

Workshop: Telemedicine in times of pandemic A care ethics perspective

Brocher Foundation, Hermance, 22-23 June 2021

Organizer: *Swiss Network of Ethics of Care (SNEC)*: Roberto Andorno (University of Zurich), Lazare Benaroyo (University of Lausanne), Guenda Bernegger (University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland), Nadja Eggert (University of Lausanne), Anna Elsner (University of St. Gallen), Ralf Jox (University of Lausanne), Isabelle Wienand (University of Basel)

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Theme

Telemedicine —the delivery of healthcare services at distance using information and communication technologies— offers a safe and cost-effective way to address the healthcare needs of patients no matter where they are. This technical possibility is particularly promising in the current circumstances of physical distancing, quarantine and isolation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite its obvious advantages, there are concerns about how the increasing use of telemedicine may impact the quality of care and the values inherent in care. This workshop aims to examine the ethical dimension of telemedicine from a care ethics perspective. The background question is: to what extent is the delivery of healthcare at distance compatible with an ethical approach that emphasizes the relational dimension of persons and the importance of care values such as benevolence, empathy and compassion in the physician-patient relationship? Special consideration will be given to particular categories of patients such as the elderly and those suffering from mental health issues.

PROGRAM

Tuesday 22 June 2021

12:30 - 14:00 Informal welcome and Lunch

Session 1. Chair: Anna Elsner (UZH)

Philosophical considerations about care ethics in the context of Covid-19

14:00 - 14:30 Lazare Benaroyo & Nadja Eggert (UNIL): *Introduction*

14:30 - 15.00 Discussion

15:00 - 15:30 Annemarie van Hout (Windesheim University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands): *'Mental Health Care and Covid19: on fine lines and protocols'*
(Zoom)

15:30 - 16.00 Discussion

Break

Session 2. Chair: Ralf Jox (CHUV-UNIL)

The clinical practice in the context of the pandemic

16:30 - 16:45 Claudia Gamondi (Bellinzona): *"Telemedicine and families during the Covid pandemics in Ticino: possible applications"* (Zoom)

16:45 - 17:15 Discussion

17:15 - 17:30 Stéphanie Perruchoud (UNIL): *"Anthropological considerations on the interaction between elderly people and robots"*

17:30 - 18:00 Discussion

19:00 Dinner

Wednesday 23 June 2021

Session 3. Chair: Isabelle Wienand (Basel)

Telemedicine/e-health and medical practice

9:00 - 9:15 Caroline Brall (ETH): *"Digital health technologies and Covid-19"*

9:15 - 9:45 Discussion

9:45 - 10:00 Tania Manríquez (UZH): *"Can algorithms provide care? The case of apps for mental health and well-being"*

10:00 - 10:30 Discussion

10:30 - 11:00 Break

11:00 - 11:15 Sophie Gloeckler (UZH): *"The ethics of online psychotherapy"* (Zoom)

11:15 - 11:45 Discussion

11:45 - 12:30 Round-table (chairs: Andorno/Elsner/Bernegger)

- **Félix Pageau (Basel):** *"Aging and healthcare"* (Zoom)
- **Minerva Rivas Velarde (Geneva):** *"The use of sign language in telemedicine"*
- **Antoine Geissbühler (Geneva):** *"Telemedicine boost by Covid-19"* (Zoom)
- **Rouven Porz (Bern):** *"Clinical ethics and pandemic"* (Zoom)

12:30 - 13:00 Discussion

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 - 14:30 Summary by organizers, plans for future steps and farewell