



International conference for science and practice

# Global Perspectives on Multilingualism in (Mental) Healthcare



**University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf (UKE)**  
Martinistrasse 52, 20246 Hamburg, Germany



26. & 27. June 2026



No cost to participants

pre-registration required:  
[www.mim2m.net/conference](http://www.mim2m.net/conference)

**International conference for science and practice**

# Global Perspectives on Multilingualism in (Mental) Healthcare

Dear colleagues and interested parties,

due to international and internal migration, as well as local ethnic diversity, most societies worldwide have a wealth of different languages at their disposal.

Nevertheless, patients who do not speak the same language as their healthcare provider are at a significant disadvantage when it comes to accessing healthcare services and ensuring adequate treatment quality. Healthcare providers often rely on family members or cleaning staff as interpreters or have to resort to machine translation.

Despite these challenges for patients as well as healthcare providers worldwide, most health facilities and systems lack standardized approaches to interpreting services, multilingual orientation, or policies that address linguistic diversity comprehensively.

This conference brings together researchers from various disciplines, healthcare providers, artists and experts from various fields to discuss advantages and limitations of current approaches from multiple perspectives and to present new ways of providing communication besides language barriers.

The varied programme includes lectures, seven workshops, a best practice pitch session and a panel discussion.

By linking research, clinical experience, and stakeholders' expertise, the conference intends to develop sustainable solutions to improve health equity and to strengthen global health systems.

We look forward to your visit, networking together and strengthening a topic that has been largely neglected in global healthcare to date.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Mike Mösko, University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Germany

Prof. Dr. Leslie Swartz, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Prof. Dr. Ted Sanders, Utrecht University, Netherlands

Prof. Dr. Razvan Cherecheş, Babeş-Bolyai-Universität Cluj, Romania

# Programm, Day 1 – 26 June 2026

**09:00** Arrival, registration and coffee

**10:00 Welcome and opening remarks**

Maryam Blumenthal, Senator, President of the Ministry of Science, Research and Equality of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg  
Prof. Dr. Blanche Schwappach-Pignataro, Dean, University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Hamburg  
Prof. Dr. Mike Mösko, Principal investigator of MiM2M, UKE, Hamburg

**10:30 Migration, identity and voicelessness**

Fatih Akin, German film director, screenwriter, actor and producer

**11:15** Coffee break

**11:45 Migration and health: a priority for health systems and health services**

Dr. Miriam Orcutt, Senior Research Fellow in Health Systems & Policy, University College London  
Previous Technical Officer, WHO Health & Migration; Executive Director, Lancet Migration

**12:30** Lunch & Exhibition of Language Portraits

**13:30 Linguistic equality in mental healthcare? Results of the MiM2M project**

Prof. Dr. Leslie Swartz, Stellenbosch University & Prof. Dr. Christopher Jenks, Utrecht University

**14:30** Coffee break

**15:00 Project-related Workshops**

**Workshop I Overcoming language barriers with technological tools: curse or blessing?**  
PD Dr. Frank Müller, University Medical Center Göttingen & Annika Kreienbrinck, UKE

**Workshop II Multilingual Hospital? Is training in multilingual competence enough?**  
Hetty Wesseling, Center for Transcultural Psychiatry Veldzicht & Houda Al-Kalaf, Utrecht University

**Workshop III Informal interpreting in healthcare – a disregarded reality?**  
Prof. Dr. Barbara Schouten, University of Amsterdam & Dr. Asithandile Nozewu, Stellenbosch University

**Workshop IV Partnership with the Global South: challenges and options**  
Prof. Dr. Leslie Swartz, Stellenbosch University, Dr. Lily N. A. Kpobi, University of Ghana & Sarah Wessel, Berlin Center for Global Engagement

**Workshop V Migration is just a burden! Do positive counter-narratives have a chance in the media?**  
Helen Maguire, German Press Agency & Dr. Ovidiu Oltean, Babeş-Bolyai University

**Workshop VI Crossing borders in research: challenges and solutions in interdisciplinary and international collaboration**  
Prof. Dr. Christine Anthonissen, Stellenbosch University & Dr. Cora Schaffert-Ziegenbalg, Volkswagen Foundation

**Workshop VII Young researchers in global health research: chances and challenges**  
Dr. Alina Forray, Babeş-Bolyai University & Dr. Rowan Madzamba, Stellenbosch University

**17:00** Presentation of the workshop results & discussion

**17:30** End of day 1

# Programm, Day 2 – 27 June 2026

10:00 Welcoming Remarks

10:15 **Will AI solve all language barriers in healthcare in the near future?**  
Dr. Deborah Giustini, Hamad Bin Khalifa University

11:00 **Community interpreting in healthcare services – a global perspective**  
Prof. Dr. Claudia V. Angelelli, Heriot-Watt University

12:00 Lunch

13:00 **Best Practice pitch session - multilingualism in healthcare**

**Multilingual website for sexual and reproductive health**

Dr. Sara Scharmanski, Federal Institute for Public Health, Cologne

**In-house interpreting service**

Dr. Barbara Bornheimer, Vitos Kliniken, Frankfurt

**Multilingual Group therapy**

Wail Diab, Zentrum Überleben, Berlin

**Outpatient medical care interpreter service**

Thorsten van der Velten, SEGEMI - Seelische Gesundheit · Migration und Flucht, Hamburg

**Guidelines for using interpreters**

Simone Goosen, Johannes Wier Foundation for health and human rights & Dutch Patient Federation, Netherlands

14:30 Coffee

15:00 **Interactive surprise item**

15:30 **Panel discussion: Multilingualism anchored in healthcare: from bottom up to regular services!**

- Dr. Tanja Machalet, Chair of the Health Committee, German Parliament
- Dr. Jana Husemann, Chair of the Hamburg Association of Family Physicians
- Prof. Dr. Iris Tatjana Graef-Calliess, Medical Director, Department of Psychiatry & Psychotherapy Ravensburg – Weissenau
- Dr. Elizabeth Beloe, Chairwoman, Federal Association of Networks of Migrant Organisations, Dortmund
- Dr. Cornelia Schu, CEO, Expert Council for Integration and Migration, Berlin

17:00 Coffee break

17:30 **Presentation & Discussion: Hamburg Declaration for Multilingual Healthcare Service**  
Prof. Dr. Razvan Chereches, Babeş-Bolyai University

18:00 **Final Reflections**  
Prof. Dr. Mike Mösko, UKE & Prof. Dr. Ted Sanders, Utrecht University

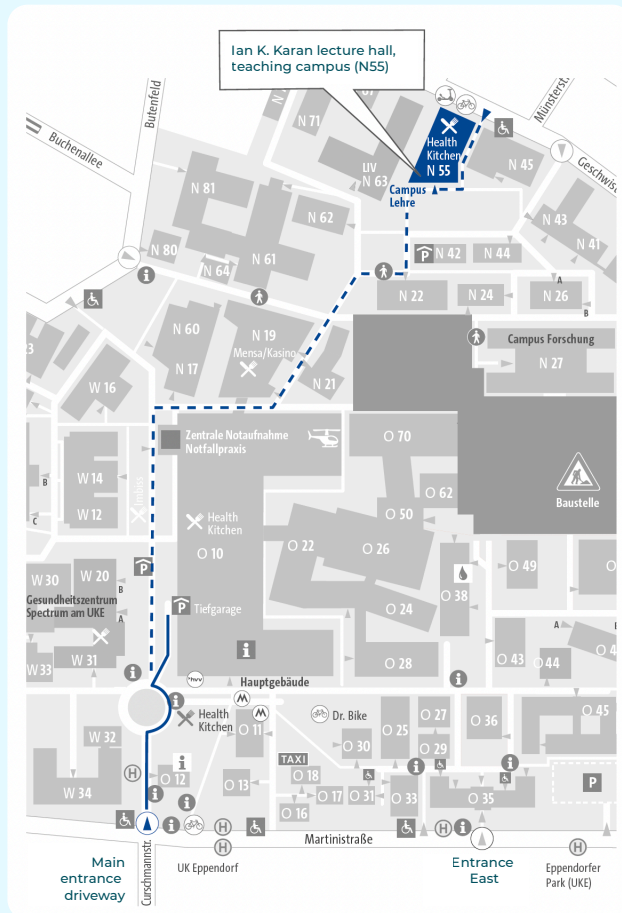
18:15 End of conference

## Conference venue

### University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf (UKE)

Martinistrasse 52,  
20246 Hamburg  
(Building N 55)  
barrier-free access

In order to find  
your way to the UKE:



### Pre-registration required

[www.mim2m.net/conference](http://www.mim2m.net/conference)

The conference is accredited by the Hamburg Medical Association  
and the Hamburg Psychotherapists' Association

### Contact

In case you have any questions please get in touch with Dr. Sanna Higgen:  
[s.higgen@uke.de](mailto:s.higgen@uke.de)

### Organiser

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University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf