An interdisciplinary European conference for young scholars

Public Health Ethics. Scientific methods, foundational concepts, and case analyses

The German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) sponsors a five-day interdisciplinary conference that takes up questions of public health ethics from 15 European young scholars (PhD-students and post-docs) and identifies new directions for research. Additional workshops aim to improve international network building and teaching curricula in the field.

All participants give an oral presentation of their research findings, which will then be discussed more thoroughly in a plenary session. The conference language is English. In addition, the group will cover current methodical and practical challenges of public health ethics in four workshops (A-D) moderated by experts. All experts have confirmed their participation.

On February 17, 2011 there will be a public lecture held by Johannes J.M. van Delden, MD, PhD, professor of medical ethics, University Medical Center Utrecht, Julius Center for Health Sciences and Primary Care on “Ethics of obligatory vaccination against seasonal influenza for health professionals”.

Chairs

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The conference is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

February 14-18, 2011
at Hannover Medical School, Germany

Deadline for Abstracts:
October 4, 2010
CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

European young scholars
(PhD-students and post-docs)

The topics of the participants’ contributions should be classifiable as (i) “analyses of foundational concepts of public health ethics”, (ii) “scientific methods and evaluation in public health ethics” or (iii) “normative analyses of specific cases and problem areas in public health ethics”.

Please send your application to phe2011@mh-hannover.de until October 4, 2010. It should contain
> an abstract (max. 500 words),
> a curriculum vitae and
> a publication list.

After peer review, all applicants will be informed about the acceptance of their proposed talk by November 5, 2010.

Participants are paid all travel and accommodation costs and an additional expense allowance of 300 € for preparing a manuscript until June 15, 2011 that shall be published in an anthology or supplement of a notable publisher or journal edited by the conference organizers.

The workshop is open to European scholars from the fields of public health, health services research, philosophy, biomedical ethics, medicine, nursing sciences, health economics, psychology, law, political science, and social sciences.

WORKSHOP A > What methods do we need for systematic reviews of arguments and empirical data in public health ethics? Application and discussion of methodological steps

> Neema Sofaer, PhD, Wellcome Trust research fellow, Kings College London, School of Law and Centre of Medical Ethics

> Daniel Strech, MD, PhD, assistant professor, Hannover Medical School, Institute for History, Ethics and Philosophy of Medicine

This workshop aims to present and discuss new approaches for a more systematic and transparent review of the philosophical and empirical literature relevant for research and consultancy in public health ethics.

WORKSHOP B > What sort of networking do we need for European public health ethics? Planning an internet platform on public health ethics

> Angus Dawson, PhD, senior lecturer, Keele University, Centre for Professional Ethics, and editor of Public Health Ethics

> Expert in website design and programming

This workshop aims to discuss challenges and possible solutions for effective networking and collaboration in an upcoming but still not perfectly established field of research like public health ethics. Angus Dawson will talk about his experiences with coordinating the INTERPHEN network and possible further steps for bringing together competencies in public health ethics. Future networking structures with a focus on web based facilities will be discussed together with both experts. The website will be developed after the workshop.

WORKSHOP C > What curricula do we need for public health ethics? Analysis and supplementation of existing curricula

> Marcel F. Verweij, PhD, associate professor, Utrecht University, Ethics Institute and editor in chief of Public Health Ethics

> Irene Hirschberg, MD, MPH, postgraduate research fellow at Hannover Medical School, Institute for History, Ethics and Philosophy of Medicine

> Peter Schröder-Bäck, PhD, Programme Coordinator BSc & MSc „European Public Health“, Maastricht University, Department of International Health

This workshop aims to discuss the scope and content of curricula for public health ethics taught in courses e.g. for MPH students or experts in the field. Afterwards we would like to further develop and draft such a curriculum together with interested conference participants and the working group “Ethics and Values in Public Health”, Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER).

WORKSHOP D > Ethics of obligatory vaccination against seasonal influenza for health professionals. Case analysis and discussion

> Johannes J.M. van Delden, MD, PhD, professor of medical ethics, University Medical Center Utrecht, Julius Center for Health Sciences and Primary Care

> Georg Markmann, MD, MPH, assistant professor, University of Tübingen, Institute of Ethics and History of Medicine

This workshop aims to present a general normative “model” for the ethical evaluation of public health interventions. Subgroups of conference participants apply this model to the issue of mandatory vaccination of health care workers and should come up with a justified policy solution which will be discussed in a final plenary session.