The survival of health care systems remains an outstanding issue in Western countries. How can we deal with a steadily increasing demand for health care due mainly to an aging population while at the same time experiencing tightening financial constraints? This phenomenon -- also known in France as *papy crash*, after the phrase *papy boom*, itself a pun on *baby boom* -- is already having a noticeable impact on the organization of health care and on those involved in health care systems. Therefore, the main subject of the conference is the sustainability of health care systems under demographic change.

Main questions are: Can the concept of "progress" still be applied to health care systems? What are innovative ways to support financing an increasing demand given tightening constraints? Should there be more competition or should cooperation be promoted between the different actors in health care systems? How may innovation contribute to the continuity of care? And above all: what does a sustainable health care system mean? What are the instruments to measure these changes?

The key themes of the 4th ISRICH conference are:

- How do the demographic changes (aging of the population) affect health care systems and the work of health professionals?
- What does a sustainable health care system really mean?
- How can we measure performance, effectiveness and sustainability of the health care system as well as of its organizations?
- How are new innovation and new knowledge created in health care systems and how do they reach patients?

**Paper submission:**

Invitation to the conference is based on an *extended abstract* of around 1000 words. The abstract must include information on the relevant theories being tested, methodology, data, and (expected) results.

Extended abstracts must provide a concise title, author details, mailing address, telephone numbers and e-mail address.

Send abstracts to: bertrandpauget@ebs-paris.com before march 31th, 2010.

**Publication of Conference Papers:**

The best papers of the 4th conference will be published in a special issue of the international review “*Journal of Social Management*”.
Important dates:
March 31, 2010: Deadline for sending extended abstract to Bertrand Pauget (bertrandpauget@ebs-paris.com)
April 15, 2010: Notification of acceptance or rejection of abstracts
May 2, 2010: Deadline sending full papers
May 04, 2010: Deadline for registration, payment of conference fee

For information on the conference venue etc. see more on www.isrich.eu.

The International Society for Research on Innovation and Change in Health Care Systems (ISRICH) is an initiative of researchers in various countries who wish to exchange research results and national & international experiences on a regular basis. Their main interest is to explain the factors that affect the evolution of health care systems and their interaction with the wider environment in society, politics and culture.

See more on www.isrich.eu.

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Conference fees:
Conference fees are 180 €. They include coffee breaks and the conference dinner. Ph.D. students can apply for a deduction (max. 50 %) by sending a letter / e-mail to the Scientific Committee, explaining the need for financial support.

Conference fees are to be paid until May 4th, 2010 to the account of the scientific committee
c/o Stefan Okruch
IBAN: DE43 6309 0100 0079 7400 14
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1 Association Internationale Interdisciplinaire de la Décision: International & Interdisciplinary Association for Research in Decision Making.