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Vrije Universiteit Brussel

FACULTEIT GENEESKUNDE EN FARMACIE

**Doctoraat in de Sociale
Gezondheidswetenschappen**
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UITNODIGING

Voor de openbare verdediging van het
doctoraatsproefschrift van

Dirk HOUTTEKIER

dinsdag 24 mei 2011

U wordt vriendelijk uitgenodigd op de openbare verdediging van het proefschrift van

Dirk HOUTTEKIER

'Place of death and circumstances of dying. Studies in a metropolitan, national and international context'

Op **dinsdag 24 mei 2011** om **15 uur** in auditorium **P. Brouwer** van de Faculteit Geneeskunde & Farmacie Laarbeeklaan 103, 1090 Brussel

Situering van het proefschrift

Place of death statistics became a symbol of the social movements for palliative care and dignified dying that emerged in the 1950s and 1960s in the UK and the USA, criticizing the medicalization of terminal illness and death and the inhumane curative care approach at the end of many people's lives. These movements strived for a palliative and humane approach of end-of-life care, relieving suffering and respecting the choices and increasing autonomy of the dying, to guarantee a death in dignity.

In this dissertation place of death is looked at as a way of considering the quality of end-of-life care and the circumstances of death and dying cross-nationally in specific disease groups such as cancer and dementia-related diseases, in metropolitan populations as compared to non metropolitan populations, and to evaluate health care policies with respect to palliative care services and care for the elderly.

Curriculum Vitae

Dirk Houttekier (° 1962) holds a master degree in sociology (1984, Ghent University), a master degree in quantitative analysis of the social sciences (2006, KUB/KULeuven) and an executive master degree in business administration (1997, University Antwerp Management School). In the past he was deputy secretary-general of a Belgian political party, strategic planner of advertising, consultant in place marketing and commercial director.

In 2006 he joined the End-of-Life Care Research Group of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and started his PhD research about place of death and circumstances of dying in Brussels, Belgium and Europe. Today he works as a researcher at the Ghent University & Vrije Universiteit Brussel End-of-Life Care Research Group and is involved in the International Place of Death Study (IPD-study) and the Flanders Study to Improve End-of-Life Care and Evaluation Tools (FLIECE-study).