

**27th EUROPEAN CONFERENCE
ON PHILOSOPHY OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH CARE**

Innovation in Health Care and the Life Sciences

**14 – 17 August, 2013
Basel, Switzerland**

This conference will be organised by the European Society for Philosophy of Medicine and Healthcare (ESPMH) and the Institute of Biomedical Ethics, University of Basel, Switzerland.

Focus

The focus of the conference is on Innovation in Health Care and the Life Sciences. There has been an explosion of innovations (both in practice and technology) aimed at enhancing general public health, life expectancy, quality of life, diagnostic and treatment options, as well as the efficiency and cost effectiveness of the health care system. While these innovations potentially have a number of positive benefits, they also raise important philosophical, ethical and social issues.

Abstracts addressing these issues in the following topics will be favoured, although work on other topics can also be submitted:

Innovation

- Nature and meaning
- Goals and priorities
- Costs and access
- Technology assessments and ethics

Public health

- Ethical principles guiding innovation in public health
- Public health, innovation and intellectual property rights
- Resources and competing interests
- Priority setting

Biotechnology

- Nanomedicine and Synthetic Biology
- Biosecurity
- Dual-use research of concern
- GM foods
- Reproductive technologies
- Performance enhancement

Information and communication technology

- Storage of biological samples and data
- Telemedicine and ambient assisted living technologies
- Social media and virtual reality
- Lifelogs and lifebraries

Neurotechnology

- Brain computer interfaces, deep-brain stimulation and brain implants
- Neuromodulation, agency and autonomy
- Neuroimaging
- Neuroenhancement

Important Dates

1 March 2013:	deadline for submission of abstracts
1 st half of March 2013:	selection of abstracts
2 nd half of March 2013:	draft programme
1 April 2013:	first deadline for registration and payment

Language

The language during the conference will be English.

Organisation

The registration process, call for abstracts, development of the programme, publication of programme announcements and mailings to participants is taken care of by the ESPMH Secretariat in Dublin, Ireland.

ESPMH Secretary

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Local Conference Coordinator

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Abstract submission

Please send your abstract by email to the secretary of the ESPMH.

N.B: please provide a suitable abstract title and add your name and email address.

Registration

In order to register a registration form can be downloaded from the ESPMH website at www.espmh.org and should be emailed to the secretary of the ESPMH.

Registration Fee

Registration fees for *participants* include:

Welcome reception (Wednesday),
two lunches and refreshments during breaks,
conference dinner (Friday evening),
and an abstract book.

Registration fees for *accompanying persons* include:

Welcome reception (Wednesday) and
conference dinner (Friday).

N.B: registration fees will be higher after the 1st of April 2013. Fees should be transferred to the ESPMH Treasurer (details provided on the registration form).

Registration fees for participants who are not a member of ESPMH are higher than for ESPMH members.

Participants:

Paid before 1 April 2013:

ESPMH member:	380.- Euro
Non member:	430.- Euro

Paid after 1 April 2013:

ESPMH member:	440.- Euro
Non member:	490.- Euro

Accompanying person:

Paid before 1 April 2013:	130.-Euro
Paid after 1 April 2013:	150.- Euro

Accommodation

Accommodation in Basel is the responsibility of conference participants themselves. The Institute of Biomedical Ethics has reserved a contingency of rooms in several hotels close to the conference site. A list of hotels will be available on the ESPMH website at [Hotels Basel](#). B&B's can be found at [B&B Basel](#).

Each guest staying in Basel receives a free Mobility Ticket when checking in. This allows free use of public transport in the city of Basel and its environs (zones 10, 11 and EuroAirport) for the entire duration of the stay (max. 30 days). On the day of arrival, the reservation confirmation from the hotel guarantees a free transfer by public transport from the station or the EuroAirport to the hotel (see [Mobility Ticket Basel](#)).

Getting to Basel

By train

Basel is an important interchange and transport hub with its three mainline train stations offering excellent connections to all Swiss cities and most European metropolises. The Swiss Railway station (SBB), the French Railway station (SNCF) and the Badische Bahnhof, operated by German Railway (DB), are all conveniently located in the heart of the city.

By air

With the EuroAirport being located just 15 minutes from the city centre, Basel is easily reached by plane. With over 500 scheduled and charter flights each week from over 60 destinations, quick and convenient travel to the city is guaranteed.

By car

Basel is located close to major European motorways running both north-south and east-west and is therefore easy to reach from all directions. The University does not offer any parking. However, there are a number of city car parking garages in the vicinity (see [Parkhaus City Basel](#))

Currency

The unit of currency in Switzerland is the Swiss Franc (CHF). Foreign currency can easily be exchanged at the airport or at exchange bureaus. All major credit cards are accepted. MAESTRO is also accepted in most hotels and shops.

Visa

Please contact your local consulate for details.

Social Programme

The following social activities will be offered:

- Welcome reception on Wednesday (14 August)
- Conference dinner on Friday (17 August)
- Excursions and tours for participants and accompanying persons for an extra fee

Abstract Book

The abstract book will be handed out in Basel at registration. Full manuscripts can be submitted for publication in the ESPMH journal "Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy. A European Journal". Participants are invited to read the instructions for authors on the website of the Journal (see [MEPH](#)) and to submit an appropriately prepared article online for review.

About Switzerland

You can find all information at www.myswitzerland.com.

About Basel

Basel is a beautiful historic Old Town, with the river Rhine flowing right through the city and many parks and playgrounds. There is also a wide range of restaurants and bars, excellent shopping and leisure opportunities and recreational facilities. The borders of Switzerland, France and Germany come together at Three Countries Corner in Basel. International, cosmopolitan attitudes have thus always characterised the city.

Basel is a European cultural centre with more than 30 museums, some of world renown, the Basel Theatre, as well as 18 further small theatres, a musical stage, countless galleries, music stages of all sizes and over 40 cinema screens. The city ranks with the European elite in the fine arts, as is demonstrated by its hosting 'Art Basel', the world's leading contemporary art fair.

Basel is also the most dynamic economic area in Switzerland and one of the most productive and innovative worldwide. This success has been built upon the global achievements of its pharmaceutical companies, which include two of the world's top five, the chemical industry, financial services, logistics and the creative industries (design and architecture).

Further information can be found at www.basel.com.

University of Basel

The University of Basel is the oldest university in Switzerland, founded upon the initiative of local citizens in 1460. The University is a modern and attractive centre of teaching, learning, and research situated in the heart of the historic old town.

The University of Basel has been self-managed since 1996 whilst remaining under the jurisdiction of the Cantons of Basel-Stadt and Basel-Landschaft. The University provides a strong academic community and an inspiring work environment, home to 3500 staff, including 320 professors and 1300 academic staff, and has an annual budget of approximately 500 million Swiss francs.

Comprising of around 9000 undergraduate and 2000 postgraduate and doctoral students, the University of Basel is comparatively small by European standards. The University is proud of its high female student roll (55%) – tending upwards – and an increasing number of international students (20%).

Further information can be found at <http://unibas.ch>.

Institute of Biomedical Ethics

The Institute of Biomedical Ethics (IBMB) was founded in May 2011 and is responsible for research on and teaching of bioethics and medical ethics at the Faculties of Science and Medicine at the University of Basel.

Members of the team have backgrounds in law, medicine, sciences, philosophy and religion does multi-disciplinary research on a wide area of ethical issues. The IBMB is currently engaged in work on:

- Biobanking and Data Sharing
- Confidentiality and Disclosure of Information
- Research Ethics
- Dual-use research
- End of Life
- How to decide who decides
- Law and Ethics: Diagnosis Related Groups (DRGs)
- Neuroethics
- Open Disclosure
- Clinical Ethics Support - Guideline Development
- Protection of human well-being
- Tobacco use in Swiss Prisons

Further information can be found at <http://ibmb.unibas.ch>.