

The Chris Abderhalden Award for Young Researchers in the Field of Aggression in Healthcare 2017 was awarded to Justine Fletcher and Birgit Heckemann

The *Chris Abderhalden Award for Young Researchers in the Field of Aggression in Healthcare 2017* was awarded on behalf of the European Violence in Psychiatry Research Group (EViPRG) during the closing ceremony of the 10th European Congress on Violence in Clinical Psychiatry. The chair of EViPRG, Prof. Dr. Joy Duxbury, awarded **Justine Fletcher and Birgit Heckemann** for their innovative research projects addressing aggression and violence in different health care settings.

Justine Fletcher works as a registered psychologist at the Centre for Mental Health, Melbourne School of Population & Global Health, Melbourne, Australia and is a second year PhD student at the University of Melbourne, Australia. Justine received the award for her work on the implementation of Safewards, a conceptual model comprising ten interventions designed to reduce conflict and containment events on acute mental health inpatient wards. Justine's project focuses on the identification of key elements for the successful implementation of Safewards and its impact on the isolation rates of patients in Victoria, Australia. The project is relevant as it supports a key goal of the 2014 Victorian Mental Health Act, which stipulates the use of the least intrusive or restrictive measures in the provision of mental health care.

Birgit Heckmann (RN), works as a research associate at Bern University of Applied Sciences, Bern, Switzerland and is a final year PhD student at the University of Maastricht, Maastricht, the Netherlands. The 'Perception of Patient and Visitor Aggression' (PERoPA) is an on-going mixed-methods research project (2015-19) that examines patient and visitor aggression in healthcare. Birgit's research focuses on the roles, attitudes and behaviours of nurse managers. This project is relevant because although the link between management and safe work environments has been acknowledged, management roles, attitudes and behaviours in the context of patient and visitor aggression remain under researched. The overall goal of Birgit's work is to contribute to the design of training programs that specifically address the educational needs of nurse managers in dealing with patient and visitor aggression.

We congratulate Justine and Birgit on winning the award!

We cordially thank the Swiss sponsors of the Chris Abderhalden Award 2017, the University Hospital of Psychiatry Bern, the Nursing Directors of Psychiatric Institutions Switzerland, the Swiss Association for Nursing Science and the Bern University of Applied Sciences.

The next Chris Abderhalden Award for Young Researchers in the Field of Aggression in Healthcare will be awarded in 2019 at the 11th European Congress on Violence in Clinical Psychiatry in Oslo.



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