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Faculty of Social and Political Sciences
Sciences and Technologies Studies Laboratory (STS Lab)

Thinking Outside the Medical Box: Better Healthcare and Psychoscial Support and Holistic Support for People with Innate Variations of Sex Characteristics (IVSC)

Wednesday 4th November 2026

Auditoire Alexandre Yersin, CHUV

17:00 **Welcome and Introduction**
Cynthia Kraus, University of Lausanne

17:15 **Is Psychology up to the challenge of developing a psychosocial approach to IVSC?**
Peter Hegarty, The Open University, UK (keynote)

Thursday 5th November 2026

Building Amphipôle, room 340, University of Lausanne

HOLISTIC HEALTHCARE, PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT, FIRST-PERSON AND SIBLING EXPERIENCES

09:15 **Welcome and Introduction to the morning session**
Cynthia Kraus, University of Lausanne

09:30 **How to Better Support People with Variations of Sex Characteristics and Their Loved Ones': Putting Lived Experience at the Centre**
Dirkje Swennen, **Eva De Clercq**, **Beatrix Göcking**, IBME, University of Zurich, **Jürg Streuli**, IBME, University of Zurich & Stiftung Gesundheitskompass, **Andrea Glässel**, ZHAW, University of Zurich, **Cynthia Kraus**, University of Lausanne

10:15 **Growing up together: sibling experiences in families with intersex variations**
Kayla Horowitz, Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc, Belgium, **Carole Dinant**, Centre de recherche Azrieli – CHU Sainte-Justine, Montréal, Canada

11:30 **Joint Interdisciplinary Discussion**
Morgan Carpenter, University of Sydney, **Brian D. Earp**, National University of Singapore , **Bonnie Hart**, InterAction for Health and Human Rights, Australia

12:15 **Wrap-up**

APPLIED WORKSHOP – ETHICAL CHALLENGES AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT IN VSC CARE

14:00 **Introduction to the afternoon session**
Cynthia Kraus, University of Lausanne

14:10 **Strictly Personal Rights and Assent/Consent by Minors and Adults Across the Life Course**
Sandra Hotz, University of Neuchâtel & University of Basel

14:40 **Perspectives from Clinical Practice: Psychosocial Support in VSC Care – Zurich Team**
Uchenna Kennedy, **Norma Ruppen-Greeff**, University Children's Hospital Zurich

15:10 **Perspectives from Clinical Practice: Psychosocial Support in VSC Care – Lausanne Team**
Fleur Le Bourgeois, **Oliver Sanchez**, **Léna Monnier**, Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV)

16:10 **Interdisciplinary Case Discussion**
Sandra Hotz, University of Neuchâtel & University of Basel, **Jürg Streuli**, IBME, University of Zurich & Stiftung, **Daniela Truffer & Markus Bauer**, StopIGM.org/Intersex Human Rights Organization, Zurich

LIVED HEALTHCARE EXPERIENCES AND UNMET

17:15 **Roundtable**
Deborah Abate, **Urs Vanessa Sager**, Interaction, Swiss Association for Intersex People, **Maike Nelissen**, Varia Suisse, **Kimura Byol Lemoine**, Francophones Korean Rights Group, **Daniela Truffer & Markus Bauer**, StopIGM.org/Intersex Human Rights Organization, Zurich

FUTURE PERSPECTIVES – CONCLUDING REMARKS

18:30 *With all speakers and participants*
Jürg Streuli, IBME, University of Zurich & Stiftung, **Oliver Sanchez**, Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV), **Cynthia Kraus**, University of Lausanne

18:45 **End of Symposium**

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Abstract Keynote

This symposium recognizes the need for a distinct psychosocial understanding of IVSC. This opening keynote critically interrogates whether the field of Psychology is up to the challenge of thinking IVSC outside the medical box. A focus on the 2026 Task Force report of the American Psychological Association, raises questions about the extent to which the psychology of IVSC has developed within and beyond a biomedical frame, what aspects of Psychology are still under-explored but might make a productive contribution to IVSC, and whether psychologists' roles in IVSC might expand beyond that of consulting to multidisciplinary DSD teams.

Speakers

- Peter Hegarty, PhD, Professor, School of Psychology & Counselling, The Open University, UK; Psychosocial Studies Intersex-International (PSI-I) Steering Group Coordinator; SHARED-VSC Advisory Board Member.
- Cynthia Kraus, Phd, Philosopher of science, Senior Lecturer, Gender Studies and Social Studies of Science and Medicine, STS Lab, Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lausanne (UNIL); Associate Researcher, Institute for the Humanities in Medicine, UNIL–CHUV.
- Jürg Streuli, PD Dr. med., Dr. sc. Med. Pediatrician and ethicist, Institute of Biomedical Ethics and History of Medicine (IBME), University of Zurich; Member, Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS) Subcommittee on Variations of Sex Development (VSD).
- Dirkje Swennen, PhD Candidate in Biomedical Ethics (IBME, University of Zurich).
- Eva De Clercq, PhD, philosopher and ethicist (IBME, University of Zurich).
- Beatrix Göcking, PhD, nurse and ethicist (IBME, University of Zurich).
- Andrea Glässel, PhD, physical therapist and health scientist (ZHAW / University of Zurich).
- Kayla Horowitz, MSc, Certified Genetic Counsellor, Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc, Belgium; Adjunct Professor, McGill University Human Genetics, Canada.
- Carole Dinant, MSc., Msc. Board-eligible Research Genetic Counsellor, Centre de recherche Azrieli – CHU Sainte-Justine, Montréal, Canada.
- Morgan Carpenter, bioethicist, Associate Professor, University of Sydney School of Public Health; Executive Director, InterAction for Health and Human Rights; Member, Restricted Medical Treatment Assessment Board, Australian Capital Territory; SHARED-VSC Advisory Board Member.
- Brian D. Earp, philosopher, cognitive scientist, and bioethicist; Associate Professor of Biomedical Ethics and, by courtesy, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Psychology, National University of Singapore (NUS); SHARED-VSC Advisory Board Member.
- Bonnie Hart, artist, filmmaker, and intersex human rights activist; Manager, InterLink Intersex Psychosocial Support Service; Deputy Executive Director, InterAction for Health and Human Rights, Australia.
- Sandra Hotz, Prof. Dr. iur., Co-director Health Law Institute, Law Faculty, University of Neuchâtel; Lecturer in Gender Law, University of Basel.
- Uchenna Kennedy, Dr. med., FEAPU, Pediatric Surgeon; Senior Physician, Pediatric Urology, University Children's Hospital Zurich – Eleonoren Foundation; Board Member, Varia Suisse; Member, SAMS Subcommittee on VSD, and Norma Ruppen-Greeff, PhD, Clinical Psychologist, Federally Recognized Psychotherapist and Sexologist, Department of Psychosomatics and Psychiatry, University Children's Hospital Zurich – Eleonoren Foundation; Board Member, Varia Suisse; Member, SAMS Subcommittee on VSD.



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- Fleur Le Bourgeois, MD, Pediatrician; Consultant, Clinical Ethics Unit, Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV).
- Léna Monnier, MD, Senior Resident, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry; Liaison Psychiatry and Specialized Consultation for Development and Learning (CSDA), Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV).
- Oliver Sanchez, MD, FEAPU, Pediatric Surgeon; Associate Physician, Pediatric Urology, Department of Woman, Mother and Child, Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV); SHARED-VSC Advisory Board Member.
- Daniela Truffer & Markus Bauer, Co-founders, Zwischengeschlecht.org and StopIGM.org, Intersex Human Rights Organization, Zurich.
- Deborah Abate, Sociologist, MA in Social Sciences; Co-Founder and Co-President, Interaction, Swiss Association for Intersex People; Member, SAMS Subcommittee on VSD; SHARED-VSC Advisory Board Member.
- Maike Nelissen, Board Member, Varia Suisse; Member, SAMS Subcommittee on VSD; SHARED-VSC Advisory Board Member.
- Kimura Byol Lemoine, artist, activist, archivist, Co-Founder of Francophones Korean Rights Group, established in connection with the South Korean Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).
- Urs Vanessa Sager, Co-President, Interaction, Swiss Association for Intersex People; Member, SAMS Subcommittee on VSD; SHARED-VSC Advisory Board Member.

This symposium is organized as part of SHARED-VSC – Support and Guidance for Health Care Access with Resources for Empowerment and Shared Decision-Making in Variations of Sex Characteristics/Intersex (2025–2028), J. Streuli, PI; C. Kraus, Co-PI), a project funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) under the National Research Programme 83 (NRP 83) "Gender Medicine and Health" (https://www.nfp83.ch/en).

The event takes place during Intersex Fortnight, between Intersex Awareness Day (26 October) and Intersex Solidarity Day (8 November).

The symposium will also be accessible online to members of Psychosocial Studies in Intersex International (PSI-I) as part of the PSI-I seminar series.

Registration is free but required for both online (via MS Teams) and in-person attendance.

Click here to register (Online participants will receive the Teams link after registering)

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