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PhD in Medical Sciences
2015-2016

INVITATION to the Public defence of

Lara PIVODIC

To obtain the academic degree of '**DOCTOR IN MEDICAL SCIENCES**'

End-of-Life Care : An International Perspective**Wednesday 16 December 2015**

Auditorium **Vanden Driessche**, 16:00
Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, Laarbeeklaan 103, 1090 Brussel

How to reach the campus Jette:

<http://www.vub.ac.be/english/infoabout/campuses>



Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Summary of the dissertation

The number of people who are dying from serious chronic diseases is rising in many countries across the world. These people typically experience a slow but steady progression of disease characterised by multiple and complex physical, psychosocial, and spiritual problems for which they require continuous care until death. The delivery of high-quality end-of-life care is an important challenge for public health due to the large number of people who need it and its impact on health care costs. For this dissertation, Lara Pivodic carried out cross-national and population-based analyses to study the provision of end-of-life care by different care providers, the locations in which people receive end-of-life care, and the locations in which they die. The analyses are based on data obtained through epidemiological surveillance networks in four countries, a retrospective survey of bereaved relatives in the United Kingdom, and an analysis of death certificates in 14 countries.

This dissertation gives insight into the involvement of general practitioners and specialist palliative care teams in the care people receive in the last three months of life, overburden in family carers, hospitalisations and other transitions between care settings in the last three months of life, and the place of death of people in potential need of palliative care. The findings of this dissertation provide an important population-based evidence base for the formulation of national health policies to ensure an appropriate provision of high-quality end-of-life care

Curriculum Vitae

Lara Pivodic was born on 7 November 1985 in Derventa, Bosnia and Herzegovina. She obtained an MSc (“Magistra der Naturwissenschaften”) in psychology from the University of Vienna, Austria (2011). During her studies, she specialised in research methods and clinical and health psychology. Lara started her PhD programme at the End-of-Life Care Research Group in 2011 as part of EURO IMPACT, a Marie Curie Actions Initial Training Network involving research institutes from six European countries (funded by the European Union Seventh Framework Programme, FP7/2007–2013, grant agreement no. 264697). As part of her PhD programme, she completed a 6-month appointment as Visiting Research Associate at the Cicely Saunders Institute of Palliative Care, Policy & Rehabilitation of King’s College London. Lara currently works at the End-of-Life Care Research Group as researcher and trial manager for a study that examines the effectiveness of palliative care for elderly people in long-term care facilities in Europe (PACE), and co-supervises a research project that aims to develop and test an Advance Care Planning intervention in nursing homes in Flanders