliative e di Supporto, IOSI, Bellinzona
- **Dr. Corina Salis Gross**, Institut für Sozialanthropologie, Universität Bern, Schweizer Institut für Sucht- und Gesundheitsforschung, Universität Zürich

## Membership Committee

- **Prof. Dr. Regina Aebi-Müller**, Rechtswissenschaftliche Fakultät, Universität Luzern
- **Dr. Mathieu Bernard**, Service de soins palliatifs et de support, CHUV, Lausanne
- **Dr. Gora da Rocha**, Haute école de santé, HES-SO Genève
- **PD Dr. Monica Escher**, Equipe mobile douleur et soins palliatifs, HUG, Genève
- **Dr. Claudia Kohli Reichenbach**, Theol. Fakultät, Universität Bern
- **Prof. Dr. Brigitte Liebig**, Hochschule für Angewandte Psychologie, FHNW, Privatdozentin Institut für Soziologie, Universität Basel
- **PD Dr. Claudia Mazzocato**, Service de soins palliatifs, CHUV, Lausanne
- **Prof. Dr. Eva Soom Ammann**, Departement Gesundheit, BFH Bern
- **Dr. Karin Zimmermann**, Kompetenzzentrum Pädiatrische Palliative Care, Universitäts-Kinderspital Zürich, Departement Public Health – Pflegewissenschaft, Universität Basel

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