

European Sexual Medicine Network (ESMN)  
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<https://www.esmn-cost.eu/>

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To: Prof.dr. D.H. Biesma  
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Monday, October 4, 2021

**Subject:** Outpatient Clinic Psychosomatic Gynecology and Sexology

Esteemed Colleague Prof. Dr. D. H. Biesma,

I contact you in your function as the president of the Board of Directors of the Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC). I was told, that the staff members of the outpatient clinic Psychosomatic Gynecology and Sexology of the Leiden University Medical Center were confronted with the message that the managers of the Medical Center will *'economize strongly on their outpatient clinic and research group'*. There are fears, that this could mean that in consequence, the outpatient clinic and it's research group will be eliminated.

As the Chair of the COST-Action "European Sexual Medicine Network (ESMN)" - an intergovernmental network of medical science researchers and practitioners, educators and social service professionals involved with sexual health and medicine from 32 Nations I want to be a strong advocate of the outpatient clinic Psychosomatic Gynecology and Sexology of the Leiden University Medical Center.

This outpatient clinic has an enormous value and significance. For over 25 years, it has provided clinical care for men and women with sexual dysfunctions. It offers sexology education for medical and clinical psychology students and postgraduate training for medical specialists, health psychologists, clinical psychologists and sexologists, as well as refresher courses and training for colleagues and medical specialists. The outpatient clinic also has a strong and successful tradition in sexology research. Colleagues from this clinic are active in numerous important national and international sexology networks, including our COST- Network ESMN. They are on the boards of scientific international sexology journals.

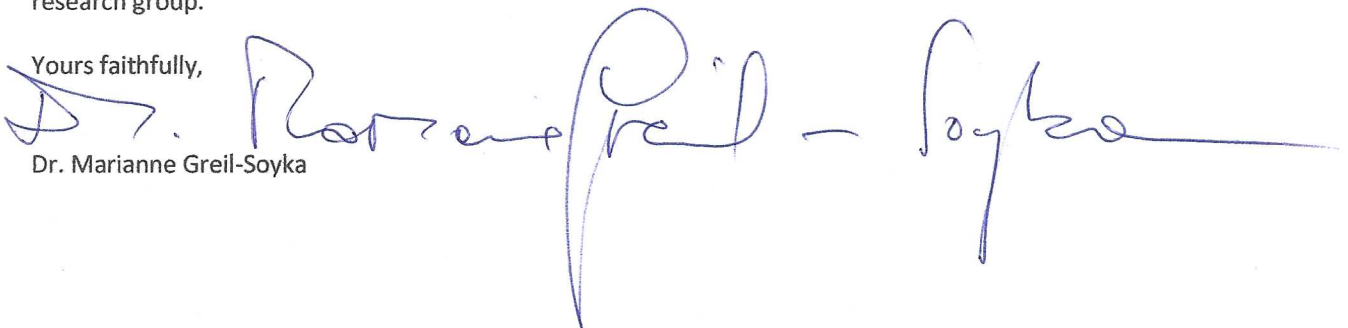
This outpatient clinic has been an innovative excellence -driven forerunner in sexual medicine and has indeed a word-wide reputation for excellence. The clinic is a role model for other European hospitals in the advancement of sexual health care.

The importance of Sexual Medicine and Sexual Health becomes more and more evident. European and national politicians begin to understand its significance. This is why the EU decided to support and fund our Network.

As the Chair of the ESMN I wish to stand up for the continued existence of the outpatient clinic Psychosomatic Gynecology and Sexology of the Leiden University Medical Center and it's research-group. Both are small diamonds in your Medical Center. The cessation of the Sexology Leiden University Medical Center would not only be a huge loss for the Leiden University Medical Center and its patients, students and researchers, etc. but also for the European Scene of experts in the field.

I deeply hope and I am also convinced, that you as the President of the Board of Directors of the Leiden University Medical Center also will stand up for your Outpatient Clinic Psychosomatic Gynecology and Sexology and its research group.

Yours faithfully,

  
Dr. Marianne Greil-Soyka