



April 2021 Newsletter

Dear Members,

Who would have thought that this corona virus would plague us for so long! We have no choice but to stay hopeful and plan as if we could live life as "normal" again. So we plan to hold the General Assembly on Thursday, 10 June 2021 at 7 pm and we also hope it will take place in the Protestant parish hall, "Güggel", in Therwil, as usual.

Another event we had to postpone last year because of corona was Café Goodbye, which will now take place on Sunday morning, 30 May 2021 at 10 am in the museum at Reinach. It is another interesting topic: "Therapy dogs, the role of animals in illness and death." I highly recommend this event and we look forward to a lively exchange with coffee and croissants. <https://www.cafegoodbye.ch>

Several things have changed for me personally. On 1st March 2021 I handed over my practice to my successor. I found it very hard to say goodbye to my patients, after all, I had taken care of them for 21 years. Thanks to the extra time I now have, I can devote myself even more intensively to lifecircle and the goal of maintaining the highest quality of life. Through the Eternal Spirit Foundation, too, I will work not only towards the legalisation of voluntary assisted death (VAD) around the world, but also to find a good solution in Switzerland. At this point it's worth mentioning that, in addition to Germany, Austria is going to allow VAD, with regulations for it set to become law on 1 January 22. What an achievement! How great it would be if all European countries (including Switzerland) collectively produced clear and binding rules for VAD so that doctors assessing such requests could respond to them openly and in safety.

Just now I am personally experiencing the full force of how quickly a doctor can be caught up in legal proceedings connected with VAD. I have now received an appointment for my appeal hearing in the Cantonal Court in Liestal. It will take place on 30 April 2021. The verdict will be announced one week later, on 07 May, also in Liestal. If any members are interested in attending the one-day hearing on 30 April, you must register soon by email: kantonsgericht.strafrecht@bl.ch : registration requests are expected to be dealt with in chronological order of receipt as they were two years ago.

Unfortunately, my involvement on the board of the European organization "Right to Die Europe" <https://www.rtde.eu> was impeded because Covid restrictions prevented meetings and elections. The next meeting of these European organisations is mid-May. The trajectory of the Covid numbers is putting this date in question, too.

Regarding the play "God" by Ferdinand von Schirach, which was on television last November, I want to apologise to all those who were disappointed that I was not involved in the "Club-Spezial" that followed. The presenter phoned me the week before the broadcast to explain that Marion Schafroth from Exit had been invited instead of me as the programme makers felt it was too risky to let me take part in such a polarising discussion given my pending court case. This annoyed me tremendously because I really wanted to contribute to the discussion. Well, there are things in life you cannot change; you just have to accept them.

Something I am very pleased about is that the Swiss are increasingly becoming members. Swiss, who are not waiting to become ill before they join but who are becoming members even before they get sick because they want to support our commitment to self-determination, especially at the end of life. We all have to die eventually, whether we like it or not. What's important is to have as high a quality of life as possible for as long as possible. Then (hopefully not until extreme old age) if someone is stricken by one or more incurable diseases, that person should be allowed to decide on how, where and when to die. That is what we are all working towards.

One of my recurring key messages is that all three paths at the end of life are of equal value. Palliative care, voluntary assisted death and death by fasting; none of these three ways is better than the other. The only crucial point is that individuals need to have access to honest information and ultimately be allowed to choose their own method. In this sense I wish our members the best of luck in their future lives. lifecircle will continue to stand by you with help and advice, no matter what your current stage of life



Sincerely,

Erika Preisig, General Practitioner and
President of the lifecircle association

PS: please excuse us for having sent a payment reminder in error instead of the invoice and please don't be offended!