

Mission Statement

We, the **Research & Development Group** of *efhco* (*European Federation of Healthcare Clown Organizations*) would like to state our dedication to the importance of research within healthcare clown organizations and all their stakeholders. We have identified a distinct need for greater evidence-based **knowledge** on healthcare clowning to advance our sector. We share the hope and expectation that our commitment to an intensified focus on investigation will lead to an **increase in research**, thereby assuring enhanced understanding to support future development and action.

Robust **scientific evidence** will not only help to build a more in-depth understanding of healthcare clowning but will serve as a driving force for the continued development of our profession. Evidence will provide an increased basis for meaningful reflection and the creation of a shared understanding regarding the richness, relevance, purpose and impact of clowning in healthcare and other care settings. It will inform **decision making** in order to improve, expand, and grow healthcare clowning interventions as well as the standard of artistic quality. It will provide healthcare clown organizations with data to adequately respond to the needs of current target groups and to identify and respond to new potential beneficiaries.

We regard healthcare clowning as a living and evolving system, which is closely interlinked with all other health disciplines. Scientific knowledge is not only a key ingredient in strengthening the role of health care clowning within society but will also increase the ability to foster close **collaborations** and **mutually supportive partnerships** with colleagues throughout the healthcare system, and beyond. It will thereby aid the establishment of a more **powerful position** within an evidenced based driven healthcare sector and promote a shared understanding of the important role and beneficial impacts of healthcare clowning within wider health and wellbeing. It will, furthermore, help to acknowledge and manifest the **pivotal role** of healthcare clowning in today's society, while also informing developments for communication and fundraising purposes.

This document integrates the feedback of 9 healthcare clown organizations, members of efhco

Clinicclowns België, BE; Danske Hospitalsklovne, DK; Fondation Théodora, CH; Le Rire Médecin, FR; Operação Nariz Vermelho, PT; Red Noses International + Rote Nasen, AT; Stiftung Humor Hilft Heilen, DE and Zdravotní Klauf, CZ.