

# Annual Report - Belgium

## Olivier Luminet

*Université catholique de Louvain and Belgian Fund for Scientific Research FRS-FNRS*

The main issues for health psychology in Belgium in the following weeks are the organization of two medium size meetings, each gathering will attract between 200 and 300 delegates. These meetings show that Belgium is at the crossroads of Southern and Northern health psychology in Europe. Both the AFPSA (<http://www.afpsa.fr/>) and the ARPH(<http://www.arph.nl>) will organize their meetings for the first time in Belgium.

The 8th Francophone Association of Health Psychology Conference will take place on December 15, 16 and 17, 2014 in Liège, in collaboration with four Belgian Universities: Université de Liège (Coordination), Université libre de Bruxelles, Université catholique de Louvain and Université de Mons. (<https://conferences.fapse.ulg.ac.be/AFPSA/>)

Three major topics will be discussed at the conference.

1. With regard to social evolutions, the population ages and the prevalence of chronic diseases increases. New configurations of work (hyper-flexible and precarious jobs) and family are a challenge for health psychologists who have to face the need to reconsider their concepts and methods of intervention.

2. In addition, there are new technological innovations both in the medical field and public health. For example, our ability to predict by genetic or biopsychosocial epidemiological tests, in a healthy individual, the possibility of later developing a serious condition raises new questions regarding ethics and interventions. It is essential to study, as they arise, the psychological outcomes of these

advanced diagnoses.

3. In Health Policy, health care systems are subject to numerous issues: What is the place of professionals in physical and mental health? How to reconcile all innovations (i.e., electronic versions of medical records, genetic test, etc.) available to individuals in order to manage their health while allowing them to keep their identities?

The conference will also host an international symposium on "Nutrition and health : The challenge of obesity from a psychological perspective" organized by Olivier Luminet. And finally three keynote speakers will be invited: Stan Maes (Leiden), Philippe de Timary (UC Louvain) and Marie Préau (Lyon).

The 4th edition of the annual conference of the Association for Researchers in Psychology & Health (ARPH) will take place in Ghent, February 5-6, 2015 (<http://www.arphconference.nl>).

ARPH is a non-profit organization that was founded in April 2011 by a group of scientifically oriented psychologists interested in advancing the scientific study of psychology and health in The Netherlands and Belgium, and its representation at the international level. It is the only health psychological congress in the Dutch-Belgian area, and as such offers an excellent opportunity for both junior and senior researchers in this field to meet, present their latest work, and exchange new ideas. Previous congresses were held in Utrecht, Twente, and Groningen. In all of these previous congresses, international experts have given keynotes, including Niels Birbaumer, Fabrizio Benedetti, Mario Mickulincer, Kirk Warren Brown, Reinout Wiers, Richard Brown, Lynn Martire, and Denise De Ridder. The 2015 congress in Ghent will be the first to take

place in Belgium. Keynote speakers this year are Lance McCracken (London), James Coyne (Pennsylvania/Groningen), and Ilse De Bourdeaudhuij (Ghent).

The objective of the congress is to stimulate and coordinate the academic study of psychological approaches to health and illness by providing a platform for researchers to exchange knowledge and research initiatives on the study of health promotion, the prevention of illness, to direct the development of new theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of psychology and health, and to initiate a network between institutes and junior and senior researchers involved in the scientific study of psychology and health.



Olivier Luminet  
Université catholique de Louvain and  
Belgian Fund for Scientific Research  
FRS-FNRS, Belgium  
olivier.luminet@uclouvain.be