

Program - The Art of Communicating 2026

Day 1 – Thursday, June 11

08:30 Registration and Breakfast

09:00 Welcome and Plenary Session

- Rita Charon – Professor of Medicine and Medical Humanities & Ethics, Columbia University
Healing Relationships with Patients and Families: A Narrative Medicine Practice of Justice and Humility

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 Workshops – Session 1

- 1A: Peter Simonsen – Professor, Head of Studies, Department of Culture and Language, SDU
Creative Communication? Using Literature as a Means of Communication
- 1B: Martin Marchman Andersen – Associate Professor, Department of Health Services Research, SDU
When the Gaze Creates Distance – On Stigma and Empathy in Healthcare

12:45 Lunch in Restaurant Louise

14:00 Guided Activities / Reflection in Nature
Compassion, storytelling, reflective walk

15:15 Coffee Break

15:45 Vigga Bro – Actress and Storyteller
The Magic of Storytelling

18:30 Pre-dinner Gathering

19:00 Conference Dinner

Day 2 – Friday, June 12

07:00 Breakfast at the Castle (for overnight guests)

09:00 Plenary

- Song facilitated by opera singer Steen Byriel
- Arwen Pieterse – Associate Professor and specialist in shared decision making
Nurturing the underlying professional qualities for shared decision making: Insights into

curiosity, uncertainty, and prudence

10:30 Break

11:00 Workshops – Session 2

- 2A: Helle Lisle – Specialist in Psychiatry, Mindfulness and Compassion Instructor
Compassion as a Foundation for Respectful Dialogue
- 2B: Peter Martin & Meg Chiswell
Building a Narrative Toolkit to Teach Healthcare Communication

12:15 Lunch

13:15 Plenary in the Crane Hall

- Per Thorgaard – Medical Consultant
Art, Aesthetic Care and Communication in Healthcare – Settings, Relationships and Patient Experiences

14:00 Steen Byriel – Opera Singer and Teacher

More than Words – The Role of the Voice in Relationship and Authority

- Closing – reflection and feedback

15:00 Thank You and Farewell