

## **Laudatio HORATIO Fellowship Award 2018**

Susanna Flansburg

Hello everybody,

Today I'm on this stage to tell you something about Michael Schulz.

I met Michael Schulz in 2013 when I started my studies in psychiatric nursing at the University of Applied Sciences in Bielefeld.

Since then my professional career has changed enormously and I would also say that it was the best thing that could happen to me in my professional life. And that has a lot to do with Michael Schulz.

When you ask his students (and in preparation to this speech I did) what they value most about Michael and what his most outstanding qualities are, they do answer: his enormous expertise, his authenticity, his eloquence, his charisma. He is a visionary, he is inspirational, he is encouraging in many ways, a lateral thinker and he has the capability to think outside the box.

But the best thing about all these qualities is, that he passes them on to his students and has shown many of us new ways and a changed attitude towards our profession and our tasks. He has encouraged many of us to open our mouths, to stand up and work for a more fair, more equal and better psychiatry, and many of us are now in positions where we can pass this spirit on to others.

And we all do in some way or the other.

He has given us a voice to speak for us the nurses, the users and their families. Either in leading positions, in nursing research or simply in the

way we carry out our daily care in the wards. I am also here to greet you Michael warmly on behalf of your students. We are all very proud of you and very happy that your achievement and commitment will be honored here and today.

But I do not only represent the group of students. I mainly stand here on behalf of the German Association for Psychiatric Nursing which nominated you for this award. Unfortunately, our Presidents Dorothea Sauter, Uwe Genge, Michael Meyer and Bruno Hemkendreis cannot be here today, but they told me to send you very best wishes, greet you warmly and congratulate you on their behalf.

And now I'm going to tell you why we consider Michael to be a suitable candidate for this award and why we nominated him:

Michael Schulz is one of the most important persons in relation to the professionalisation and academisation of PMHN in Germany. Very much in the beginning of his career he must have realized , that it is a smart thing, to join in with other PMHN from all over Europe. He recognized and actively promoted the importance of networking. A logical consequence of this was, that he was one of the founding members of Horatio. He was a member of Horatio's board from 2005 to 2012 and he is co-author of the Turku Declaration and the German translation.

Within Germany, he was one of the first to obtain a doctorate in nursing science in psychiatry. In 2011 he initiated the first psychiatric nursing bachelor course in Germany and held the first chair in this field at the University of applied science in Bielefeld. In 2016, the range of courses

was expanded to include the Community Mental Health Master's program and in the meantime, more than 200 PMHN's have become academics. His habilitation in PMHN in 2016 at the Martin Luther University in Halle-Wittenberg in Germany, the first and so far only one in Germany, was another important signal for the academisation of PMHN.

Michael is since 2004 co-founder and co-organizer of the largest congress for PMHN in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, the "Dreiländerkongress für Psychiatrische Pflege" together with e.g. Susanne Schoppmann, Jacqueline Rixe and Christian Burr which are also in the audience today. This congress takes place annually, in Vienna, Bern or Bielefeld - this year by the way in September in Vienna.

He was editor of "PsychPflege Heute" at the German Thieme Verlag till 2014 and is now managing editor of "Psychiatrische Pflege" at the Swiss Hogrefe Verlag, one of the leading specialist journals for PMHN in German-speaking countries. We'd also like to mention that he is co-editor of the book series "Better Care" published by the Psychiatrie-Verlag.

However, Michael does not only support and advice the publication of books by other authors and therefore actively supports the expansion of literature relevant to psychiatric-nursing in Germany, Switzerland and Austria.

If you look at his professional career and vita, you will find almost 100 publications and scientific contributions in specialist journals, several of his own books and quite a number of book contributions.

In addition, he has done, together with his colleagues - like for example Michael Löhr or Gianni Zuaboni from Switzerland - important translation work for several English-language reference books and therefore made the contents of the books accessible for all PMHN in German speaking countries. This includes for example the book "The Tidal model" by Phil Barker and Poppy Buchanan-Barker or the Homepage of Safewards by Len Bowers. Both complex interventions, the Tidal model and Safewards, are now an integral part of psychiatric nursing activities in many institutions and without the German publications this would probably have been difficult and maybe even unlikely.

Michael Schulz is one of the leading pioneers and trainers of Adherence Therapy in Germany. It was not for nothing that he was awarded with the Berlin Health Prize in 2009. Furthermore, he was extraordinarily committed to the implementation of recovery concepts in Germany. He is also responsible for the publication of several articles and books on this important topic and has therefore actively promoted and supported the recovery movement in Germany.

It has always been important to him to meet People with mental health problems at eye level and to convey this appreciative attitude to his colleagues.

Another merit of Michael Schulz is to give psychiatric affected people a voice, both in the training of his students and others, in public and scientific discussions.

In addition to his professional work, he is also extremely active in health and professional policies. He participates in several important committees, is actively involved in various professional associations and is co-founder and member of the board of the German Association for Psychiatric Nursing.

Within the German psychiatric nursing landscape and the medical societies, Michael Schulz is a highly esteemed and a recognized person whose knowledge and professional authority is repeatedly requested and appreciated, which is why his expertise is also repeatedly included e.g. in the preparation of national guidelines such as the German guideline for the treatment of Schizophrenia and others.

Due to this unusual commitment to PMHN, as well as to those psychiatric affected people and multidisciplinary collaboration, the German Association for Psychiatric Nursing, is very proud, that Prof. Dr. Michael Schulz is the nominee of this year Horatio Fellowship Award.

Thank you very much.

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