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EDITORIAL

Enhancing Practice 2018: come and be inspired and inspiring

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Although it doesn't seem that long ago since the Enhancing Practice Conference 2016 was held at QMU Edinburgh, one of the International Practice Development Collaborative (IPDC) member groups, the Basel, Bern and Zurich Network in Switzerland, is busy planning the next conference. This takes place in Basel on 22-24 August 2018. The conference website is live at enhancing-practice-conference.org, with registration and the call for abstracts now open. Abstracts should address any one of the following healthcare priorities:

- Leading and leadership within practice development
- Fostering healthy workplace cultures
- Facilitating intergenerational person-centred cultures

The Enhancing Practice conferences are known as an international forum for anyone connected to practice development and person-centredness. The IPDC invites professionals from clinical practice, leadership, management, education, research and health policy to register. In fact, why not submit an abstract for a concurrent session – a 'show and tell' display, creative space or symposia?

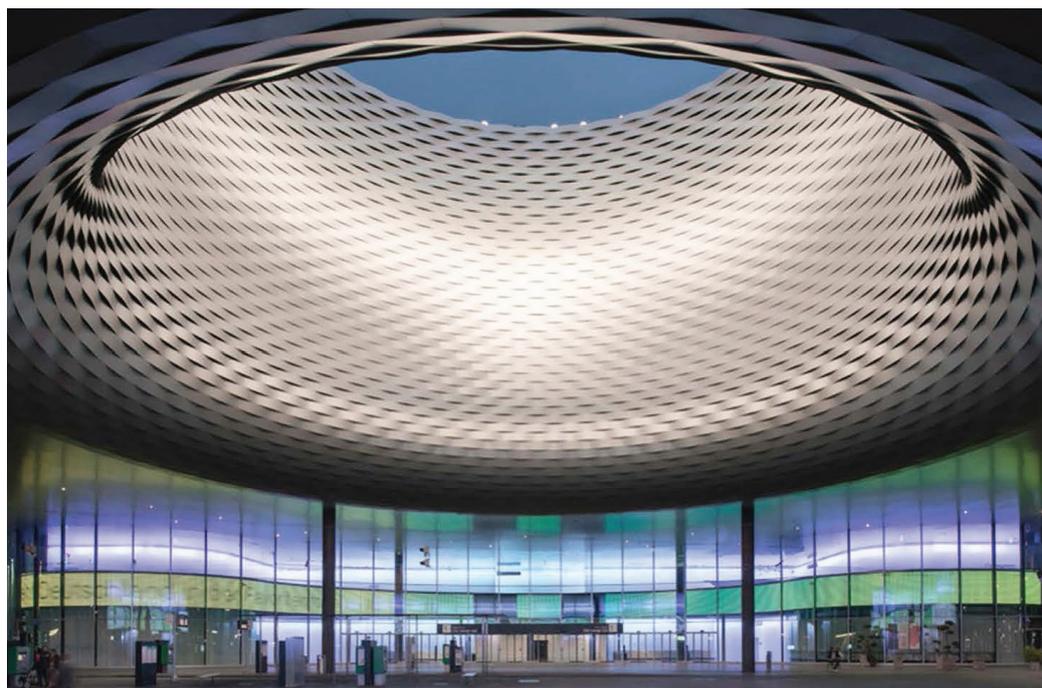
These conferences tend to have some of the traditional conference features that everyone will recognise, but also other features that are not so often seen and which make them more friendly, engaging and interesting. For example, the 'show and tell' displays are creative spaces where less formal or academic presentations can take place. That makes these events really worth participating in and indeed, these alternative formats are often the spaces in which the best learning takes place. If you want a bit more evidence about the diversity of the conference, look at the titles of these keynote sessions we can look forward to in Basel:

- Dance and leadership: how leaders and followers relate and influence each other
- Compassionate leadership for high-quality, compassionate healthcare
- Swarm intelligence in honey bees
- Learning to improve: challenging context and culture

You might also enjoy reading about the experiences of those who attended the last conference at QMU in 2016, as a number of them contributed to the creation of an article, including a series of poems, haikus, reflections and images, to celebrate our time together; our learning, connections and creativity (fons.org/library/journal/volume6-issue2/article2).

And don't forget to follow all the conference developments on Twitter [@epc2018](https://twitter.com/epc2018).

The EPC2018 venue: Hezog and De Meuron's Exhibition Square in Basel



A quick online search indicates anything from three to 12 reasons why we should attend academic conferences. If you've not been to an international conference before or you've been and not really enjoyed it, please try this one. Participating in conferences is still relevant. It's great for meeting new people and sharing ideas with each other, plus it's the quickest way to get new evidence or an overview of topics connected to your expertise and area of work or practice. It's also an ideal way to hear different perspectives on the same topic.

And it's not too early to start thinking about how your conference abstract and presentation could be turned in to an article for this journal. We hope you will consider this. Have a look at our author guidelines on the *IPDJ* home page, at fons.org/library/journal-information-for-authors and get in touch if you would like some further guidance or would like to talk through an idea. If you get organised you could have your ideas in publication by autumn 2018 or spring 2019. Maybe one or more of the articles in this issue will inspire you.

If you do like an article in this or any other issue, please leave a comment for the author on our website, retweet, share in other ways and cite the article. All these activities really do help us build up a stronger international profile.

Hope to meet you in Basel!

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