



Médecine
de la Personne
International Group

How does Medicine of the whole person fit in a digital world?



76th international meeting

July 29th to August 1st 2026

**ISSENHEIM
France**

www.medecinedelapersonne.org

Who are we?

We are doctors and other healthcare professionals, along with their spouses, who consider the relationship with the patient to be an essential part of treatment.

As an orphan and a devout Christian, the Geneva-based physician **Paul Tournier** discovered the importance of personal relationships in the treatment of sick people. After 15 years of practising as a general practitioner, he wrote his first book in 1940, entitled 'Médecine de la Personne' (Medicine of the Person), followed by 25 more books on his experiences in medical pastoral care. The basic attitude of being open to a personal relationship enables every doctor to develop an understanding of the illness with the patient and to address important life issues, so that even in difficult situations, active hope and meaning in life can emerge.

The association's conferences, which have been held annually since 1947, are each dedicated to a topic related to medicine of the person. Since the Bible contains essential foundations for our interpersonal relationships, each day begins with an opportunity for meditation before breakfast. This is followed by ideas on a Bible text and medical lectures, followed by small group discussions on the lectures and their relevance to daily practice. Participation in this congress is not tied to any religious affiliation.



- Albert Schweitzer,
bust -

The conference languages are German, French and English. Participants receive a printed translation of the lectures in their language.

The small group discussions (in one or two languages) are considered an essential and confidential element.



- Schlumberger Winery -

In the evenings, there is an opportunity for discussion and the exchange of personal experiences. The conference concludes with an ecumenical celebration.

Three days before the conference, the study part of the conference, participants will have the opportunity to explore the region and socialise with colleagues and friends from different disciplines and countries. Participation in these days is voluntary.

How to register

Online registration is possible via the website www.medecinedelapersonne.org or you can use the registration form on the website and send it to the regional secretariat by 15th May (see page 8). As small group discussions and personal contact between participants play an important role, it is essential that participants attend the entire study programme.

Further information can be found on page 7.

How does Medicine of the whole person fit in a digital world?

Hello, Doctor.

Hello, Madam. How can I help you? Is something wrong?

Yes, I'm ill, Doctor. But don't waste your time listening to me: I already know my diagnosis and the treatment I need.

Ah... So you've already consulted one of my colleagues? Which one?

His name is Gustave^[1]. But he's not a doctor. He's much better than that: he's a chatbot.

I've heard of Gustave: he's a robot, isn't he?

Yes: Gustave is an AI: an artificial intelligence. Gustave diagnoses illnesses without error in 90% of cases. And what about your success rate, Doctor?

Um... that's a tricky question... let's say... not quite as much...

Of course! That's because you're still using your brain: fatal error!

What? My brain is incompetent when it comes to treating my patients?

Totally incompetent, Doctor: it's so slow! And so tiny: with its ten billion neurons at most, it knows much less than Gustave.

Madam, I read four medical journals! Every year I attend several high-level scientific conferences, including the International Conference of Medicine of the Person.

Gustave reads ALL the medical journals from ALL countries, and the reports from ALL the scientific conferences on the planet. Have you read any of Paul Tournier's books, Doctor?

A few... but I don't remember them very well.

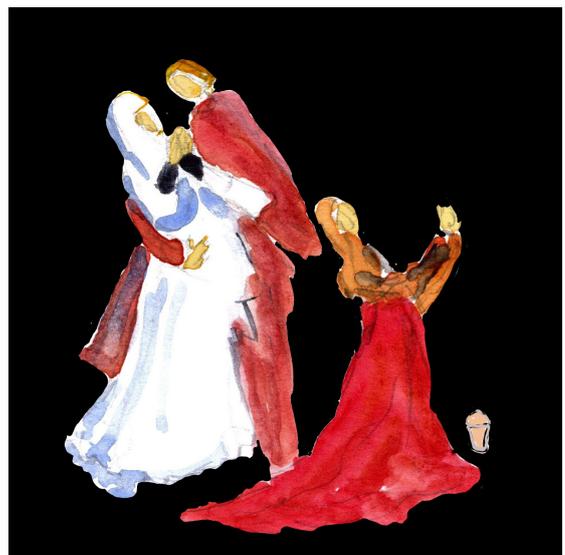
Gustave has read and memorised ALL of Paul Tournier's books.

Is that enough to make Gustave a doctor of the Person?

Undoubtedly: in addition to diagnosing my illness and treating me, Gustave listened to me, reassured me, accompanied me and comforted me. But your question is strange, Doctor...

Indeed, Madam. I will be discussing this very question next summer in Issenheim with about fifty colleagues. When I return, I will check with you to see if the treatment recommended by Gustave has helped you. Or whether you need my ten billion neurons to feel better.

^[1] *Gustave is an artificial intelligence tool. Gustave listens to patients. He offers diagnoses for their illnesses with reasons for his conclusions. Gustave was developed in December 2025 by a start-up: <https://gustave-by-paperdoc.com/>*



- after a detail from the Issenheim Altarpiece -

Programme 2026



- Colmar -

Wednesday 29th July

From 17.00 onwards: arrival of participants

19.00 Dinner

20.30 Welcome, information, introduction to the Theme

Thursday 30th July

7.40 Meditation (optional)

8.00 Breakfast

9.00 **God's non-objectivity and his silent voice 1. Kings 19, 8-12**

Jakub Formanek , hospital chaplain, Czech Republic

9.30 **Between translation and handicap: AI at the heart of my life, really?**

Marianne Clottu Balegamire, Translator and mother of a child with mental handicap, Switzerland

10.30 Coffee-Break

11.00 Small groups

12.30 Lunch

15.30 **Medicine of the Person and AI**

Roland Stettler , Psychiatrist, Switzerland

16.30 Coffee/Tea-Break

17.00 Small groups

19.00 Dinner

20.00 Evening programme



- Bugatti, 1933 -

Friday 31st July

- 7.40 Meditation (optional)
- 8.00 Breakfast
- 9.00 **Hanging on to hope amidst turmoil, Jeremiah 17.5-18**
François Olivier Chuard, GP, Switzerland
- 9.30 **Very good connection, very poor communication: The problem of loneliness in a digital society**
Pablo Martinez Psychiatrist, Spain
- 10.30 Coffee-Break
- 11.00 Small groups
- 12.30 Lunch
- 14.30 **Annual general meeting**
- 15.30 **Personal development of young people in a self-centered world**
Klaus Schmeck, Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist, Germany
- 16.30 Coffee/Tea-Break
- 17.00 Small groups
- 19.00 Dinner
- 20.00 Social evening

Saturday 1st August

- 7.40 Meditation (optional)
- 8.00 Breakfast
- 9.00 **A different kind of knowing: Médecine de la Personne in a digital age, 1 Corinthians 2 vs 6-12**
Rachel Melville-Thomas, Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist, United Kingdom
- 9.30 **AI and obstetrics & gynaecology...Risk? Challenge?**
Pierre Marès, gynaecologist, France
- 10.30 Coffee-Break
- 11.00 Small groups
- 12.30 Lunch
- 14.00 **Ecumenical Service**
- 15.00 End of the Conference



Médecine de la Personne, International Group Annual General Meeting

All participants having paid the annual fee are invited to attend the annual general meeting at 14.30, Friday 31st July 2026 in Issenheim. Members unable to attend may delegate a proxy using the form attached to the registration form.

Agenda: General Report | Financial Report | Re-election of the Equipe | A.O.B.

Kathy Webb-Peploe, President

Discovery days

Sunday 26th July to Wednesday 29th July 2026

Sunday, July 26th

- > From 4 p.m.: Arrival of participants
- > 7 p.m.: Dinner
- > 8:15 p.m.: Welcome and information about the discovery days.

Monday, July 27th

Day trip to Colmar, an ancient city and its museum

(Visits will be organised in English, French and German)

- > 9 a.m.: Departure by bus for Colmar



- Ecomusée d'Alsace -

- > 10 a.m.: Visit to the Unterlinden Museum, housed in a former Dominican convent. The museum's international reputation is due to the masterpiece that is the Issenheim Altarpiece, painted in the 16th century by Matthias Grünewald for the Antonine Monastery of Issenheim.
- > 12 noon: Alsatian lunch at the Pfeffel restaurant
- > 2 p.m.: Colmar's must-see sights, guided walking tour to the market and canals.
- > 3:30 p.m.: Free time to stroll around, stock up on local souvenirs and return at your own pace to the coach park.
- > 5:20 p.m.: Return by bus to Issenheim.
- > 7 p.m.: Dinner at Maison Saint-Michel.

Tuesday July 28th

Morning at Dr. Schweitzer's house

- > 9 a.m.: Departure by bus for Gunsbach.
- > 10 a.m.: Guided tour of the museum: the life and work of Albert Schweitzer (in 2 or 3 languages).

- > 12:15 p.m.: Departure by bus for Ungersheim.

- > 1 p.m.: Lunch at the Loges de l'Écomusée restaurant.

Afternoon at the Écomusée d'Alsace in Ungersheim

Visit on foot around this outstanding collection of old houses and shops reconstructed to show life as it was in the past (information provided in three languages).

- > 5:30 p.m.: Return by bus to Issenheim.
- > 7 p.m.: Dinner at Maison Saint-Michel.

Wednesday July 29th

Morning in Mulhouse

- > 9.15 a.m.: Departure for Mulhouse.
- > 10 a.m.: Visit to the National Automobile Museum, which houses more than 450 exceptional cars, including the Bugatti Schlumpf collection (in the 3 languages).
- > 12 noon: Departure by bus for Guebwiller.
- > 12:30 p.m.: Lunch in Guebwiller.

Afternoon in Guebwiller

- > 2 p.m.: **Two options:** one group will take a guided tour (2 languages) of the wine-growing heritage in the town and vineyards (wear sturdy shoes); the other group is free to explore the town (Neuenburg Castle, architecture, ceramics museum, Dominican convent, shopping)



- Schlumberger Winery -

- > 4 p.m.: Visit to the cellars and Alsace wine tasting at the Schlumberger estate.
- > 5:30 p.m.: Bus departs for Issenheim to welcome colleagues arriving for the study days.

Booking information

Session address

Maison Saint-Michel

51 Rue de Guebwiller

F - 68500 Issenheim

Tel +33 389 622 424

maison-st-michel@providence-ribeauville.net

www.maison-accueil-saint-michel.com

Travel instructions

By road

> **Coming from the south:** A35, at **Mulhouse:** take A36 towards **Belfort** 5 km, then exit **Guebwiller** D430 19 km, then exit towards **Issenheim, rue de Soultz - rue de Guebwiller 51.**

> **Coming from the north:** A35, at **Colmar airport:** take D83 towards **Guebwiller** for 25 km, exit towards **Issenheim, rue de Rouffach - rue de Guebwiller 51.**



By train

> **Colmar train station,** then bus no. 440 LK towards **Guebwiller,** get off at **Issenheim Mairie** bus stop

> **Mulhouse train station,** then bus 454 SOLEA towards **Guebwiller,** get off at **Issenheim Mairie** bus stop

By air

EuroAirport Basel-Mulhouse **Exit towards France**

Take shuttle **bus line 11** (Distribus) to **Saint-Louis SNCF train station** – then take **train to Mulhouse,** then **bus 454 SOLEA** towards **Guebwiller,** get off at **Issenheim Mairie** bus stop.

Costs

(given per person, including conference fees, annual membership fee, visits, all meals and lodging)

Discovery days (26. – 29. 7. 2026):

£ 445 / € 520 (children 4-11: £ 223 / € 260, under 4: free)

Study days (29. 7 – 1. 8. 2026): £ 380 / € 440 (students/children 12 and over: £ 150 / € 175, children up to 11: free)

New participants from Eastern Europe:

£ 190 / € 220 (study days)

If you are experiencing financial difficulties, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the team (p. 8).

Donations enabling us to offer reductions are welcome.

How to book and pay

We ask participants to attend all study days, as small group discussions and the exchange of experiences at the Médecine de la Personne meetings are essential.

It is possible to reserve **extra nights** both before and after the meeting, by contacting Issenheim after booking your place at the meeting.

Registration can be done online on the website www.medecinedelapersonne.org or by printing the subscription form and sending it to your regional secretary (page 8) before **15th May.** The **total cost** needs to be paid before the **31st May** (bank account details page 8).

Children of participants are welcome. They remain the responsibility of their parents. During the study days childcare will be available for children over 6.

Information prior to the meeting

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- Ecomusée d'Alsace -

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