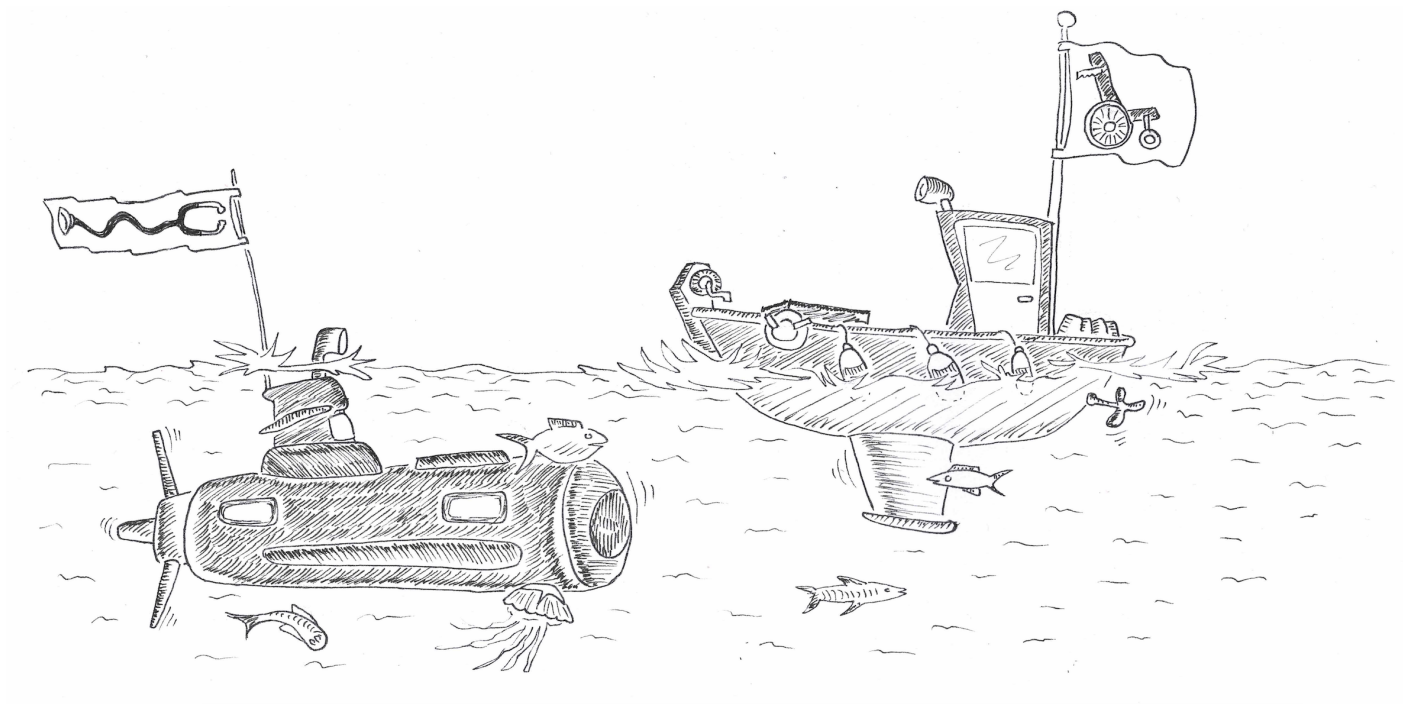




Médecine
de la Personne
International Group

Health care challenge

Can we reconcile what patients expect of us
with what we are able to deliver?



73rd international meeting

**NEUDIETENDORF
Germany**

August 2nd to 5th 2023

www.medecinedelapersonne.org

The International Association for Medicine of the Person

The Medicine of the Person organization is formed of doctors and members of other caring professions who with our partners want to understand the ill person as a whole so that we can care for them better. At our meetings, we talk about the relationship between illness and other issues affecting our patients whether psychological, social or spiritual.

Starting in 1940, **Paul Tournier**, a doctor practising in Geneva, described 'Medicine de la Personne' in his books and lived it in his work: the doctor links his medical and technical knowledge to his understanding of the 'person' of the patient, looking beyond the psychological defence mechanisms which disturb health and can delay healing. In this type of medical care, the relationship between doctor and patient takes on a crucial importance.

The annual meetings of the association take the form of a conference with a theme relating to 'Medicine of the Person'. Each morning, there is the option of a meditation session before breakfast. This is followed by some thoughts about a biblical text and by medical talks. In small groups, we talk about the practical applications of what we have heard to our daily lives.

The conference takes place in French, English and German and written translations are available in the other languages during each talk. The small groups (single language or bilingual) are central to the conference and what is said in those small groups remains confidential. During the evenings

there are other opportunities to share and to chat together. The conference finishes with an ecumenical service of Holy Communion.

Three days of relaxation and discovery before the conference give the opportunity to get to know the area where the conference is taking place and also to get to know friends from widely different countries, backgrounds and professions.



- Weimar · Goethe's garden house -

> In order to register

for the conference please return the enclosed form to the secretariat of your country (see page 8) by 30th April 2023. You can also register on-line at the website: www.medecinedelapersonne.org.

As the workshops in small groups and personal contacts play a fundamental role it is only possible to come to the whole conference.

For other information, see page 7.

Health care challenge

Can we reconcile what patients expect of us with what we are able to deliver?

Not always...this disconnect is not new: let us think back to the first surgical procedure in history, in Borneo 31,000 years ago: the left leg of a young man aged 13 years old was amputated. The operation was a success: the patient would live until the age of 20. We know all this having studied his skeleton. But were the patient and the surgeon in complete agreement? We must assume that the poor boy must have found it a very long ordeal as someone cut his tibia with a moderately sharp stone. Everything leads us to believe that he must have been operated on under duress. Several strong men must have had to hold him down. We can be sure that this young patient didn't really consent to being operated on without anaesthesia.

And nowadays? Certain patients benefit from treatment which is in accordance with their wishes. But others refuse the solutions proposed to them... or imposed on them.

The recent Covid pandemic illustrated this disconnect: most of the population (at least in France) would have liked to be treated with hydroxychloroquine. Not long after, most people were suspicious about having the vaccine. In both cases, most doctors held the opposite view.

In the West, medicine would like to think it is based on science: it only resorts to treatments whose effectiveness have been validated experimentally. But there are a certain number of patients who don't take science into account: they prefer non-orthodox treatments. So, doctors become alarmed as they see cancer patients resort to fasting, patients in pain to osteopathy, those with chronic fatigue to gurus with fantastical theories.

There are plenty of other areas where the ex-

pectations of certain patients are difficult to reconcile with what they are offered: they ask for excessive amounts of certain drugs (psychotropic drugs...). They lobby for certain sorts of distress to be labelled illnesses (chronic Lyme disease, fibromyalgia, long Covid...). They are attached to certain habits which are harmful (sedentary lifestyle, salty food). They consider they are entitled to free healthcare. They refuse certain gynaecological procedures (vaginal examination, episiotomies, induction of labour...). They demand a therapist who resembles them (same sex, same skin colour). Patients on dialysis protest about the length of their dialysis sessions. Homosexuals want to be blood donors in spite of the risk of HIV. We will be able to have amicable discussions about these differences of opinion at Neudietendorf and no doubt about other controversies as well.

There is currently a disconnect between patients and doctors which goes to the very foundation of Médecine de la Personne: patients would like to see the same doctor, and for them to be available and nearby. Their aspiration is brought up short by the current practice of doctors who think they are inter-changeable, who prioritise their work-life balance, who practise wherever is convenient for them, who suggest teleconsultations. This should cause us serious concern.

But we can also feel somewhat reassured: first by realising that patient and doctor are often in agreement and have a mutual appreciation for each other; then by reminding ourselves of the example of Palaeolithic surgery: the difference of opinion between our young amputee and his orthopaedic surgeon didn't prevent a miraculous cure which we still talk about.

Etienne Robin

Programme 2023



Daily at 07.40: meditation (optional)

Wednesday 2nd August

From **16.30** onwards: Arrival of Participants

18.00 Dinner

20.00 Welcome, information, Introduction to the Theme

Thursday 3rd August

8.00 Breakfast

9.00 **The struggle with people and with God in the context of palliative care, Gn 32, 23-32**

Jakub Formanek, hospital chaplain and psychotherapist, Czech Republic

9.30 **Anger, Shame and Moral Injury: any way out?**

Dr Penelope Campling, psychiatrist and psychotherapist, United Kingdom

10.30 Coffee-Break

11.00 Groupwork

12.30 Lunch

15.30 **Experiences in psychiatry and psychotherapy**

Dr Oliver Dodt, psychiatre, Allemagne

16.30 Coffee/Tea-Break

17.00 Groupwork

18.00 Dinner

20.00 Evening

Friday 4th August

- 8.00 Breakfast
- 9.00 **Ask and it will be given to you, Mt 7, 7-12**
Rutger Meijer, Netherlands
- 9.30 **Love as a healing power, the greatest challenge in medicine**
Professor Jan Bonhoeffer, paediatrician, Switzerland
- 10.30 Coffee-Break
- 11.00 Groupwork
- 12.30 Lunch
- 14.30 **Members' Meeting**
- 15.30 **Towards a new therapeutic alliance between two vulnerable people: helping the therapist to assist the patient to take active ownership of their care**
Anne-Lyse Chabert, research fellow in philosophy at the National Centre for Scientific Research, France
- 16.30 Coffee/Tea-Break
- 17.00 Groupwork
- 18.00 Dinner
- 20.00 Personal Ideas

Saturday 5th August

- 8.00 Breakfast
- 9.00 **Where is God? John 1, 1-14**
Dr Frédéric von Orelli, internal medicine, Switzerland
- 9.30 **What matters the most now when life is like a play by William Shakespeare?**
Dr Daniel Suk, specialist in anaesthesia and palliative care, Czech Republic
- 10.30 Coffee-Break
- 11.00 Groupwork
- 12.30 Lunch
- 14.00 **Ecumenical Service**
- 15.00 End of the Conference

Médecine de la Personne, International Group Annual General Meeting

All participants having paid the annual fee are invited to attend the annual general meeting at 14.30 Friday August 4th 2023 at Neudietendorf. Members unable to attend may delegate a proxy using the form attached to the registration form.

Agenda: General Report | Financial Report | A.O.B.

Kathy Webb-Peploe, President

Discovery days

Sunday 30th July to Wednesday 2nd August 2023

Sunday 30th July

- > 16.00 onwards: Arrive
- > 18.00 Supper
- > 20.00 Welcome and information about the leisure days

Thuringia is one of the cultural centres of Germany. At Erfurt, we remember Martin Luther who was a monk at the Augustinian monastery there and who would soon dispute the view on indulgences and teach that salvation is received as a result of God's grace. At Weimar we encounter the poets and writers Goethe and Schiller. It is here that the slogan 'Land of poets and thinkers' was born, said by a French poet who visited the town. Arnstadt was where Bach held his first post as organist.

Monday 31st July

Erfurt

- > 10.00: Leave for Cathedral Square in the south of Erfurt. Historic tram tour with information about the town and its culture.



- > 13.00: Lunch at the 'Goldener Schwan'.
- > 14.30: Walk through the town to the Augustinian convent (Krämer bridge, tour of Aegidien church, free time).
- > 17.00: Return by coach
- > 18.00: Supper Zinzendorfhaus
- > 19.30: Brief introduction to Zinzendorfhaus

Tuesday 1st August

Weimar

- > 9.30: Coach to Weimar, guided tour of the town by Mrs Kretschmar (by coach and on foot)
- > 12.00: Lunch at the 'Weissen Schwan'
- > 13.00: Ilm Park



- > 17.00: return to Zinzendorfhaus
- > 18.00: Supper at Zinzendorfhaus

Wednesday 2nd August

Arnstadt

- > 10.00: leave for Arnstadt
- > 10.30: Organ concert in Bach's church with commentary
- > 12.30: Lunch at 'Burgkeller'
- > 14.00: Return by coach
- > *Then, depending on personal choice:* short journey by private car to the ruins of Mühlenburg castle (first recorded in the 8th century), 30-45-minute climb on foot, talk about the castles in Thuringia
- > Return at leisure to Zinzendorfhaus.



Booking information

Conference address

Zinzendorfhaus

Zinzendorfplatz 3

D – 99192 Neudietendorf

Tel +49 362 029 833 3

information@zinzendorfhaus.de



Travel instructions

By car

Take the A4 and take exit 44 for Neudietendorf

By train

Take the regional train from Erfurt or Gotha

By plane

Berlin or Frankfurt airports and then continue by train/hire car

Cost of the meeting

Leisure days: 600 € | £ 540

Conference: 500 € | £ 450 (which includes annual subscription of 15 € or £ 12)

Students pay a reduced fee of 100 € | £ 85 for the study days. Special fees are applicable, solely for the study days for **qualified doctors and allied medical professionals from Eastern Europe** of 100 €, for students 25 €.

If the **cost is a barrier to you coming**, please do not hesitate to contact one of the members of the équipe (page 8) to explore options. We have a bursary fund which may be able to assist.

How to book and pay

It is possible to reserve **extra nights** both before and after the meeting, by contacting Zinzendorf after booking your place at the meeting.

Booking can be done online on the website www.medecinedelapersonne.org or by printing the subscription form and sending it to your regional secretary (page 8) before **30th April**. The **total cost** needs to be paid before the **30th June**.

Children of participants are welcome. Children under 11 come free, children 11-16 half price. Children of all ages remain the responsibility of their parents. During the study days childcare will be available for children over 6.

For further information prior to the meeting please contact

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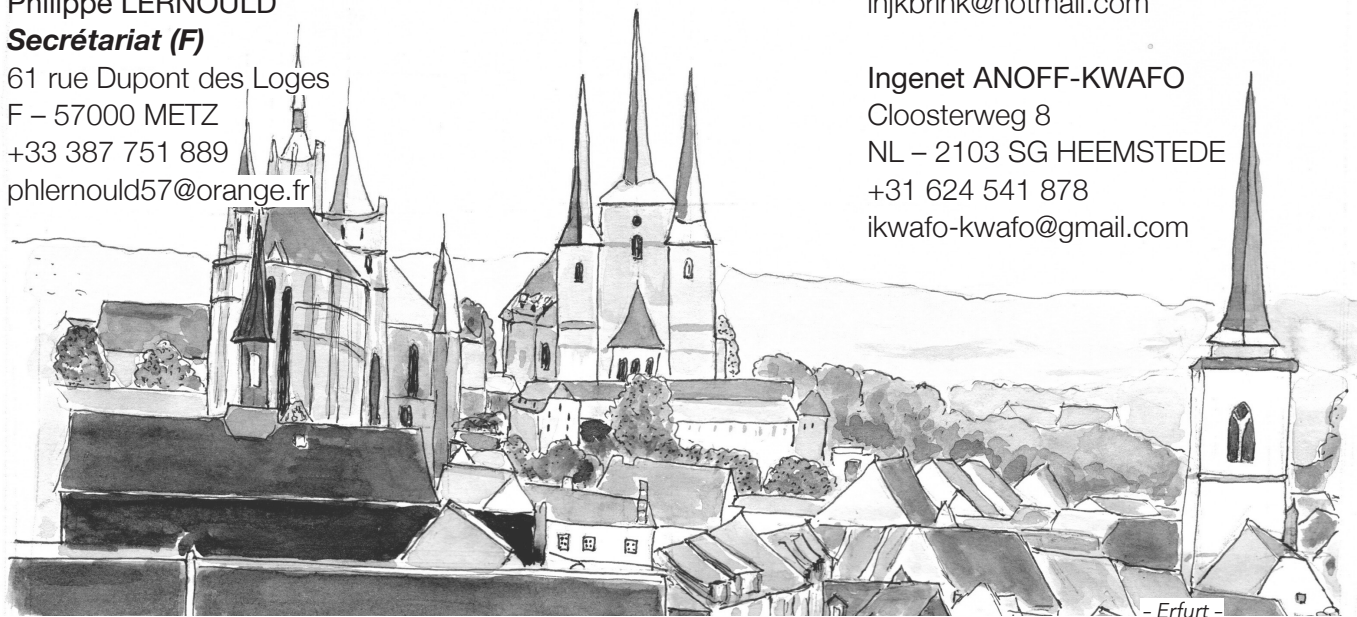
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