



Summer School

Doctors and lawyers dealing with death and dying.

Medical, legal and ethical challenges in end-of-life decision making.

3-7 July, 2017

Many countries are currently engaged in a societal debate about the question whether to decriminalize or legalize some form of assistance in dying. In this multi-disciplinary one-week course, students will be introduced to the Dutch situation regarding Termination of Life on Request and Assisted Suicide (Review Procedures) Act of 2002, the practice of medical decision making at the end of life, and current ethical, legal and medical challenges in comparative perspective with other European countries.

The aim of this course is to expand the knowledge of participants on medical, legal, and ethical issues at the end of life, and to reflect on these issues based on the facts and figures. The summer school is part of a broader Research Excellence Initiative (REI) "Doctors and lawyers dealing with death and dying". For more information, please visit:

<https://rotterdamsummerschool.com/courses/course/doctors-and-lawyers-dealing-with-death-and-dying>



Day 1: Introduction in medical, legal and ethical challenges in end of life decision making

9.00	Registration and coffee	
9.15	Introduction course	
9.45	<i>Prof dr P.A.M. Mevis</i> Erasmus University Rotterdam	Current legal situation in the Netherlands: results and challenges
10.30	<i>Prof dr A. van der Heide</i> Erasmus MC Rotterdam	Current situation in medical practice in the Netherlands: facts and figures
11.15	Coffee	
11.30	<i>Prof dr M.A.J.M. Buijsen</i> Erasmus University Rotterdam	Human rights and physician assisted suicide
12.15		Panel discussion
13.00	Lunch	
13.45	<i>Dr M.G.J.L. Habets</i> Erasmus University Rotterdam	Ethical challenges in end of life care
14.30	TBA	Medical challenges in end of life care
15.15	Coffee	
15.30	<i>L. Postma</i> Erasmus University Rotterdam <i>Dr M.G.J.L. Habets</i> Erasmus University Rotterdam	Workshop ethical/legal challenges Hand out assignments
Evening		Drinks organized by Rotterdam Summerschool (optional)

Day 2: Alleviation of symptoms at the end of life – Professionals in the field

9.00	TBA	Symptoms and suffering at the end of life
9.45	<i>Dr J.A.C. Rietjens</i> Erasmus MC Rotterdam	Palliative sedation in international perspective
10.30	Coffee	
10.45	<i>Prof dr A. van der Heide</i> Erasmus MC Rotterdam	Assisted dying and palliative sedation
11.30		Panel discussion
12.15	Lunch	
13.15	<i>H.J. van Esch</i>	“Help! My patient wants to die”, the dilemmas of ending life from the perspective of a palliative care physician
14.00	<i>P.S.C. Kouwenhoven</i>	Experiences of a general practitioner
14.45	Coffee	
15.00	<i>M. van den Berg</i>	Together for better – The experiences and possibilities of a minister in palliative care
15.45	<i>Ch.L. van den Puttelaar</i>	The regional review committee on euthanasia in the Netherlands
16.30		Panel Discussion
Evening		Film on end of life



Day 3: Complex cases

9.00	<i>Prof dr G.A. den Hartogh</i> University of Amsterdam	Assisted suicide by non-physicians
9.45	<i>Dr E.J. van Wijngaarden</i> University of Humanistic Studies	Older people who consider their lives to be completed
10.30	Coffee	
10.45	<i>Prof dr A.A.E. Verhagen</i> University Medical Center Groningen	Challenges in end-of-life care in pediatrics
11.30	<i>Prof mr dr J. Legemaate</i> University of Amsterdam	End of life decisions and psychiatric patients
12.15		Panel discussion
13.00	Lunch	
13.45	<i>L. Postma</i> Erasmus University Rotterdam	Advance euthanasia directives
14.30		Self-study assignment & prepare presentations
Evening		Hand in assignments

Day 4: Assisted dying in International perspective

9.00	<i>Prof P. Lewis</i> King's College London	Assisted dying and legal change
9.45	<i>Dr K. Chambaere</i> Vrije Universiteit Brussel	Belgium
10.30	Coffee	
10.45	<i>S. Luley</i>	Switzerland
11.30		Panel discussion
12.15	Lunch	
13.15	<i>Dr A. Mullock</i> The university of Manchester	England
14.00	<i>Prof dr S. Schicktanz</i> University Medical Centre Göttingen	Germany
14.45	Coffee	
15.00	<i>Dr M.G.J.L. Habets</i> Erasmus University Rotterdam	Workshop international challenges
17.00		Bike excursion & drinks

Day 5: End of life in society

9.00	<i>Dr H.A.M. Weyers</i> University of Groningen	The influence of politics on the development of the Dutch euthanasia law
9.45	<i>K. ten Cate</i> Academic Medical Center, Amsterdam	Which considerations play a role in practice when physicians have to decide on requests for euthanasia and assisted suicide?
10.30	Coffee	
10.45	<i>Prof dr B.D. Onwuteaka-Philipsen</i> VU University Medical Center Amsterdam	Third evaluation of the Dutch euthanasia law
11.30		Panel discussion
12.15	Lunch	
13.15		Student presentations
16.00		Drinks, farewell, and certificates