It's Time for Shared Decision Making and Person-Centred Care

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Dear Colleagues and Readers of this Special Issue,

It is a pleasure to congratulate the editors and authors of this special issue in *The Patient*. Following a call to all attendees, out of 39 submissions, patient partners and researchers have selected ten papers from the many scientific presentations of the 10th International Shared Decision Making (ISDM) Conference, which was held at the University Laval in Québec, Canada, from the 7th to the 10th of July 2019.

This 10th ISDM conference made a huge effort to involve patient partners on many levels as it complied with the Patients Included criteria. Patient partners have been present on all conference committees and participated actively in all decisions regarding the selection of speakers, abstracts and presentations. This has now translated into an editorial led by patient partners in this special issue.

The conference venue in Québec was also the host of the first General Assembly of the ISDM Society, which was founded in November 2018 in Hamburg (Germany) [1].

The society promotes *shared decision making*, “an approach where clinicians and patients share the best available evidence when faced with the task of making decisions, and where patients are supported to consider options, to achieve informed preferences” [2]. It is important to recognize that shared decision making is a process in which clinicians and patients at least work together to select tests, treatments, management or support packages, based on clinical evidence and the patients’ values and informed preferences. *Person-centeredness* as a more general concept has also gained in importance, including policy and practice developments. A conceptual model based on a systematic review identified 16 dimensions of patient-centredness (e.g. the biopsychosocial perspective, access, coordination and continuity of care), which may allow different stakeholders to speak the same language [3, 4].

We initiated this society to support a wide and evidence-based implementation of person- or patient-centred care and shared decision making in all care settings, for all types of patients, and in every country. Our vision is that healthcare decisions are well-informed by both research results and what matters most to patients and are based on collaboration between persons and their healthcare providers.

The ISDM Society is an international non-for-profit scientific association and is committed to increasing equity, diversity and inclusion among its members. Members are part of a unique network of international experts in person-centred care and shared decision making and are participating in regularly scheduled meetings and bi-annual conferences, which provide education and training on shared decision making and person-centred care [5]. Furthermore, members develop cooperative studies, create special interest groups and share ideas through a social networking platform [1].

Declarations

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Conflict of Interest M. Härter is president of the International Shared Decision Making Society. He does not receive any compensation for this function.

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4. Zeh et al. Assessing the relevance and implementation of patient-centredness from the patients' perspective in Germany. Results of a Delphi study. *BMJ Open*. 2019;9(12).
5. See information for the next conference in Kolding/Denmark under. www.isdm2021.com. Accessed 11 Oct 2020.