

## INTRODUCTION

New developments in health care strengthen the promise of a better life for everyone. This process influences the way various 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.

These questions require thorough conceptual interpretation as well as ethical reflection. Objective of the 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.

**Radboudumc**  
university medical center

## COURSE FEES and PAYMENTS

The course fee is € (Euro) 690 for registration before or on 31 December, 2015, € (Euro) 790 for registration after 31 December, 2015.

This price includes tuition and course materials, as well as refreshments, three lunches and a dinner. For cancellation after January 16, 2016 a banking and administrative fee of € 91,- will be charged. Fees are non-refundable if applicants cancel after January 31, 2016. You will be contacted with payment details after registration.

## ERASMUS MUNDUS MASTER OF BIOETHICS

This course is part of the post initial Erasmus Mundus Master of Bioethics Program, a one-year master program for a group of international students from European and non-European countries. This program is organized by the Universities of Leuven (Belgium), Nijmegen (the Netherlands) and Padova (Italy). Because of this combination, participants of the course 'Suffering, Death and Palliative Care' will be part of a diverse, international audience, which adds to the discussions in a unique way.

## REGISTRATION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Detailed information and an online [registrationform](#) can be found on our website: [www.masterbioethics.org](http://www.masterbioethics.org) under [intensive courses](#).

Or contact Simone Naber, course management:  
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 [@palcarecourse](#)

16-19  
February  
2016

Nijmegen  
Netherlands

Advanced European Bioethics Course

## SUFFERING, DEATH AND PALLIATIVE CARE

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



**Keynote speaker:**  
**dr. Richard Harding,**

Reader in Palliative care, Director of Global Programmes and Partnerships. King's College London, Faculty of Life Sciences and Medicine, Cicely Saunders Institute, Department of Palliative Care, Policy and Rehabilitation

## FACULTY

### KEYNOTESPEAKER: dr. Richard Harding

Dr. Harding has a Masters degree in Social Policy and Social Work studies and worked as a HIV/palliative care Care Manager before pursuing a PhD in Public Health.

His research focuses on family caregivers, sub-Saharan Africa, Global Health, HIV/AIDS, heart failure, outcome measurement and tool validation, audit and quality improvement, mixed methods, intervention development and testing.

### LECTURERS:

- **Kris Vissers MD, PhD**, professor in pain and palliative care, Radboudumc
- **Ghislaine van Tiel PhD**, assistant professor of medical ethics, UMC Utrecht
- **Evert van Leeuwen PhD**, professor of medical ethics, Radboudumc
- **Jeroen Hasselaar PhD**, assistant professor in palliative Care, Radboudumc
- **Marianne Dees PhD**, general physician, post-doctoral researcher
- **Norbert Steinkamp PhD**, assistant professor clinical bioethics, Radboudumc
- **Gerrit Kimsma MD, MPH**, general practitioner and philosopher, Radboudumc
- **Wim Dekkers MD, PhD**, associate professor philosophy of medicine (em), Radboudumc
- **Jacqueline van Meurs**, spiritual caretaker/ pastor, Radboudumc
- **Yvon van der Pijl PhD**, assistant professor cultural anthropology, University of Utrecht
- **Claudia Venhorst PhD**, postdoctoral researcher, Centre for Thanatology, Radboud University
- **Joanna Wojtkowiak**, assistant professor Ethics of Care and Spiritual Counseling Sciences, University of Humanistic Studies

## PROGRAMME

### Tuesday February 16th

- 14:30 Registration
- 15:30 Welcome and introduction
- 16:00 Introduction to palliative care, Kris Vissers
- 17:30 Keynote lecture: Richard Harding
- 19:00 Reception

### Wednesday, February 17th

- 09:00 Scientific research in palliative care: ethical issues, Ghislaine van Tiel
- 10:30 Autonomy and Dependence, Gert Olthuis
- 11:30 Parallel session: Autonomy and beneficence in terminal illness
- 14:00 Suffering, Evert van Leeuwen
- 15:15 From the patients perspective, parallel session
- 17:00 Closing remarks
- 17:30 Course dinner

### Thursday, February 18th

- 09:00 Palliative sedation, Jeroen Hasselaar
- 10:15 Euthanasia: arguments pro and contra, Marianne Dees
- 11:30 Film: 'Choosing to Die'
- 14:00 Suffering and medical friendship, Gerrit Kimsma
- 15:30 Presentation of the Nijmegen Method of Ethical Deliberation, Norbert Steinkamp
- 16:00 Parallel sessions: case discussion

### Friday, February 19th

- 9:00 Quality of life and a good death in palliative care, Wim Dekkers
- 09:30 Case discussion: in search of a good death
- 11:15 Symposium on cultural issues in death and dying, Yvon van de Pijl, Claudia Venhorst, Jacqueline van Meurs
- 14:00 Introduction to rituals regarding death and suffering, Joanna Wojtkowiak
- 14:30 Interactive plenary session death, spirituality and rituals
- 16:00 Evaluation of the course
- 16:30 Farewell reception

## COURSE INFORMATION

**COURSE COORDINATOR: Gert Olthuis PhD**, assistant professor medical ethics, Radboudumc

### COURSE SUBJECTS AND METHODS

The course consists of a series of lectures, discussions, parallel sessions and audiovisual materials centered 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 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.

### PARTICIPANTS

The course is of interest to participants from diverse professional backgrounds, such as nursing, medicine, health care administration, ethics, philosophy, theology and pastoral care, and PhD students in these areas.

Prior to the course participants will receive a syllabus with introductory readings. Since the program schedule is strict, participants are advised to study these materials in advance. Lecturers will assume acquaintance with these basic readings.

At the conclusion of the course participants will receive a certificate. Participants are reminded that they may be eligible for continuing education credit hours through their professional association. Accreditation from the KNMG (Dutch Medical Association) and the SKGV (Dutch register for Chaplains) will be applied for. Please contact the program coordinators for further details (see information).