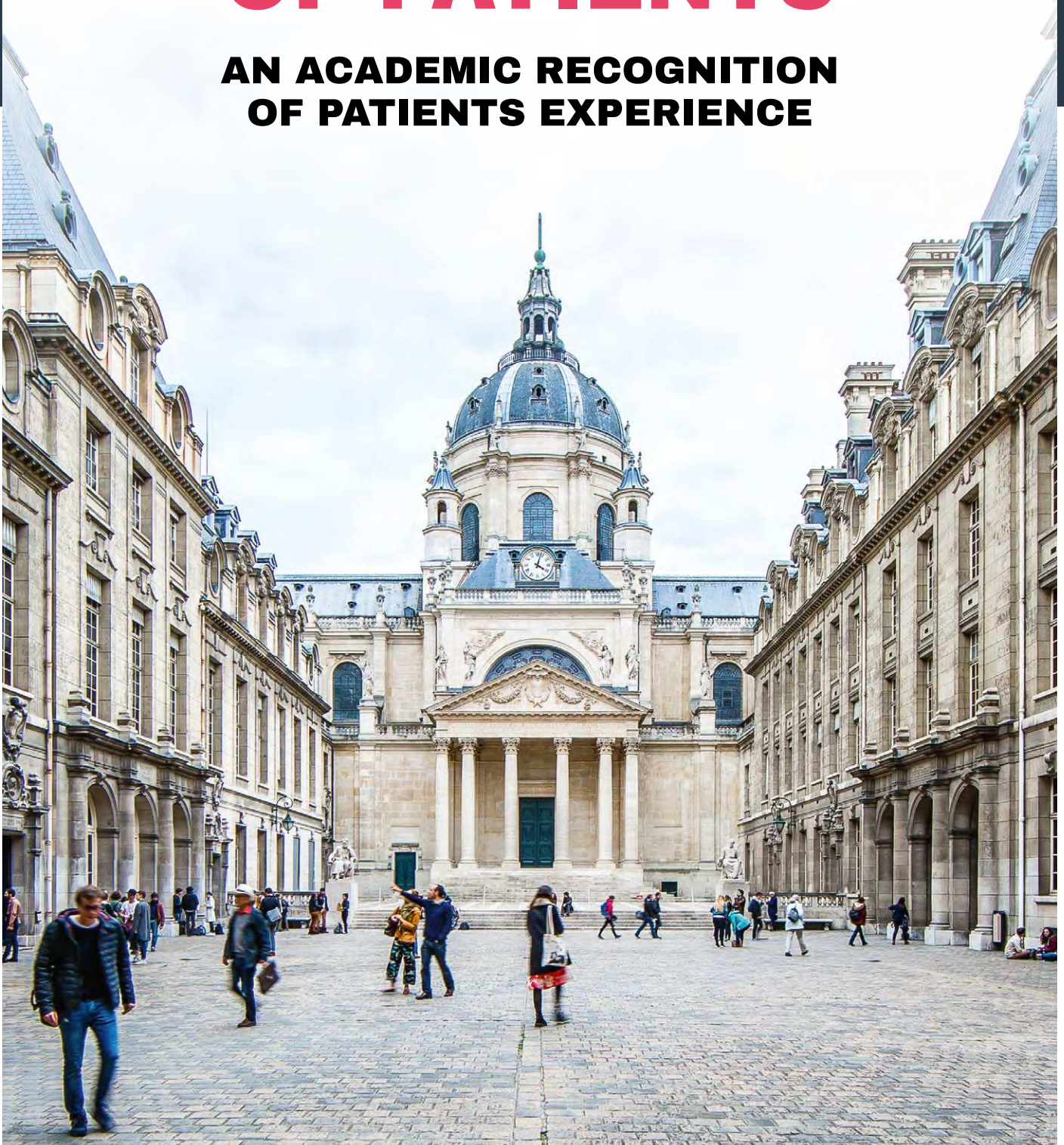




# THE UNIVERSITY OF PATIENTS

**AN ACADEMIC RECOGNITION OF PATIENTS EXPERIENCE**





## The first University of Patients was launched in 2010 in France

This pioneering initiative develops a range of educational and academic programs for patients eager to transform their experience of illness into expertise. Students at the University of Patients become legitimate and qualified members of the local or national healthcare system and help improve the quality of care for the global community.

### A PATIENT PARTNER DEPARTMENT WITHIN A FACULTY OF MEDICINE

The University of Patients-Sorbonne meets the needs and expectations of people living with chronic disease and wanting to mobilize their experience and share it in places which will benefit from the transfer of their skills and expertise.

### LOCATED IN EUROPE'S LARGEST HOSPITAL COMPLEX

The University of Patients-Sorbonne is housed within the Faculty of Medicine at Sorbonne University and its offices are located in the renowned Pitié-Salpêtrière hospital in central Paris. Its facilities combine three distinct spaces

- ▶ A fully accessible and connected classroom with chairs and tables designed for students coping with chronic pain or disabilities
- ▶ A homely living space with a fully equipped kitchen meeting specific dietary needs, an interactive room with a wide-screen and a rest area with sofa-beds and a library corner
- ▶ A dedicated administrative and teaching staff area



Catherine TOURETTE-TURGIS is a University Professor at Sorbonne-University since 2010. In December 2017, she received the insignia of Chevalier of the Legion of Honor.

Her research focuses on capability-based approaches to vulnerability and the ways in which experience can be transformed into expertise. She is currently working in the field of Long Covid.

She also develops training and counseling programs in cancer at work, gender and oncology, recovery, women leadership and health democracy. She has published over 170 articles.

## ABOUT THE FOUNDER

*"The idea of the University of Patients came to me in 1997 while I was living in San Francisco and working as an HIV counselor. I discovered that nothing had been prepared to support those who had survived the epidemic. It became clear to me that we needed to find a way to legitimize and recognize all the work people living with AIDS had done at a time when there was no cure and no medication."*

**Catherine TOURETTE-TURGIS, 2020**

### ACADEMIC DIPLOMAS FOR STUDENTS LIVING WITH CHRONIC DISEASES. WHY?

The time has come to acknowledge that human and professional skills and capacities acquired in hostile situations are just as relevant as those acquired in academic institutions. Patients with chronic diseases are legitimate sources of knowledge and expertise. However, to date, there has been no lifelong learning and academic programs specifically designed for people living with chronic disease anywhere in the world although they account for at least 20% of the population.

### WHO ARE OUR STUDENTS?

Our students come from all over France as well as Belgium, Switzerland, Morocco and other French speaking African countries. So far we have welcomed students living with chronic illnesses such as cancer, HIV, chronic kidney disease, lupus, rheumatoid diseases, diabetes, eating disorders, Crohn's disease, short bowel syndrome, sickle cell disease, endometriosis, multiple sclerosis...



### OUR DEGREE PROGRAMS AND MASTER CLASSES

The University of Patients-Sorbonne offers a wide range of courses to patients wanting to become active and recognised workers in their community and work within their local or national healthcare organizations and institutions.

#### Degree programs

There are currently three diplomas approved by the Sorbonne Faculty of Medicine

- ▶ *DU Formation à l'Éducation Thérapeutique* (Patient Education)
- ▶ *DU Patient.e Partenaire et référent.e en rétablissement en cancérologie* (Patient partner and recovery mentor in oncology)
- ▶ *DU Démocratie en Santé* (Health democracy)

#### On-demand Master Classes

Throughout the year, the University of Patients-Sorbonne design and provide a number of Master Classes tailored to the needs of patients, non-governmental organizations and health institutions. Those 40-hour on-demand courses cover topics such as health advocacy, patients' rights, access to care, health access and social justice, gender issues in care.

Some of our courses and classes focus on critical illnesses such as breast cancer with metastasis, sickle cell disease, melanoma, rare vascular diseases. Others prepare patients to become certified workers within the healthcare system, trainers in nursing and medical schools or advocacy experts.

## THE UNIVERSITY OF PATIENTS, AN INSPIRING MODEL

The University of Patients-Sorbonne has served as a model for the University of Quebec in Rimouski (UQAR) and the Mohamed VI University in Casablanca (Morocco), where the degree course Partner-patient in Oncology has been launched in 2020.

To support other universities around the world wanting to develop similar academic programs, the University of Patients-Sorbonne intends to develop strong international partnerships in the years to come.

## WHAT ARE OUR GRADUATES DOING NOW?

Many of our graduates are now full-time, part-time or volunteer workers in various medical and health institutions as patient partners. Most work in oncology care services while others are involved in research or are hired as advisors in different institutions, care units or advocacy groups.

## THE CHAIR *COMPÉTENCES ET VULNÉRABILITÉS*

After 10 years of running the University of Patients-Sorbonne, Catherine Tourette-Turgis has been awarded the pedagogical Chair Competencies and Vulnerabilities in 2020.

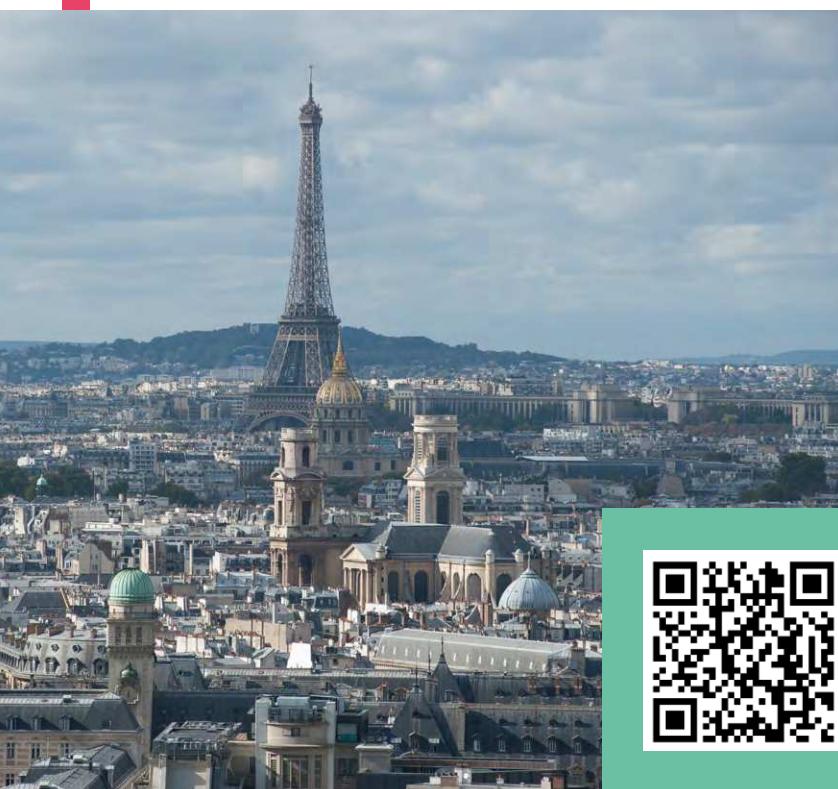
The Chair is committed to

- ▶ develop new courses and diplomas to meet the growing demand from students, communities and a wide range of healthcare bodies and institutions in France and abroad
- ▶ invest in a selection of research fields, including oncology, breast cancer, mental health or emerging diseases such as Covid-19
- ▶ support our students during their time at Sorbonne University by various means such as providing specially designed equipment, financial support (academic fees, accomodation or travel arrangements) or a dedicated admin and teaching staff.

## THE TEAM

The University of Patients-Sorbonne brings together expert-patients, faculty members and world-class teachers committed to advancing health and academic innovation.

The teaching team includes a variety of speakers, lecturers, experts, teaching assistants, PhD students and researchers with solid experience in healthcare system, and adult education.



## MORE INFORMATION

Enrolment is open all year round. Information available at [www.universitedespatients-sorbonne.fr](http://www.universitedespatients-sorbonne.fr)

## TO CONTACT US

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