

Implementer Portrait: Sabina De Geest



Prof. Dr. Sabina De Geest is the director of the [Institute of Nursing Science](#) and the chair of the [Department Public Health](#) at the University of Basel, Switzerland.

Sabina's international, interdisciplinary research group focuses on behavioural and psychosocial issues in solid organ & stem cell transplantation. Driven by implementation science methodology, her research portfolio focuses on the development of innovative care models partially also powered by eHealth. In addition, research addressed psychosocial and behavioural pathways and their relation to outcomes in chronic illness and the development and testing of instruments to assess patient reported outcomes.

Sabina co-founded the Swiss Network for Implementation Science, [IMPACT](#).

'Implementation' in German is 'Implementierung'.

What is one of your favourite articles on implementation?

[Opportunities for epidemiologists in implementation science: a primer](#) by Neta, Brownson, & Chambers, 2017. It provides an excellent overview of the positioning of implementation science in the health science field and a very transparent overview of its methods.

What are you currently working on that relates to implementation?

At the Institute of Nursing Science of the University of Basel, implementation science is one of the major methodologies driving our research portfolio. There are several implementation science projects I am involved in as PI or co-PI: [INSPIRE](#) care for older community dwelling persons; [INTERCARE](#), a nurse led model of care to reduce avoidable hospitalizations in nursing homes; [SMILE](#), an eHealth supported integrated care model in the follow-up of allogeneic stem cell transplant patients. I am teaching an implementation science course in the MSN/PhD program and we co-founded the Swiss Network for Implementation Science: [IMPACT](#).

If you were to have lunch with another 'implementer', whom would you pick?

Dr. Gila Neta from the National Cancer Institute of the NIH in the US. She positioned and lives the link between epidemiology and implementation science as very valuable for Population Health and health sciences in general.

If you had the resources for it, what within implementation science or practice would you want to work with next?

My prime goal is to invest in the ongoing projects at the University of Basel (see above) and if successful to plan a scale up with the relevant stakeholder in clinical practice, policy, health insurance and research. Having *impact* is the main goal. Sustainability of the intervention needs



to be planned from the start of an implementation science project. The strength of implementation science can only be shown by true sustained changes in real world settings.
