

I) Health Psychology in the country

II) Education, training & professionalization

1. **ADVOCACY AND PROMOTION OF PSYCHOLOGY**

2. **EDUCATION AND TRAINING INITIATIVES/PROGRAMS**

From 2017-2018 a newly revised clinical psychology program will start at Ghent University, in which health psychology has a more central place.

Stefaan Van Damme and Geert Crombez received funding for a teaching innovation project at Ghent University, on authentic training and testing of communication skills using online video annotation. This will also include motivational interviewing in the context of health behavior change.

3. **ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS**

III) Activities

1. **MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECTS (COMPLETED/UNDER WAY)**

From acute aversive sensations to chronic bodily symptoms

Johan Vlaeyen, Ilse Van Diest, Andreas von Leupold, Omer Van den Bergh; Health Psychology, KU Leuven, Belgium

This is a project aiming at expanding the knowledge on the development and clinical management of common chronic health complaints. The project will examine perceived unpredictability of aversive sensations (WP1), inhibitory learning and control (WP2), and individual variability in personality, genetics, and neural sensitivity (WP3). The project will be conducted in close collaboration with partners in biomedics (e.g. psychiatry, anesthesiology, gastroenterology, pneumology, rehabilitation, genetics) and physics (e.g. experimental oto-rhino-laryngology), inside and outside KU Leuven. The Asthenes research program is a structural funding - Methusalem grant by the Flemish Government, Belgium

For more information: Research group Health Psychology KU Leuven:
<https://ppw.kuleuven.be/home/english/research/ogp/>

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Food for Gut (Innovative nutrition research on obesity based on colic nutriment)

This is an interdisciplinary Excellence research project funded by the Walloon region (Belgium) involving Université catholique de Louvain, Université libre de Bruxelles and Université de Liège. The PI is Nathalie Delzenne from the Louvain Drug Research Institute (LDRI). Olivier Luminet is the coordinator for the behavioral aspects. The project, which started in 2014 was renewed in September 2016 for an additional 30 months. The psychological work package examines the cognitive and affective factors, both explicit and implicit, that can affect the consumption of vegetables rich in colic nutriment. Supervisors' backgrounds cover cognitive, social and health psychology. Five researchers and five professors are involved in the project.

<http://sites.uclouvain.be/FOOD4GUT/>

<https://uclouvain.be/en/research/louvain4nutrition>

IC-Health

UCLouvain participates as a partner in this research project funded by the EU within the Horizon 2020 programme. The project, which is coordinated by the Government of the Canary Islands, runs from November 2016 to October 2018 and aims to develop a series of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) to help improve the digital health literacy of European citizens. MOOCs will be developed in eight languages (English, French, Italian, Danish, German, Swedish, Dutch and Spanish). Countries involved in the pilot are Spain, Italy, Belgium, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Sweden, Germany and Denmark. The Belgian health psychologists collaborating in this project are Stephan Van den Broucke and Jessica Vandenbosch. More information is to be found at <https://ichealth.eu/>

SACURIMA

The project SACURIMA ("Safety Culture and Risk Management in Agriculture») was established in 2016 to be launched in the spring of 2017. This coordination project is funded by the European Commission as a COST Action, and aims to co-ordinate research activities and policies with regard to preventing accidents and disease and the promotion of health amongst agricultural workers in Europe. The approach is multidisciplinary but health psychology is well represented in the consortium. Stephan Van den Broucke was elected a core group member of the consortium.

Medical-Pharmaceutical Consultation

The project "Evaluation of the implementation of the local medical-pharmaceutical consultation in Belgium" (MFO) was accepted for funding by the Belgian Health Insurance Fund (INAMI/RIZIV) in 2017. The project, which builds on a previous short-term project monitoring the quality of a new medicines counselling service for asthma patients in community pharmacies in Belgium, is a collaboration between the Universities of Antwerp (UA), the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KUL) and the Université catholique de Louvain (UCL). It aims to evaluate local collaboration initiatives between pharmacists and physicians, and gain insight in the implementation process of a new policy instrument encouraging these initiatives. Specific attention will be paid to the obstacles that pharmacists and doctors experience to participate in the mechanism. For UCLouvain, the project is

led by Stephan Van den Broucke and Sandrine Roussel.

Health Literacy and information sources

In collaboration with the Mutualité Chrétienne / Christelijke Mutualiteiten, the largest health insurance fund of Belgium, an online survey was organised among 4600 members of the MC/CM to investigate the relationship between health literacy and information sources used. The results of the survey will be published in 2017. The project was coordinated for UCL by Stephan Van den Broucke

Louvain4Ageing

Louvain4Ageing is a consortium created at the UCLouvain (Université catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve). It represents a multidisciplinary research platform for projects focused on healthy adult development and aging. It promotes exchanges between researchers and scientist-practitioners who are interested in aging well, working in multiple areas such as psychology, public health, medicine, neurosciences, demography, sociology, linguistics, economics, and new technologies. Among the active projects, the 4LNA (Living Lab Louvain-la-Neuve for Ageing) focuses on life transitions after age 50 and examines personal and contextual factors accounting for successful aging. BIONICS, a project led by Louvain Bionics, aims at developing prostheses and rehabilitation robots for older adults. Another ongoing project, CAREGIVER, brings together researchers interested in assessing physical health among home-based caregivers of older frail adults. For research on health psychology issues, Stefan Agrigoroaei is the responsible person.

<https://uclouvain.be/en/research/louvain4ageing>

Parental Burnout

Moïra Mikolajczak and Isabelle Roskam (UCLouvain) started in 2015 a research programme on parental burnout. The studies conducted so far confirmed the specificity of parental burnout vis-à-vis job burnout and depression, estimated the prevalence of parental burnout at 5% of the parents (with 8% being at high risk), and showed that the main risk factors for parental burnout were not sociodemographic (eg. small children) or situational factors (eg. ill child) but personal characteristics (e.g., high parental standards; neuroticism or lack of emotional competence), parenting factors (eg. childrearing practices) and family functioning factors (poor co-parenting). Collaborations are most welcome. We are currently seeking partners for a cross-cultural study on parental burnout. Interested? Please contact isabelle.roskam@uclouvain.be

<https://uclouvain.be/fr/instituts-recherche/ipsy/burn-out-parental.html>

Psychological health at work

Geoffroy Douillié and Agnès Van Daele (University of Mons) conduct a research program on psychological health at work. The purpose is to better understand the (individual and situational) antecedents of the psychological health at work and its consequences. The psychological health at work is considered in two dimensions: psychological well-being at work and psychological distress at work. A first part of the research examines the psychological health at work of teachers. A second part

(ongoing in the post service) aims to link the psychological health at work with organizational performance through a multilevel longitudinal study.

InnoKare

InnoKare intends to develop an original and sustainable approach to the issue of the Belgian healthcare system reorganisation by studying its political, economic, organisational and therapeutic aspects. The Project includes three work packages revolving around the analysis of managerial innovations resulting from the development of integrated care for patients with chronic diseases. It focuses on pilot-projects that are developing on the Belgian territory in response to a new policy programme called "Integrated Care for Better Health". Promotor of this research project is Anne-Marie Etienne (University of Liège).

2. **CONFERENCES & MEETINGS**

French speaking International association of work psychology (AIPTLF)

From July 10 to 13, 2017, the Université libre de Bruxelles, in collaboration with the Université catholique de Louvain and the University of Mons, organised in Belgium the annual conference of the French speaking International association of work psychology (AIPTLF), titled: "Diversity at work: individuals, groups and organisations". Health issues accounted for a significant portion of the presented contributions. Of the 80 symposia and oral session, 22 were dedicated to occupational health issues such as: workers' well-being, mental health, self-efficacy, mindfulness, burnout, presenteeism, moral harassment, and the impact of ICT on health and well-being at work. Moreover, several presentations dealt with the study of intervention aiming at preventing psychosocial risk factors in organizations. Finally, the important role of health and well-being in nowadays work and organizational psychology was reflected by the title of one of the 3 keynote speakers: "Psychological well-being at work, or how to see workers psychological health for the positive psychology perspective" by Véronique DAGENAIS-DESMARAIS – Université de Montréal, QC.

For more information (in French): <http://www.aiptlf.fr/>

Annalisa Casini (co-president of the 2017 AIPTLF conference), IPSY, Université catholique de Louvain (Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium)

3. **PUBLICATIONS**

4. **AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS ETC**

Stephan Van den Broucke (UCLouvain) was re-elected as member of the Executive Board of the International Union for Health Promotion and Education. He will hold the portfolio of Capacity building and Training until 2019.

Liesbet Goubert (UGent) received the British Pain Society Medal in recognition for her contributions to the clinical science of pain.

5. **WORKING GROUPS** (if any)

6. **COLLABORATION WITH OTHER SOCIETIES (National and International); PROJECTS; GROUPS ETC.**

the *11th International Symposium of Pediatric Pain (ISPP)* is organized in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (<http://www.ispp2017.org>). As the premier international congress on pediatric pain, ISPP has become a global meeting place, where scientists, health care professionals, and policy makers from all parts of the world and from a diverse range of disciplines come together, in order to stimulate research and treatment of childhood pain. Prof. Liesbet Goubert (Ghent University) is chairing the Scientific Programme Committee of this international congress which for the first time takes place in Asia.

7. **PROMOTION AND MEMBER RECRUITMENT**

8. **COMMUNICATION**

9. **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

The Well Done Health Literacy Award organized its 4th edition in 2016. Grassroots projects aiming to enhance health literacy were invited for three categories: community care, first line, and specialized care. In each category, three projects were nominated and one selected to win a 3000€ prize. The Award ceremony was held in September and received a lot of national press attention.

IV) Planned/future activities and initiatives

The European Pediatric Psychology Conference which will take place in Ghent, Belgium, on September 20-21, 2018 (www.eppc2018.be).

V) Funding opportunities, with a special emphasis on international and binational programs

VI) Other issues