

**Careum Congress 2010**  
Speaker Abstract – Innovations

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Title of abstract	Community-campus-partnerships – new ways of engagement

Research, teaching and service to the community are the three fields of university activity. Yet community services, whose purpose is to answer the real and pressing needs of public bodies, is to our mind widely neglected for various reasons that we shall enlarge upon.

Nonetheless, the partnership between a community (geographic, associative, etc.) and the university is a source of reflection and essential expertise for the community's representatives while at the same time, for the university, a unique and concrete terrain for training and research.

To illustrate novel opportunities for collaboration between campus and community we shall develop the instance of a project in Geneva in which, as a result of partnership between the residents of the community, their elected representatives and Geneva University's Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine, an evaluation was undertaken of the health needs of the population which led, by a process of community participation, to the construction of an exemplary village centre. It concerns the promotion of the quality of life, of well-being and of health through the creation of an intergenerational living space. This is underpinned by an urbanistic concept that includes the creation of environments that encourage those who have lost their autonomy to remain at home, the development of healthy soft mobility, new medico-social services and the conception of a new professional profile, the municipal practitioner.

Details of the "Lime Tree Project", as well as a report (in English) on it, can be found on the webpage (in French): [www.unige.ch/medecine/imsp/services/projet-meinier-tilleul.html](http://www.unige.ch/medecine/imsp/services/projet-meinier-tilleul.html)