

European Research Institute for Chaplains in Healthcare (ERICH)

Enhancing spiritual care through chaplaincy research

Mission Statement

ERICH was founded to promote research by chaplains into chaplaincy practice and in doing so to encourage reflection on its theoretical underpinning. ERICH seeks to support such research through education and mentoring with the aim of enhancing spiritual care for patients, their loved ones and healthcare staff.

Context

The European Network of Healthcare Chaplains (ENHCC) at its bi-annual consultation in Salzburg in 2014 issued a collaborative statement on the significance of research for, and by, chaplains. The continuous changes in healthcare challenge chaplaincy to become a more research informed profession. The main goal for chaplains is to contribute to the best possible spiritual care which enhances the wellbeing of patients, their loved ones and staff. This is a global concern. In Debrecen, during the 2016 network consultation, 94% of participants voted for the establishment of ERICH – a research body within its make-up and governance.

Goals

- To initiate research to inform the best possible spiritual care by healthcare chaplains for patients, their loved ones and staff.
- To promote the importance of research in spiritual care by healthcare chaplains.
- To provide education, resources and mentorship for healthcare chaplains interested in spiritual care research.
- To seek collaboration and dialogue with research orientated institutions and individuals globally.
- To translate, publish and disseminate existing research in spiritual care by chaplains.