



March 19-22, 2019

Nijmegen, the Netherlands

Keynote speaker:
Luc Deliens

Director of the End-of-Life Care Research Group,
professor of Palliative Care Research, Vrije
Universiteit Brussel and Ghent University

Advanced European Bioethics Course

SUFFERING, DEATH AND PALLIATIVE CARE

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

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.

SUBJECTS AND METHODS

The course consists of a series of lectures, discussions, parallel sessions and audiovisual materials centred 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 programme schedule is strict, participants are advised to study these materials in advance. Lecturers will assume acquaintance with these basic readings.

COURSE COORDINATOR: Gert Olthuis PhD,

Gert Olthuis is assistant professor of 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.

CONTACT INFORMATION and REGISTRATION

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Twitter: [@palcarecourse](https://twitter.com/palcarecourse)

Information is also available online through [this link](#).

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

KEYNOTESPEAKER: Luc Deliens MSc, MA, PhD

Prof. Luc Deliens has a PhD in Health Sciences and an MSc in Sociology. Since 2000 he has been Director of the End-of-Life Care Research Group and he is currently a professor of Palliative Care Research at Ghent University and at the Department of Family Medicine and Chronic Care at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. Prof. Deliens is the Co-Chair of the European Association for Palliative Care Research Network and is leading on several international EU funded research projects on palliative care. His present research is focused on advance care planning, palliative care needs of patients, early integration of palliative care, and end-of-life decision-

Tuesday afternoon 19 March 2019

Introduction into palliative care, Kris Vissers

Keynote lecture: Luc Deliens

Wednesday 20 March 2019

Scientific research in palliative care, Ghislaine van Tiel

Autonomy and Dependence, Gert Olthuis

Parallel session: Autonomy and beneficence in terminal illness

Suffering, Jelle van Gorp

Workshop: From the patients' perspective

Documentary: 'Choosing to Die'

Thursday 21 March 2019

Physician assisted dying, Marianne Dees

Euthanasia, Theo Boer

Palliative sedation, Jeroen Hasselaar, Kees Besse

Introduction in the Nijmegen Method of Moral Deliberation, Jelle van Gorp

Parallel sessions: case discussion using the Nijmegen method of moral deliberation

Friday 22 March 2019

Quality of life and a good death in palliative care, Menno de Bree

Mini-symposium on cultural issues in death and dying, speakers t.b.a.

Introduction into rituals regarding death and suffering, Joanna Wojtkowiak

Interactive plenary session death, spirituality and rituals, Joanna Wojtkowiak

PARTICIPANTS

Previous 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.

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 January, 2019, € (Euro) 790 for registration after 31 January, 2019. This price includes tuition and course materials, as well as refreshments, three lunches and a dinner.

For cancellation after February 24, 2019 a banking and administrative fee of € 91,- will be charged. Fees are non-refundable if applicants cancel after March 10th, 2019.

You will be contacted for payment details after your registration.

- **Kris Vissers MD, PhD**, professor in pain and palliative care, Radboudumc
- **Ghislaine van Tiel PhD**, assistant professor of medical ethics, UMC Utrecht (invited)
- **Jeroen Hasselaar PhD**, assistant professor in palliative Care, Radboudumc (invited)
- **Kees Besse PhD, MD**, anesthesiologist, Radboudumc
- **Marianne Dees PhD**, general physician, post-doctoral researcher, Radboudumc
- **Jelle van Gorp PhD** assistant professor clinical bioethics, Radboudumc
- **Theo Boer PhD**, professor of medical ethics, Protestant Theological University
- **Menno de Bree**, assistant professor philosophy, University Medical Centre Groningen
- **Joanna Wojtkowiak PhD**, assistant professor Ethics of Care and Spiritual Counseling Sciences, University of Humanistic Studies (
- **Gert Olthuis PhD**, assistant professor medical ethics, Radboudumc