

6th Annual U.S. Celebration of **World Hospice** and **Palliative Care** Day

A Virtual Coming Together
October 6–7, 2025

This **complimentary conference** unites healthcare professionals from around the world to celebrate and advance the global field of hospice and palliative care.



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

Overview

Access to palliative care is a basic right and a critical component of universal health coverage, ensuring the highest attainable standard of health for individuals with serious illness and their caregivers.

In recognition of **World Hospice and Palliative Care Day (WHPCD)**—an annual day of action to celebrate and advance hospice and palliative care worldwide—we invite you to join a complimentary virtual conference hosted in the United States. Now in its sixth year, this event is co-sponsored by the **Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences** and **Supportive Care Service** at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK).

This conference serves as a global platform to foster cross-cultural community building, scientific dissemination, and experiential wisdom sharing. Multiprofessional and multidisciplinary leaders at the forefront of research, policy, and clinical practice will present on diverse topics across the domains of palliative care, including pain and symptom management, psychological and spiritual care, cultural humility and ethics, evidence-based advocacy, care for historically minoritized and marginalized populations, and social science perspectives in serious illness. We intentionally integrate and amplify the voices of people with lived experience of serious illness throughout this event.

This conference focuses on the care of individuals with serious illness and their caregivers. It is designed for a broad national and international audience of healthcare professionals—including, but not limited to, nurses, nurse practitioners, physicians, physician assistants, social workers, chaplains, psychiatrists, psychologists, pharmacists, and patient advocates—regardless of specialty or prior experience in palliative care or oncology. **This conference is complimentary for all participants, and we proudly welcome all members of the community to attend.**

Following the conference, **registrants will receive access to an online syllabus** that includes select PDF slides from faculty presentations and recorded session videos.

Conference Highlights

Over the course of two half-day sessions, participants will have the opportunity to engage in:

- Specialized **breakout sessions** led by experts in traditional and integrative medicine, end-of-life care, surgical palliative care, and pediatric palliative care.
- A dedicated session on **patient and caregiver perspectives**, offering meaningful insights into their lived experiences.
- The **Palliative Story Exchange**, an inclusive forum where interprofessional clinicians can safely share reflections, challenges, and lessons learned in their palliative care practice.
- Presentations and discussions with global palliative care leaders will highlight progress made a decade since the passage of the **2014 World Health Assembly (WHA) Resolution 67.19 on Palliative Care**.
- Interactive discussions with international and interprofessional faculty, focusing on the evolving impact of palliative care on patients, families, and communities around the world—**advancing both practice and scholarship**.

To ensure broad accessibility, the program will be delivered virtually via Zoom across two half-day sessions. All times are listed in Eastern Time (ET), U.S.

Monday, October 6 • 8:00 AM – 1:20 PM (ET)

Tuesday, October 7 • 12:00 PM – 6:40 PM (ET)

We are also pleased to offer a **variety of continuing education credit types** to meet the diverse needs of our learners. Please refer to **page 13** section for full details.



This conference is complimentary for all participants. Register online at:
msk.org/whpcd

Conference Organizers

Refer to **page 14** for detailed faculty biographies.



Conference Director

Billy Rosa, PhD, MBE, APRN, FAANP, FPCN, FAAN

Assistant Attending Behavioral Scientist,
Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center;
2021 Cambia Health Foundation Sojourns Scholar;
2024 RWJF Harold Amos Scholar;
Editor-in-Chief, *Psycho-Oncology*;
Co-Chair, The *Lancet Respiratory Medicine* Commission on
Palliative Care Integration in Serious Respiratory Illness



Conference Co-Director

Shila Pandey, DNP, AGPCNP-BC, ACHPN, FPCN

Nurse Practitioner, Supportive Care Service;
Lead APP, Quality Assurance,
APP Professional Development Department
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center



Conference Co-Director

Andrew Epstein, MD, FAAHPM

Associate Attending,
Medical Oncology and Supportive Care Services;
2017 Cambia Health Foundation Sojourns Scholar
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center;
Associate Professor of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medical Center



Liz Blackler, MBE, LCSW-R

Associate Director, Ethics Committee and Consultation Service,
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Conference Organizers

Refer to **page 14** for detailed faculty biographies.



Dana Greenfield, MD, PhD

Assistant Attending,
Department of Pediatrics
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center



Lauren Akua Koranteng, PharmD, BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Supportive Care Service,
Department of Pharmacy
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center



Johanna Schoen, PhD

Co-Chair, Patient & Family Advisory Council for Quality (PFACQ)
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center



Paul Yoon, MDiv

Program Manager, Spiritual Care
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Conference Faculty

Refer to **page 14** for detailed faculty biographies.

Conference Sponsor's Opening Remarks



Craig D. Blinderman, MD, MA, FAAHPM

Chief, Supportive Care Service
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center;
Professor of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medicine



William S. Breitbart, MD

Chairman, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences;
Jimmie C. Holland Chair in Psychiatric Oncology;
Attending Psychiatrist, Psychiatry & Supportive Care Services
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Conference Faculty

Oladayo Afolabi, PhD, RN

King's College London

Carlie Arbaugh, MD, MS, Chef

Stanford Health Care

Alua Arthur, JD

Going with Grace End of Life Training, Planning, and Support Organization

Marie Barnett, PhD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Netsanet Bogale, MD

Hawassa University Comprehensive Specialized Hospital Cancer Treatment Center

Tyler Brown, PhD, R. Psych

Wellspring Cancer Support Alberta; Private Practice

Sarah Byrne-Martelli, DMin, BCC-PCHAC

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Danielle Chammas, MD

University of California San Francisco

Renee Chau, AGPCNP-BC, ACHPN

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Natasha Dachos, BCC, LMSW, MAPCC

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Jacopo D'Andria Ursoleo, MD

IRCCS San Raffaele Scientific Institute

Conference Faculty

Refer to **page 14** for detailed faculty biographies.

Edward “Chris” Dee, MD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Alexis Drutchas, MD

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute; Harvard Medical School

Juan Esteban Correa Morales, MD, MsC

University College London; Latin American Observatory of Palliative Care

Sharif A. Folorunso, MBChB, FWACS, FMCR, MSc

Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital Ile-Ife

Paul Galchutt, MDiv, MPH, BCC

Rush University Medical Center

Adrian E. Go, MD

Cebu Institute of Medicine

Richard Harding, BSc, MSc, DipSW, PhD

King’s College London

Katherine Hill, MD, MS, FACS

West Virginia University School of Medicine

Yen Nien (Jason) Hou, PharmD, DiplOM, LAc

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Christopher Jones, MD, MBA, CPC, HMDC, FAAPHM

Duke Health

Kimberly Kopecky, MD, MSCI

The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Abraham Labrada-Santiago, MDiv, BCC-PCHAC

The Mayo Clinic

Richard E. Leiter, MD, MA, FAAHPM

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute; Brigham and Women’s Hospital

Jun J. Mao, MD, MSCE

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Daniel Nuzum, PhD, MTh, BCC, ACPE (Ireland)

Cork University Hospital; Marymount University Hospital and Hospice

Anna Peeler, PhD, RN

King’s College London

Edward Peñate, DMin, BCC

Northwestern Memorial Hospital

Andrya R. Rivera-Burciaga, PhD(c), DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, ACHPN

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Conference Faculty

Refer to **page 14** for detailed faculty biographies.

Melissa Ross, LICSW

Ross Psychotherapy LLC

Rachel Rusch, LCSW, MSW, MA, APHSW-C

Alexandra Russo, LCSW

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Annemarie Samuels, PhD

Leiden University

Teddy Scheel, LCSW, MPH

UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

Susan Seo, MD, FACP, FIDSA

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Bryan A. Sisk, MD, MSCI

Washington University School of Medicine

J. Mac Skelton, PhD

American University of Iraq

Katherine Sleeman, BSc, MBBS, PhD, FRCP

King's College London

Dingle Spence, MBBS, Dip. Pall Med, FRCR

University of the West Indies, Mona

Lesley Taylor, MD

City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

Frederic Ivan L. Ting, MD, MCM(MO), MAN, FPCP, FPSMO, FPSO, FSASS

Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital; University of St. La Salle

Dorothy W. Tolchin, MD, EdM

Harvard Medical School; Mass General Research Institute

Mark Cheong Wing Loong, Mpharm, MBA, MA, PhD, FRSPH

Monash University Malaysia


Anao Zhang, PhD, LCSW, ACSW, OSW-C, ACBT

University of Michigan

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center adheres to the ACCME's Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education. Any individuals in a position to control the content of a CE activity, including faculty, planners, reviewers, or others are required to disclose all relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies (commercial interests). All relevant financial relationships have been mitigated prior to the commencement of the activity.

Schedule

Monday, October 6 • 7:55 AM—1:20 PM (ET)

7:55 AM	Attendee Zoom Sign On
8:00 AM	Welcome and Introduction Billy Rosa, PhD, MBE, APRN, FAANP, FPCN, FAAN Craig D. Blinderman, MD, MA, FAAHPM William S. Breitbart, MD
Opening Keynote Annual World Hospice and Palliative Care Day Lectureship MODERATOR: Shila Pandey, DNP, AGPCNP-BC, ACHPN, FPCN	
8:15 AM	 Alua Arthur, JD <i>Death Educator and Founder of Going with Grace End of Life Training, Planning, and Support Organization</i>
9:00 AM	Q&A and Discussion
Updates in Palliative Care Policy MODERATOR: Billy Rosa, PhD, MBE, APRN, FAANP, FPCN, FAAN	
9:15 AM	Palliative Care: How Can We Respond to 10 Years of Limited Progress? The World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH) & World Health Organization Report Oladayo Afolabi, PhD, RN Richard Harding, BSc, MSc, DipSW, PhD Anna Peeler, PhD, RN Katherine Sleeman, BSc, MBBS, PhD, FRCP
10:00 AM	Q&A and Discussion
10:15 AM	Break

Breakout Sessions

10:20 AM	OPTION I Special Needs of Adolescent Young Adults Living With Serious Illness MODERATOR: Dana Greenfield, MD, PhD Marie Barnett, PhD Alexandra Russo, LCSW Bryan A. Sisk, MD, MSCI Anao Zhang, PhD, LCSW, ACSW, OSW-C, ACBT
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OPTION II

Traditional and Integrative Medicine Approaches to Symptom Management

MODERATOR: Lauren Akua Koranteng, PharmD, BCPS

Growth of Evidence-Informed Integrative Oncology

Jun J. Mao, MD, MSCE

Talk Title Pending

Yen Nien (Jason) Hou, PharmD, DiplOM, LAC

Bush Medicine Use in Serious Illness—A Jamaican Perspective

Dingle Spence, MBBS, Dip. Pall Med, FRCR

11:05 AM

Q&A and Discussion in Dedicated Breakout Sessions

11:20 AM

Break

Patient & Caregiver Conversation

MODERATOR: Andrew Epstein, MD, FAAHPM

11:30 AM

Details coming soon

Top 10 Tips Palliative Care Clinicians Should Know About ...

INTRODUCTION: Billy Rosa, PhD, MBE, APRN, FAANP, FPCN, FAAN

MODERATOR: Christopher Jones, MD, MBA, CPC, HMDC, FAAPHM

12:15 PM

Addressing Patient Sexuality and Intimacy in Serious Illness

Danielle Marie Chammas, MD

Teddy Scheel, LCSW, MPH

12:30 PM

Providing Care for People With Disabilities

Melissa Ross, LICSW

Dorothy W. Tolchin, MD, EdM

12:45 PM

Q&A and Discussion

1:15 PM

Closing Remarks

Billy Rosa, PhD, MBE, APRN, FAANP, FPCN, FAAN

1:20 PM

Adjournment

Schedule

Tuesday, October 7 • 11:55 AM—6:40 PM (ET)

11:55 AM	Attendee Zoom Sign On
12:00 PM	Opening Remarks Billy Rosa, PhD, MBE, APRN, FAANP, FPCN, FAAN

Border Crossing: Perspectives in Anthro-Palliative Care

MODERATOR: Dana Greenfield, MD, PhD

12:05 PM	Globalizing Palliative Care: An Anthropological Perspective Annemarie Samuels, PhD J. Mac Skelton, PhD
12:50 PM	Q&A and Discussion

Palliative Story Exchange

INTRODUCTION: Billy Rosa, PhD, MBE, APRN, FAANP, FPCN, FAAN

1:05 PM	MODERATORS: Alexis Drutchas, MD Richard E. Leiter, MD, MA, FAAHPM Rachel Rusch, LCSW, MSW, MA, APHSW-C
2:05 PM	Break

Breakout Sessions

2:15 PM	OPTION I Antimicrobial Use at the End of Life MODERATOR: Shila Pandey, DNP, AGPCNP-BC, ACHPN, FPCN Should They Stay or Should They Go? Antimicrobials Use at the End of Life Renee Chau, AGPCNP-BC, ACHPN Susan Seo, MD, FACP, FIDSA Antimicrobials in Serious Illness and End-Of-Life Care: Lifting the Veil of Silence Mark Cheong Wing Loong, Mpharm, MBA, MA, PhD, FRSPH Edward “Chris” Dee, MD Sharif A. Folorunso, MBChB, FWACS, FMCR, MSc
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OPTION II

Palliative Care in the Surgical Context

MODERATOR: Andrew Epstein, MD, FAAHPM

Talk Title Pending

Katherine Hill, MD, MS, FACS

Community-Oriented Perioperative Symptom Management in Ethiopia

Netsanet Bogale, MD

Lesley Taylor, MD

Talk Title Pending

Carlie Arbaugh, MD, MS, Chef

Kimberly Kopecky, MD, MSCI

3:00 PM

Q&A and Discussion in Dedicated Breakout Sessions

3:15 PM

Break

Case-Based Approach to Spiritual and Existential Care

INTRODUCTION: Paul Yoon, MDiv

MODERATOR: Natasha Dachos, BCC, LMSW, MAPCC

3:20 PM

Oceans Apart, United in Purpose: Collaborative Insights from Palliative Care Chaplain Researchers

Sarah Byrne-Martelli, DMin, BCC-PCHAC

Paul Galchutt, MDiv, MPH, BCC

Daniel Nuzum, PhD, MTh, BCC, ACPE (Ireland)

Edward Peñate, DMin, BCC

Invited Rapid Fire Talks

MODERATOR: Liz Blackler, MBE, LCSW-R

4:20 PM

Insights on Public Health and Palliative Care from Latin America

Juan Esteban Correa Mora, MD, MsC

4:30 PM

Talk Title Pending

Jacopo D'Andria Ursoleo, MD

4:40 PM

Integration of Palliative Care in Primary Care in the Philippines

Adrian E. Go, MD

Frederic Ivan L. Ting, MD, MCM(MO), MAN, FPCP, FPSMO, FPSO, FSASS

4:50 PM

Death Anxiety in Advanced Cancer: Psychosocial Correlates and Implications for Palliative Care

Tyler Brown, PhD, R. Psych

5:00 PM	Spiritual and Palliative Care with Native American Populations Abraham Labrada-Santiago, MDiv, BCC-PCHAC
5:10 PM	Q&A and Discussion
5:30 PM	Break

Closing Keynote

Dr. Richard Payne Lecture on Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging in Serious Illness

MODERATOR: Billy Rosa, PhD, MBE, APRN, FAANP, FPCN, FAAN

5:35 PM



Healthcare Disparities Among Mexican Americans Living With Serious Illnesses in South Texas

Andrya R. Rivera-Burciaga, PhD(c), DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, ACHPN

5:50 PM

Q&A and Discussion

6:35 PM

Closing Remarks and Thank You

Billy Rosa, PhD, MBE, APRN, FAANP, FPCN, FAAN

6:40 PM

Adjournment

Accreditation

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

AMA Credit Designation Statement

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center designates this live activity for a maximum of **11.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™**. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

ABIM MOC Recognition Statement

Successful completion of this CME activity, which includes participation in the evaluation component, enables the participant to earn up to **11.25 MOC points** in the American Board of Internal Medicine's (ABIM) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program. It is the CME activity provider's responsibility to submit participant completion information to ACCME for the purpose of granting ABIM MOC credit.

Continuing Education for Licensed Psychologists in New York State*

This event offers 11.25 NYS Psychology Contact Hours.

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center is recognized by the New York State Education Department State Board for Psychology as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed psychologists #PSY-0166.

Applications have been submitted for **ANCC Nursing Contact Hours** and **New York State Social Work Contact Hours**.

*Not all states accept New York State Contact Hours. Please check with the licensing board in your state for guidance on their acceptance of the credit types offered for this course.

Faculty Biographies

We'd like to extend our **sincerest gratitude to all the faculty** for donating their time in this program to promote accessibility and inclusion of the global palliative care community.





Oladayo Afolabi, PhD, RN

Network Leader, Palliative Care Policy and Planning
Nova Scotia Health, Canada;
Affiliate Postdoctoral Associate
Cicely Saunders Institute for Palliative Care, Policy and Rehabilitation
London, United Kingdom
[@deedone6603](#)

Dr. Oladayo Afolabi is a nurse from Nigeria, now based in Canada, whose research focuses on developing, testing, and evaluating complex interventions to strengthen primary palliative care in low- and middle-income settings. He currently co-chairs the African Palliative Care Association's Working Group on Palliative and Comprehensive Chronic Care within Primary Healthcare.



Carlie Arbaugh, MD, MS, Chef

General Surgery Resident,
Department of Surgery
Stanford Health Care
Stanford, CA, USA

Dr. Carlie Arbaugh is a surgical resident at Stanford Health Care and earned her medical degree and a Master of Science in Community Health and Prevention Research from Stanford. She also holds certifications in culinary arts and plant-based nutrition. Her academic interests include health equity, lifestyle and culinary medicine, clinician well-being, medical and surgical education, and palliative care. Dr. Arbaugh is currently applying for a Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship, with a long-term goal of integrating surgery and palliative medicine in her clinical career.



Alua Arthur, JD

Death Educator and Founder of Going with Grace End of Life
Training, Planning, and Support Organization
Los Angeles, CA, USA

Author of the NYT Bestseller **BRIEFLY PERFECTLY HUMAN: Making an Authentic Life by Getting Real About the End**, Alua Arthur (a-lu-ah) is the most visible death doula in America today. She is a recovering attorney and the founder of **Going with Grace**, a death doula training and end-of-life planning organization. Her TED Talk titled, "**Why Thinking About Death Helps You Live a Better Life**," went online in July 2023 and has already received over 1.5 million views. A frequent guest on TV and radio, Arthur has been featured on CBS's *The Doctors* and in Disney's *Limitless* docu-series with Chris Hemsworth, as well as other national media outlets, such as *Vogue*, *InStyle*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Cut*, *The New Yorker*, *New York Times*, *Marie Claire*, and *CNN*. She has appeared on dozens of podcasts, and a **Refinery29 video feature** on Arthur and her work received 10 million views across social platforms. She travels the country and the world as a keynote speaker, addressing audiences at medical and end-of-life conferences, universities, seminars, senior citizens' communities, and more. Arthur and her team at Going with Grace have trained over 2500 death doulas in 55 countries around the world, growing the movement of circles of care, and she is perpetually on the quest for donuts.



Marie Barnett, PhD

Assistant Attending Psychologist
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
New York, NY, USA

[@MarieBarnettPhD](#)

Dr. Marie Barnett is an Assistant Attending Psychologist in the Departments of Psychiatry and Pediatrics at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Her clinical and research work centers on the psychosocial care and mental health treatment of adolescents and young adults (AYAs) with cancer. She has held leadership roles with the American Psychosocial Oncology Society (APOS), serving as Director of Communications and Co-chair of the Pediatric and AYA Special Interest Group. Since 2020, she has also contributed to the NCCN Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology Panel, helping to shape national guidelines for AYA cancer care.



Liz Blackler, MBE, LCSW-R, HEC-C

Associate Director, Ethics Committee and Consultation Service
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
New York, NY, USA

Liz Blackler is the Associate Director of the Ethics Committee and Consultation Service at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. A seasoned clinical ethics consultant, she holds a Master of Science in Bioethics from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine–Benjamin Cardozo School of Law and a Master of Science in Social Work from Columbia University. Her clinical work focuses on supporting staff in improving end-of-life communication and decision-making, as well as addressing ethical challenges related to life-sustaining therapies. Academically, she is dedicated to advancing bioethics education and training for clinical staff.



Craig D. Blinderman, MD, MA, FAAHPM

Chief, Supportive Care Service
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center;
Professor of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medicine
New York, NY, USA

[@CBlinderma98027](#)

Dr. Craig Blinderman is Chief of the Supportive Care Service at Memorial Sloan Kettering and a national leader in palliative medicine. Before joining MSK, he directed the Adult Palliative Care Service at Columbia University Irving Medical Center/NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital and co-led the Bi-Campus Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship. From 2006 to 2010, he was an attending physician on the Palliative Care Service at Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Blinderman's research and publications span early palliative care in lung cancer (NEJM 2010), comfort care at the end of life (NEJM 2015), cancer pain, medical ethics, and the role of palliative care during the COVID-19 pandemic. His academic interests include end-of-life decision-making, global palliative care, medical ethics, narrative medicine, and the integration of contemplative practices into clinical care. A dedicated educator, he focuses on enhancing communication and end-of-life care skills in medical trainees. He serves as section editor for Case Discussions in the *Journal of Palliative Medicine*, is on its editorial board, and teaches at the New York Zen Center, where he also serves on the advisory board.



Netsanet Bogale, MD

Clinical Oncologist
Hawassa University Comprehensive Specialized
Hospital Cancer Treatment Center
Hawassa City, Ethiopia

[@nbogale4](#)

Dr. Netsanet Bogale is a clinical oncologist and researcher at Hawassa University Comprehensive Specialized Hospital Cancer Treatment Center (HUCSH-CTC), where he has worked since 2018 and served as director for seven years. He has been instrumental in decentralizing cancer care in Ethiopia, expanding access to chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and palliative services, and recently led the launch of HUCSH's radiotherapy program. Dr. Bogale has received multiple research grants, published widely, and mentors residents and master's-level nursing students in oncology research. He is president of CanCare, a local cancer nonprofit, and serves on Ethiopia's National Cancer Task Force and the Federal Ministry of Health's imPACT review team. Since 2016, he has collaborated with Drs. Lesley Taylor and Betty Ferrell of City of Hope on the COH–Ethiopia Breast Cancer Initiative, which promotes sustainable, bidirectional partnerships in research, education, and patient care. His international training includes programs in Ethiopia, India, Norway, the U.S., South Africa, and Italy, and in 2024 he completed a clinical research fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.



William S. Breitbart, MD

Chairman, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences;
Jimmie C. Holland Chair in Psychiatric Oncology;
Attending Psychiatrist, Psychiatry & Supportive Care Services
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

[LinkedIn](#)

Dr. William Breitbart is Chair of the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, where he holds the Jimmie C. Holland Chair in Psychiatric Oncology and serves as an Attending Psychiatrist. A globally recognized leader in psycho-oncology and palliative care, he has received numerous lifetime achievement awards, including honors from the International Psycho-Oncology Society, the Academy of Psychosomatic Medicine, the American Cancer Society, and MD Anderson Cancer Center. Dr. Breitbart's research focuses on the psychiatric dimensions of cancer and palliative care, with particular emphasis on end-of-life despair. He is the developer of Meaning-Centered Psychotherapy, an NCI-designated Research Tested Intervention, and currently leads a national training initiative (R25 CA190169) to expand its use in oncology care. He has authored over 500 peer-reviewed publications and 13 books, including multiple editions of *Psycho-Oncology*, *Handbook of Psychiatry in Palliative Medicine*, and treatment manuals on *Meaning-Centered Psychotherapy*. He is also Editor-in-Chief of *Palliative & Supportive Care*, an international journal from Cambridge University Press.



Tyler Brown, PhD, R. Psych

Wellspring Cancer Support Alberta;
Private Practice
Calgary, AB, Canada

Dr. Tyler Brown is a registered psychologist licensed in Alberta and British Columbia, Canada. He completed his doctorate and post-doctoral fellowship at McGill University's Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences. Based in Calgary, he runs a private practice specializing in psychosocial oncology and bereavement support. Dr. Brown also serves as a Program Leader with Wellspring Cancer Support Alberta and is a Research Affiliate with the University of British Columbia's Men's Health Research Program. He sits on the Editorial Review Board for Cancer Control. His clinical and research interests center on enhancing psychological well-being and quality of life for those affected by cancer and serious illness, with a focus on existential concerns, loss, and life transitions.



Sarah Byrne-Martelli, DMin, BCC-PCHAC

Research Fellow in Supportive Oncology
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Boston, MA, USA;
Assistant Professor of Spiritual Care
St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary
New York, NY, USA

[@byrne_martelli](#)

Sarah Byrne-Martelli, a Board-Certified Chaplain since 2004, is a 2022 Cambia Sojourns Scholar Leader focused on integrating spiritual care into palliative care teams. She chairs the Advanced Practice Certification program for the Association of Professional Chaplains and serves as Secretary of the Board for the Orthodox Christian Association of Medicine, Psychology, and Religion. Dr. Byrne-Martelli holds degrees from Haverford College, Harvard Divinity School, and St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, where she is now Assistant Professor of Spiritual Care.



Danielle Chammas, MD

Associate Clinical Professor, Division of Palliative Medicine,
Department of Medicine;
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
University of California San Francisco
San Francisco, CA, USA

[@ChammasDani](#)

Dr. Danielle Chammas is a palliative care physician and psychiatrist at the UCSF Helen Diller Comprehensive Cancer Center's Symptom Management Clinic. A graduate of Stanford University and UCSF School of Medicine (AOA, 2010), she completed her psychiatry residency and a Hospice and Palliative Medicine fellowship at UCSF, where she also served as Chief Resident at the SFVA Medical Center. Her clinical and scholarly interests include the intersection of psychiatry and palliative care, the psychological impact of serious illness, therapeutic communication, clinician wellness, and medical humanities. Outside of work, she enjoys art, writing, and spending time with her husband and three daughters.



Renee Chau, AGPCNP-BC, ACHPN

Supportive Care and Geriatric Nurse Practitioner
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
New York, NY, USA

Renee Chau is a Hospice and Palliative Care Certified Adult-Geriatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner. She earned both her BSN and Master's Degree from NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing and will graduate in August 2025 from the Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program at the University at Buffalo, SUNY. Since 2019, she has worked as a Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner, with research interests in primary palliative care, antimicrobial use at the end of life, and the experience of suffering in chronic illness. Before entering nursing, Renee earned a BA in Anthropology from the University of Colorado, taught and traveled extensively throughout Southeast Asia, and continues to practice as a licensed massage therapist.



Natasha Dachos, BCC, LMSW, MAPCC

Staff Chaplain
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center;
New York Presbyterian
New York, NY, USA

[@ndachos](#)

Natasha Dachos is a staff chaplain at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Prior to joining MSK, she served as Director of Spiritual Services and Palliative Care Chaplain at Phelps Hospital, Northwell Health. She holds a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Notre Dame, a Master of Science in Social Work from Columbia University, and a Master of Arts in Pastoral Care and Counseling from New York Theological Seminary.

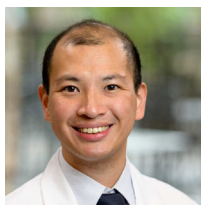


Jacopo D'Andria Ursoleo, MD

Physician, Department of Anesthesia and Intensive Care
IRCCS San Raffaele Scientific Institute
Milano, Italy

[@JDAndriaUrsoleo](#)

Information coming soon.



Edward “Chris” Dee, MD

Medical Resident, Department of Radiation Oncology
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
New York, NY, USA

[@EChrisDee](#)

Dr. Edward “Chris” Dee, originally from Manila and Vancouver, is a fourth-year resident in Radiation Oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. A graduate of Yale University and Harvard Medical School, he leads an international research group focused on access to cancer care in Southeast Asia and beyond. His research interests include local therapies for metastatic disease—particularly lung, prostate, and head and neck cancers—as well as end-of-life care in both U.S. and global contexts.

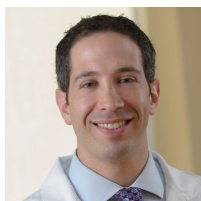


Alexis Drutchas, MD

Palliative Care Physician;
Director, Core Communications Program,
Department of Supportive Oncology
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute;
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[@AlexisDrutchas](#)

Dr. Alexis Drutchas is a palliative care physician, educator, and writer at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. She serves as Director of the Core Communications Program in the Dana-Farber Department of Supportive Oncology. Dr. Drutchas trained in Family Medicine at Brown University, during which time she co-founded the *Rhode Island Trans Health Conference*. Following residency, Dr. Drutchas worked as a primary care physician at Fenway Health. She went on to complete the Harvard Palliative Care Fellowship and remained at MGH thereafter. In addition to her clinical work, Dr. Drutchas is an avid writer. Her work has been featured in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *NBC*, and *CNN*, among others. Dr. Drutchas co-founded The Palliative Story Exchange in 2020, which builds community and fosters shared meaning for clinicians through storytelling. She lives in Boston with her wife and son.



Andrew Epstein, MD, FAAHPM

Associate Attending, Medical Oncology & Supportive Care Services;
2017 Cambia Health Foundation Sojourns Scholar
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center;
Associate Professor of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medical Center
New York, NY, USA

Dr. Andrew Epstein is an Associate Attending at Memorial Sloan Kettering and Associate Professor of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College, with joint appointments in GI Medical Oncology and Supportive Care. Dual fellowship-trained in Palliative Medicine and Medical Oncology, his research focuses on integrating palliative care into oncology to improve patient and family outcomes. He has received grant support from ASCO, the National Palliative Care Research Center, the Cambia Health Foundation, and the NIH for work in communication and advance care planning. At MSK, Dr. Epstein teaches communication skills in collaboration with the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and has led the interprofessional, case-based Schwartz Rounds since 2013. Nationally, he is a member of the NCCN Palliative Care Guidelines panel and served as Chair of ASCO's 2019 Palliative Oncology Symposium. In 2019, he was named an Emerging Leader in Hospice and Palliative Medicine by AAHPM.



Juan Esteban Correa Morales, MD, MSc

Palliative Care Physician;
Palliative Care Public Health Research Fellow
University College London;
Latin American Observatory of Palliative Care
London, United Kingdom

[@veladconmigo](#)

Dr. Juan Esteban Correa-Morales is a palliative care physician and former rural doctor from Colombia, recently completing a research fellowship in Palliative Care Public Health at University College London. His work with national and international observatories has focused on advancing culturally responsive strategies to reduce health inequities and strengthen primary palliative care in underserved regions. He co-authored Colombia's national palliative care strategy for deprived areas, led the first global analysis of national public health strategies in palliative care, and co-developed a stakeholder analysis tool for policy co-creation. He also authored a policy brief for the UK Department of Health and Social Care on pain management and socioeconomic vulnerability at end of life. Dr. Correa-Morales is currently pursuing a PhD at the Universitat Internacional de Catalunya and serves as project manager for RAPHAEL, a European Union initiative focused on improving home-based care for patients with advanced heart failure.



Sharif A. Folorunso, MBChB, FWACS, FMCR, MSc

Consultant Clinical Oncologist
Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital Ile-Ife
Osun State, Nigeria

[@FolorunsoSharif](#)

Dr. Sharif Adeniyi Folorunso is a Consultant Clinical and Radiation Oncologist at Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospitals Complex (OAUTHC), Nigeria, and an Associate Lecturer at Obafemi Awolowo University. He holds fellowships in Clinical and Radiation Oncology and an MSc in Pharmacology and Therapeutics. His work focuses on improving cancer treatment outcomes, particularly in managing side effects, supportive care, and survivorship. He has led numerous research projects on breast and gastrointestinal cancers, chemotherapy toxicity, and palliative care, with an emphasis on patient quality of life. Dr. Folorunso completed a one-year fellowship in medical oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. He has authored over 25 peer-reviewed publications, frequently presents at international conferences, and co-directs Nigeria's new Global Medical Oncology Fellowship. He is active in research and training initiatives through ARGO and GDCI and is a member of ASCO, ESMO, AACR, ARCON, and AORTIC. His mission is to strengthen cancer care in low-resource settings through evidence-based, patient-centered approaches.



Paul Galchutt, MDiv, MPH, BCC

Assistant Director of Engagement - Transforming Chaplaincy
Rush University Medical Center
Chicago, IL, USA

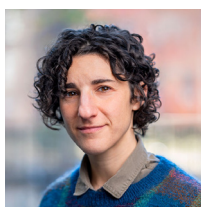
Paul Galchutt is based in the Minneapolis area and works remotely as an Assistant Professor and Assistant Director of Engagement with Transforming Chaplaincy at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. A 2023 Cambia Sojourns Scholar, he is currently pursuing a PhD in Palliative Care at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. Both his Cambia-funded research and dissertation focus on the role of chaplain clinical notes in palliative care. Paul's dedication to supporting individuals facing serious illness was shaped by his ten years as a palliative care chaplain at the University of Minnesota Medical Center. He also serves as an Associate Editor for the Journal of Health Care Chaplaincy.



Adrian E. Go, MD

Member, Alumni Association
Cebu Institute of Medicine
Cebu, Philippines

Dr. Adrian Go is a physician and researcher with a focus on global oncology, health system disparities, palliative care, and cancer control programs. He has authored several peer-reviewed articles and is committed to improving healthcare access for marginalized communities in the Philippines. A recent medical graduate, Dr. Go has received numerous academic honors, including the top distinction in the March 2025 Philippine Physician Licensure Exam, ranking first among 3,827 examinees—a recognition awarded by the Philippine Medical Association and the Professional Regulatory Commission. He continues to collaborate with local stakeholders to advance equitable healthcare delivery.



Dana Greenfield, MD, PhD

Assistant Attending,
Department of Pediatrics
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
New York, NY, USA

Dr. Greenfield is a Pediatric Palliative Care Physician at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, where she provides specialized pain and symptom management, as well as comprehensive palliative support to children, adolescents, young adults, and their families as part of the Pediatric Advanced Care Team (PACT). She is also actively involved in teaching pediatric residents and fellows in pediatric palliative care. Dr. Greenfield earned her MD/PhD and completed her pediatrics residency and Hospice and Palliative Medicine fellowship at the University of California, San Francisco and Berkeley.



Richard Harding, BSc, MSc, DipSW, PhD

Executive Dean (Interim)
Florence Nightingale Faculty of Nursing Midwifery & Palliative Care;
Herbert Dunhill Chair of Palliative Care & Rehabilitation
Cicely Saunders Institute
London, United Kingdom
[@RHardingCSI](#)

Professor Richard Harding is the Executive Dean of the Florence Nightingale Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery and Palliative Care at King's College London. He also serves as Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre at the Cicely Saunders Institute, Vice Chair of the World Hospice Palliative Care Alliance, and Trustee of both AIDS Impact and Marie Curie. Richard has a background in social science, HIV care management, and health services research. His work focuses on person-centred care for individuals with serious health conditions, emphasizing patient-reported assessments of physical, psychological, social, and spiritual wellbeing. He has developed practical tools to support this approach and leads a global program promoting person-centredness across the life course—from helping children voice their concerns to supporting wellbeing at the end of life.



Katherine Hill, MD, MS, FACS

Assistant Professor,
Department of Surgery, Division of General Surgery;
Department of Medicine, Division of Geriatrics,
Palliative Medicine, and Hospice
West Virginia University School of Medicine
Morgantown, WV, USA

Dr. Katherine Hill is an Assistant Professor of Surgery and Medicine at West Virginia University, where she practices both general surgery and palliative medicine. She completed her general surgery residency and a master's degree in medical education at the University of Pittsburgh, where she also pursued a palliative care fellowship in 2022. Dr. Hill's academic focus is on improving communication in surgery. She completed VitalTalk faculty training in 2024 and is involved in a national initiative to implement a Fundamentals of Communication in Surgery curriculum. Her work centers on equipping surgeons with structured, empathetic communication skills to support values-based care and reduce moral distress among clinicians.



Yen Nien (Jason) Hou, PharmD, DiplOM, LAC

Manager, "About Herbs" Website,
Integrative Medicine Service
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
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[@JasonHouPharmD](#)

Yen Nien (Jason) Hou is a pharmacist, licensed acupuncturist, and traditional Chinese medicine herbalist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, where he coordinates the Herb Information Center within the Integrative Medicine Service. He holds a Doctor of Pharmacy from SUNY Buffalo and an MS in Traditional Chinese Medicine, and is board-certified by the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. Jason specializes in dietary supplements and botanical products, with a focus on herb-drug interactions—an important area for cancer patients. He draws on his dual expertise to educate and consult with patients and healthcare professionals on the safe and effective use of herbal therapies.



Christopher Jones, MD, MBA, CPC, HMDC, FAAPHM

Clinical Vice Chief of Palliative Care, Duke Health
Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Palliative Medicine
Durham, NC, USA

Dr. Chris Jones trained in Internal Medicine at Brown University and completed fellowships in Hospice and Palliative Medicine and Geriatric Medicine at Duke University. He currently serves as Clinical Vice Chief of Duke Palliative Care and is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the Duke University School of Medicine. In 2023, after four years as Founding Editor of *Palliative Medicine Reports*, Dr. Jones was named the third Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Palliative Medicine*. He also contributes to the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM) Board, serves as Core Faculty for the Four Seasons Palliative Care Immersion Course, and supports the Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC) with billing and coding guidance. Additionally, he is AAHPM's alternate subspecialty advisor to the AMA RUC and provides consulting on billing, coding, and revenue optimization through Lightning Bolt Partners, LLC.



Kimberly Kopecky, MD, MSCl

Assistant Professor,
Department of Surgery
The University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, AL, USA
[@kekepeckMD](#)

Dr. Kimberly Kopecky is a dual-boarded general surgeon and hospice and palliative medicine physician, and an Assistant Professor in the Division of Surgical Oncology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham's Heersink School of Medicine. She earned her medical degree from Harvard Medical School, completed general surgery residency at Stanford, and pursued fellowship training in Surgical Oncology at Johns Hopkins and Hospice and Palliative Medicine at the University of Wisconsin. She also completed the MacLean Clinical Medical Ethics Fellowship at the University of Chicago as the 2017–2018 ACS-sponsored fellow. Dr. Kopecky's clinical and research focus is on the surgical care of patients with advanced cancer, specifically how their expectations shape perioperative decision-making and recovery following high-risk abdominal surgery.



Lauren Akua Koranteng, PharmD, BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Supportive Care Service,
Department of Pharmacy
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
New York, NY, USA
[@lakua](#)

Dr. Lauren Koranteng is a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in pain and palliative care at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, where she also precepts PGY2 pharmacy residents in oncology and medication safety. She holds a Doctor of Pharmacy from Temple University and completed ASHP-accredited PGY1 and PGY2 residencies in hospice/palliative care and pain management at the University at Buffalo/Niagara Hospice and Johns Hopkins Hospital, respectively. Board-certified in pharmacotherapy, Dr. Koranteng's interests include global health initiatives focused on pain management education and improving access to oncology and supportive care medications in low-resource settings.



Abraham Labrada-Santiago, MDiv, BCC-PCHAC

Supervisor, Spiritual Care and Palliative Care Staff Chaplain;
Instructor in Palliative Medicine
The Mayo Clinic
Rochester, MN, USA

Abraham Labrada Santiago is a Spiritual Care Supervisor and Palliative Care Chaplain in the Division of Community Internal Medicine, Geriatrics & Palliative Care at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. He is an ordained deacon in the Orthodox Church in America and holds a Master of Divinity from St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary. A Board-Certified Chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains, he also holds Advanced Certification in Hospice and Palliative Care. His clinical interests include evidence-based spiritual care, end-of-life support, existential issues, cultural humility, and inclusion. He is trained in therapeutic modalities such as Meaning-Centered Therapy and Dignity Therapy. Outside of his clinical work, he enjoys capturing the beauty of nature through photography.



Richard E. Leiter, MD, MA, FAAHPM

Senior Physician,
Department of Supportive Oncology
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute;
Assistant Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School
Boston, MA, USA

Dr. Richard (Ricky) Leiter is a palliative care physician, writer, and researcher at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Brigham and Women's Hospital, and an Assistant of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. He directs the Inpatient Palliative Care Consult Service and founded the department's Writing Core. Dr. Leiter earned his MD and MA in Medical Humanities and Bioethics from Northwestern, completed internal medicine residency at Weill Cornell, and trained in the Harvard Palliative Care Fellowship. His writing on ethics and the emotional experience of palliative care has appeared in *The New York Times*, *NEJM*, *STATNews*, and *JCO*. He co-founded The Palliative Story Exchange, a storytelling initiative for clinicians, and was named a 2024 Emerging Leader in Hospice and Palliative Medicine by AAHPM.



Jun J. Mao, MD, MSCE

Chief, Integrative Medicine Service
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
New York, NY, USA
[@JunMaoMD](#)

Dr. Jun Mao is Chief of the Integrative Medicine Service and the Laurance S. Rockefeller Chair in Integrative Medicine at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and Professor of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College. A board-certified family physician with added qualifications in hospice and palliative care, he is also a licensed acupuncturist who integrates Western and Eastern approaches to manage cancer-related symptoms. Dr. Mao's research focuses on the effects, mechanisms, and integration of Complementary and Integrative Medicine (CIM) in cancer symptom management. He has led numerous NIH- and DOD-funded clinical trials and published over 200 peer-reviewed articles. His work has shaped national guidelines, including those from ASCO, NCCN, and the Society for Integrative Oncology (SIO), where he is the immediate past president. He also serves as Co-President of the Society for Acupuncture Research.



Daniel Nuzum, PhD, MTh, BCC, ACPE (Ireland)

Clinical Pastoral Education Supervisor/ Educator
Cork University Hospital;
Psychological and Spiritual Care Practitioner
Marymount University Hospital and Hospice
Cork, Ireland

[@danielnuzum](#)

Dr. Daniel Nuzum is a Board-certified Healthcare Chaplain and Clinical Pastoral Education supervisor based at Cork University Hospital, Ireland. He is a senior researcher and honorary visiting professor with the European Research Institute for Chaplains in Healthcare (ERICH) and KU Leuven, and serves as an adjunct lecturer at University College Cork. He also provides psychological and spiritual care on the specialist palliative care team at Marymount University Hospital and Hospice. Dr. Nuzum earned his PhD in 2016 with a focus on the spiritual and professional impact of stillbirth and is a member of the Pregnancy Loss Research Group at University College Cork. His research and teaching center on perinatal bereavement, spiritual care, palliative care, and staff wellbeing. He coordinates the psychological and spiritual care module for the MSc in Palliative Care at UCC and lectures widely in Ireland and the UK. In 2023, he received a Civic Award from the Lord Mayor of Cork for his contributions to spiritual and pastoral care in perinatal bereavement and palliative care.



Shila Pandey, DNP, AGPCNP-BC, ACHPN

Nurse Practitioner, Supportive Care Service;
Lead APP, Quality Assurance,
APP Professional Development Department
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
New York, NY

Shila Pandey is palliative care nurse practitioner on the Supportive Care Service and APP Lead for Quality at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York. She received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the College of New Rochelle, Master of Science in Nursing with subspecialty in palliative care from New York University, and Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from Rutgers University. Shila is an adjunct instructor in the graduate department of NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing. She is board certified as an Adult Primary Care Nurse Practitioner and Advanced Practice Hospice and Palliative Care Nurse. Her academic interests include primary palliative care education, management of pain in patients with a history of substance use disorders, end-of-life care, and communication skills training.



Anna Peeler, PhD, RN

Research Associate,
Florence Nightingale Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery, & Palliative Care
King's College London
London, United Kingdom

[@AnnaPeeler](#)

Dr. Anna Peeler is a Research Associate at the Cicely Saunders Institute of Palliative Care, Policy, and Rehabilitation at King's College London. Her research focuses on expanding global access to palliative care by integrating it into primary care systems and enhancing the role of nurses in delivering holistic, patient-centered services.



Edward Peñate, DMin, BCC

Palliative Care Chaplain-Faculty
Northwestern Medicine
Chicago, IL, USA

Dr. Edward Peñate is a palliative care chaplain with the Section of Palliative Medicine and Spiritual Care at Northwestern Medicine in Chicago, where he also holds a faculty leadership role. A Board-Certified Chaplain and Cambia Sojourns Scholar, he focuses on addressing health disparities in palliative care, particularly within Latino-Hispanic communities, through clinical care, education, and research. He developed a well-regarded spiritual care curriculum for palliative care fellows at Northwestern and leads research on screening for religious/spiritual struggle, miracle literacy training, and communication skills for non-chaplain clinicians. Dr. Peñate co-chairs the Pain and Palliative Care Conference at the Robert H. Lurie Cancer Center and is pursuing a PhD in Palliative Care at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. He holds a Doctor of Ministry from Union Theological Seminary and brings a bilingual, multicultural perspective to his work with Spanish-speaking patients and families.



Andrya R. Rivera-Burciaga, PhD(c), DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, ACHPN

Assistant Professor;
Doctor of Nursing Practice Program Director
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Edinburg, Texas, US

Dr. Andrya R. Rivera-Burciaga is an Assistant Professor at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, where she oversees the Doctor of Nursing Practice program. With over 23 years of clinical nursing experience and 12 years as a family nurse practitioner, her work has focused on hospice and palliative care for more than a decade. She also brings experience in nursing education and administration. Dr. Rivera-Burciaga holds degrees from Baylor University, the University of Texas-Pan American, and the University of Texas Health Science Center Houston, where she earned her DNP in 2017. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Nursing Science at UT Health San Antonio. In 2023, she was named a Cambia Sojourns Scholar, receiving a \$180,000 grant to support her project on healthcare disparities among Mexican Americans with serious illness. In 2024, she was invited to speak at Endwell 2024.



Billy Rosa, PhD, MBE, APRN, FAANP, FPCN, FAAN

Assistant Attending Behavioral Scientist,
Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center;
2021 Cambia Health Foundation Sojourns Scholar;
2024 RWJF Harold Amos Scholar;
Editor-in-Chief, *Psycho-Oncology*;
Co-Chair, The *Lancet Respiratory Medicine* Commission on
Palliative Care Integration in Serious Respiratory Illness
New York, NY, USA

[@BillyRosaPhD](https://twitter.com/BillyRosaPhD)

Dr. Billy Rosa is an Assistant Attending Behavioral Scientist at Memorial Sloan Kettering (MSK). He received his PhD and Master of Bioethics from the University of Pennsylvania, completed MSK's Hospice & Palliative Medicine Interdisciplinary Clinical Fellowship, and served as Co-Chief Fellow of MSK's NIH/NCI T32 Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Psychosocial, Palliative, and Community Research in Cancer. He's the editor of 5 books and has contributed more than 300 publications in journals and texts. He is Co-Chair of The *Lancet Respiratory Medicine* Commission on Palliative Care Integration in Serious Respiratory Illness and served on the advisory board for the World Innovation Summit for Health and World Health Organization report, *Palliative Care: How Can We Respond to 10 Years of Limited Progress?* He is a Collaborator for The *Lancet* Commission on Cancer and Health System and Commissioner for The *Lancet Oncology* Commission on the Human Crisis of Cancer. He also served on the Writing Committee for The *Lancet* Commission on Breast Cancer report and the expert panel for the 2024 ASCO Palliative Care Guideline Update. Dr. Rosa is Editor-in-Chief of *Psycho-Oncology*, Associate Editor for Nursing for *Journal of Pain & Symptom Management*, and Editor for the *Journal of Palliative Medicine's Top Ten Tips* series. He is a Cambia Health Foundation Sojourns Scholar, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Harold Amos Scholar, and Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, American Association of Nurse Practitioners, Hospice & Palliative Nursing Association, and the New York Academy of Medicine. Dr. Rosa has been recognized with numerous national and international distinctions, including the International Association for Hospice & Palliative Care's Individual Recognition Award (high-income country category) and the International Council of Nurses' Kim Mo-Im Policy Innovation & Impact Award. In 2024, he was named a Visionary in Hospice & Palliative Care by the American Academy of Hospice & Palliative Medicine. For more information: linktr.ee/billyrosa



Melissa Ross, LICSW

Ross Psychotherapy LLC
Arlington, MA, USA

Melissa Ross, LICSW, is a Boston-based licensed clinical social worker specializing in grief, loss, and serious illness. With over 20 years of experience as a hospice social worker, she offers compassionate, evidence-based support to individuals and families navigating end-of-life experiences, anticipatory grief, and bereavement. Her private practice serves adults of all backgrounds, providing trauma-informed, inclusive, and culturally sensitive care. In addition to her clinical work, Melissa offers training and education to healthcare professionals, community groups, and academic institutions on topics such as caregiver support and the emotional impact of terminal illness.



Rachel Rusch, LCSW, MSW, MA, APHSW-C

Information coming soon.



Alexandra Russo, LCSW

Clinical Social Worker II, Adolescent and Young Adult Program,
Department of Social Work
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
New York, NY, USA

Alexandra Russo is a clinical social worker who has been supporting adolescent and young adult (AYA) patients at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center since the launch of the AYA Program in 2020. With a career in oncology social work dating back to 2013, she has provided psychosocial support and contributed to program development across several hospital settings. Alexandra holds a Master of Social Work from Loyola University Chicago School of Social Work.



Annemarie Samuels, PhD

Associate Professor
Institute of Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology
Leiden University
Leiden, The Netherlands

Dr. Annemarie Samuels is a medical anthropologist and Associate Professor of Cultural Anthropology at Leiden University. She leads several major research initiatives, including the European Research Council–funded project *Globalizing Palliative Care?*, which explores end-of-life practices, policies, and discourses; a Dutch Cancer Foundation project on culturally sensitive communication in palliative care; and a Dutch Science Foundation project, *The Future of Dying*, examining de-medicalized approaches to end-of-life care. A former Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow at Leiden and Harvard Universities, Dr. Samuels is an expert in ethnographic research methods. Her work focuses on the globalization and cultural dimensions of palliative care, non-disclosure preferences, and social inequalities in access to care. She is co-editor (with Prof. David Clark) of the forthcoming Research Handbook on *End of Life Care and Society* (expected September 2025).



Teddy Scheel, LCSW, MPH

Social Work Supervisor
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center
San Francisco, CA, USA

Teddy Scheel, LCSW, MPH, is a social work supervisor at the UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, where he co-leads the Oncology Social Work Department. He also serves as a palliative care social worker within UCSF's Division of Palliative Medicine.



Johanna Schoen, PhD

Co-Chair, Patient and Family Advisory Council for Quality (PFACQ)
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
New York, NY, USA

Dr. Johanna Schoen is a caregiver volunteer and co-chair of the Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFACQ) at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, where she has served since 2017. She also sits on the Ethics and LGBTQ Committees and is dedicated to improving end-of-life communication between clinicians, patients, and caregivers. Professionally, Dr. Schoen is a professor of history at Rutgers University–New Brunswick, specializing in the history of medicine. She is the author of *Choice and Coercion and Abortion After Roe*—the latter awarded the Welch Medal by the American Association for the History of Medicine—and editor of *Abortion Care as Moral Work*. Her current book project explores the history of Neonatal Intensive Care Units. She lives in Lambertville, NJ, with her wife, Bev, and their black lab, George.



Susan Seo, MD, FACP, FIDSA

Director, Antibiotic Management Program;
Clinical Member, Infectious Disease Service
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center;
Professor of Clinical Medicine, Weill Cornell Medical College
New York, NY, USA

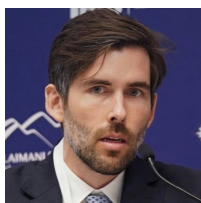
Dr. Susan Seo serves as Director of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK). She is an Attending Physician with the Infectious Disease Service at MSK and a Professor of Clinical Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College.



Bryan A. Sisk, MD, MSCI

Assistant Professor
Washington University School of Medicine
St. Louis, MO, USA
[@Sisk_MD](#)

Dr. Bryan A. Sisk is a board-certified pediatric hematologist-oncologist specializing in blood disorders and pediatric cancer. His research focuses on understanding the functions and outcomes of communication in pediatric care, particularly in oncology. He is working to develop a validated survey instrument to assess communication outcomes and ultimately aims to create interventions that support difficult conversations, using the tool to measure their impact.



J. Mac Skelton, PhD

Executive Director
Institute of Regional & Intl. Studies (IRIS)
American University of Iraq, Sulaimani
Sulaymaniyah, Iraq
[@mac_skelton](#)

Dr. J. Mac Skelton is Executive Director of the Institute of Regional and International Studies (IRIS) and a Research Fellow at King's College London. Trained as a sociocultural anthropologist, he has led research in Iraq, Lebanon, and Yemen, with a focus on the long-term health impacts of conflict in the Middle East. He has directed donor-funded studies on humanitarian policy, conflict systems, and displacement, and is a contributor to the Brown University Costs of War Project. Dr. Skelton holds a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University and recently completed a visiting fellowship at the London School of Economics Middle East Centre.



Katherine Sleeman, BSc, MBBS, PhD FRCP

Laing Galazka Chair in Palliative Care
Cicely Saunders Institute
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[@kesleeman](#)

Professor Katherine Sleeman is the Laing Galazka Chair in Palliative Care, at the Cicely Saunders Institute, King's College London, and an Honorary Consultant in Palliative Medicine at King's College Hospital NHS Trust. Katherine's research uses a variety of methods, particularly routine data analysis, and focuses on the intersection between palliative care and policy. She leads the Marie Curie Better End of Life programme, and from January 2024 will be the Director of the new NIHR Policy Research Unit for palliative and end-of-life care. In 2019 Katherine received the inaugural Women in Palliative Care award from the European Association of Palliative Care, and in 2020 she received a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust fellowship to strengthen public and policy engagement in palliative care.



Dingle Spence, MBBS, Dip. Pall Med, FRCR

Consultant in Oncology & Palliative Medicine;
Adjunct Lecturer
University of the West Indies, Mona
Kingston, Jamaica

[@dingleja](#)

Dr. Dingle Spence is a Jamaican physician trained in Clinical Oncology and Palliative Medicine. She recently retired after two decades leading the Hope Institute Hospital, Jamaica's only dedicated oncology and palliative care facility. An Adjunct Lecturer at the University of the West Indies, Mona, she continues to teach palliative care to students and healthcare professionals. With additional training in Traditional Chinese Medicine, homeopathy, Reiki, shamanic energy medicine, and psychedelic facilitation, Dr. Spence embraces an integrative approach to cancer and palliative care. Her work includes publications on cultural and spiritual care in Jamaica and contributions to the Lancet Breast Cancer Commission on complementary medicine. In October 2024, she received the Order of Distinction, a national honor recognizing her impact on oncology and palliative care in Jamaica.



Lesley Taylor, MD

Associate Clinical Professor,
Division of Breast Surgery, Department of Surgery
City of Hope National Medical Center
Duarte, CA, USA

Dr. Lesley Taylor is a breast surgical oncologist at City of Hope (COH) with over 14 years of experience advancing breast cancer diagnosis and treatment in Ethiopia through global health initiatives. In collaboration with faculty from COH and Hawassa University Comprehensive and Specialized Referral Hospital (HUCSRH), she co-developed the *COH-Ethiopia Breast Cancer Initiative*—a comprehensive program focused on oncology research capacity, patient advocacy, and pathology services. Dr. Taylor also helped develop the *Comprehensive Oncology Nurse Training program*—a train-the-trainer initiative for oncology nursing education in Africa—and co-created the instructional film *Breast Examination Instruction: Teaching Providers How to Perform a Clinical Breast Exam*, which has been widely viewed by midwives and primary care providers in Nigeria and Ethiopia. In collaboration with African and COH pathologists, she launched the *Pathology Training Project in Africa* that has reached over 100 participants across nine sub-Saharan African countries. In 2023, Dr. Taylor and her colleagues were honored by the College of American Pathologists for their project *Improving Breast Cancer Treatment Through Surgical-Pathology Education in Africa*. She currently serves as a Technical Consultant to the WHO Global Breast Cancer Initiative Working Group 3, and her work has been recognized by the Biden Administration as supporting Cancer Moonshot priorities.



Frederic Ivan L. Ting, MD, MCM(MO), MAN, FPCP, FPSMO, FPSO, FSASS

Head of Cancer Research
Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital;
Associate Dean – College of Medicine
University of St. La Salle
Bacolod City, Negros Occidental, Philippines

Dr. Fred Ting is a Clinician Scientist in Medical Oncology, Health Systems Shaper, and Academician whose work bridges clinical care, research, and healthcare transformation. His interests include health systems, medical education, solid tumors, and palliative care. He has published widely in international journals and received multiple awards for his contributions. Driven by a commitment to equity, his vision is that every person with cancer receives standard care—regardless of age, race, gender, geography, or financial status.



Dorothy W. Tolchin, MD, EdM

Director of Disability Education;
Co-Director, Aging and End of Life (Geriatrics and Palliative Care)
Societal Theme
Harvard Medical School
Boston, MA, USA

Dr. Dorothy W. Tolchin is Director of Medical Student Education for the Harvard Medical School/Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital/Mass General Brigham PM&R Department and leads Disability and End-of-Life Education at Harvard Medical School. Her work focuses on advancing education in rehabilitation, palliative care, disability, and interprofessional collaboration. She chairs the Psychiatry/Palliative Care Task Force of the Association of Academic Psychiatrists and is active nationally and internationally in mentorship and curriculum development. Dr. Tolchin holds an AB, EdM, and MD from Harvard and completed specialty training at Harvard and Columbia University.



Mark Cheong Wing Loong, Mpharm, MBA, MA, PhD, FRSPH

Senior Lecturer and Deputy Head of School (Education),
School of Pharmacy
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