

June 2023

## Dear PCC NET members and interested individuals,

It's time to celebrate! The Department of Medical Psychology at the Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf (UKE) has recently celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The department comprises three outpatient clinics, 13 different research teams and teaching staff all aiming at improving health care and fostering patient-centered care. This newsletter gives you insights into the celebration day! Another reason to celebrate: Within our Chilean-German research collaboration, an article was now accepted for publication in the journal "Health Expectations"! Please read below for further details. Also, you are very welcome to participate in our upcoming online seminars! More information below.

Kind regards,

Nadine Lages (on behalf of the PCC NET core team)

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### 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Department of Medical Psychology in Hamburg

Medical psychology is an independent, application-oriented and interdisciplinary field of psychology that has been anchored in medicine in Germany for more than 50 years. In the medical degree program for human medicine (iMED) and dentistry (iMED DENT) at the University of Hamburg and the affiliated Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf (UKE), medical psychology is represented in terms of content, structure and personnel in research and teaching as well as in the care of chronically ill patients.



This year, the Department of Medical Psychology at the UKE celebrates its 50th anniversary. On 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2023, a symposium was held to mark this occasion, which was attended by more than 100 people. The guests were former or current colleagues from the founding of the department in 1973 to the present day.

After greetings from the Dean of the Medical Faculty of the UKE Prof. Blanche Schwappach-Pignataro and the Deputy Medical Director of the Centre for Psychosocial Medicine Prof. Jürgen Gallinat, it was up to Prof. Uwe Koch-Gromus to describe the history of the department. He passed the microphone to the current director of the department, Prof. Martin Härter, who presented the last 15 years and in particular the current state of research and teaching. Dr. Angela Buchholz (head of the special outpatient clinics for transplantation psychology and for psychological stress in HIV/AIDS) and Prof. Isabelle Scholl (deputy director and head of the special outpatient clinic for psychooncology) reported on issues in the treatment of patients and their relatives. Colleagues outlined the diverse cooperative relationships and the chair of the German Society for Medical Psychology, Prof. Anja Mehnert-Theuerkauf, addressed future issues and challenges of our discipline.

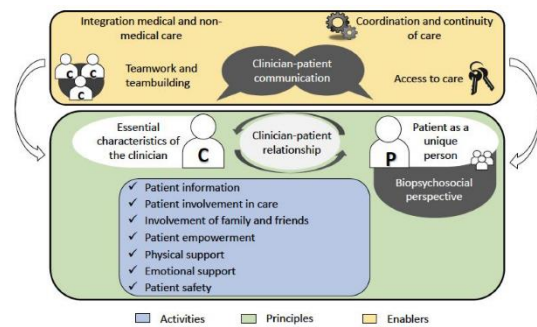
“*High commitment to our patients, fun and motivation in teaching as well as passion for our research topics will continue to drive us in the years to come.*” Martin Härter

Afterwards, accompanied by a few rain showers, not surprisingly for Hamburg, the 50 years were duly celebrated with a summer buffet in the garden of our department.

## Conceptualizing Patient-Centered Care in Latin America

We are very proud to introduce you to our latest article within our Chilean-German research collaboration. The aim of this article was to identify how patient-centeredness is conceptualized in Latin American countries based on existing literature.

To do this, the authors searched the literature for articles that included definitions of patient-centered care and were carried out in or concerned Latin America. The authors found 32 articles to be included into the analysis. Most of the articles came from Brazil (15), Chile (6) and Mexico (5). The analysis showed that the definitions used in the Latin American articles were very similar to the dimensions of the Integrative Model of Patient-Centeredness ([Scholl et al., 2014](#); [Zeh et al., 2019](#); see figure), which was developed on international literature (mainly North America and Europe). The dimension “patient information” was found most often in Latin American articles. It essentially means that the health professional provides the patient with information that is tailored to the patient’s personal preferences and needs. Also, the patients are encouraged to share their knowledge with the health professionals. “Patient information” was covered in 31 out of 32 articles. The dimension “physical support”, meaning the health professional takes care of the patient’s physical wellbeing, was found least often in 4 out of 32 articles.



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Authors: Ina Scholl, Martin Härter, Jörg Dimmner, Stefan Zeh, Eva Christalle, Pola Hahnweg, & Jördis Zill (University Medical Center, Hamburg, Germany).

However, in Latin American articles the differentiation between patient-centered care and family-centered care was emphasized more strongly, as compared to the international literature. The implications of this finding for research and practice still have to be found out.

If you now want to read the whole article or have a closer look at our tables that contain a lot more content than presented here, please email us ([info@pcc-network.org](mailto:info@pcc-network.org)) and we will send you the link to retrieve the article as soon as it is available.

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## Short notes

### Online event coming up!

Dr. Angelique Timmerman will present a new shared decision-making training concept for primary care.

When? **12<sup>th</sup> of July at 16:00 - 17:30 (Germany) / 10 am - 11:30 am (Chile)**  
Simultaneous translation to Spanish will be provided.

### Save the date!

Dr. Natalie Joseph-Williams will give insights into the implementation of shared decision-making in routine practice.

When? **28 September at 16:00 - 17:30 (Germany)/ 10 - 11:30am (Chile)**

If you like to participate in our online events, please email [info@pcc-network.org](mailto:info@pcc-network.org). We are looking forward to seeing you at our next events!

Kind regards,

Dr. Nadine Lages, Prof. Dr. Paulina Bravo, Ivo Engert, Prof. Dr. Dr. Martin Härter, Constanza Quezada, Prof. Dr. Isabelle Scholl