

#MSKWHPCD
#WHPCDay23
#CompassionateCommunities



OCTOBER 3-4, 2023

4th Annual U.S. Celebration of **World Hospice and Palliative Care Day**

A Virtual Coming Together

COMPLIMENTARY VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

World Hospice and Palliative Care Day (WHPCD) is a **global day of action** to celebrate and support hospice and palliative care around the world. This conference will **increase awareness and understanding of holistic needs of people living with life-limiting illness and their families.**

CO-HOSTED BY
MSK Supportive Care Service
MSK Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

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World Hospice and Palliative Care Day

2023

World Hospice and Palliative Care Day (WHPCD) is a **global day of action** to celebrate and support hospice and palliative care around the world.

The theme for 2023 is **Compassionate Communities: Together for Palliative Care**. Compassion is defined as a strong feeling of empathy for people who are suffering and a desire to help them. The ‘true meaning’ of compassion is to recognise the suffering of others and then actually take action to help. There is a continued need to come together to support communities and each other now more than ever. Palliative care is a shared responsibility. Palliative care improves the quality of life of people facing serious illnesses, not just at the end of life but throughout the whole trajectory of the illness right from diagnosis. It also encompasses the health and well-being of caregivers which includes grief and bereavement support.

Compassionate communities care for people, assist people to live in the place they call home, connect people to services, and raise awareness about end-of-life issues. In recent years, hundreds of compassionate communities have been developed all around the world. We believe that palliative care working alongside compassionate communities multiplies the ability to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable in our communities.

We invite you to attend the 4th Annual U.S. Celebration of World Hospice & Palliative Care Day, a complimentary virtual Conference hosted by Memorial Sloan Kettering.



Overview

Access to palliative care is a right to the highest standard of health and an integral component of universal health coverage for patients with serious illness and their caregivers. This innovative 2-day virtual Conference is a U.S.-based “coming together” that strives to foster cross-cultural community building and both scientific and experiential wisdom sharing. A multidisciplinary group of palliative care leaders at the forefront of research, policy, and clinical practice will present on diverse topics, including serious illness communication, palliative care needs of patients with cancer and other life-limiting illnesses, and care for historically minoritized and marginalized populations.

Condensed over two half-days, this year’s virtual program includes:

- Special **breakout sessions** will include experts on bereavement, palliative sedation, serious illness communication, and palliative care in the non-cancer population.
- A highlight of this meeting will be dedicated sessions on the **patient and caregiver experiences**.
- A special **Palliative Care Story Exchange** will aim to bring together our global community to share openly, listen deeply, and find solace and meaning in our shared experiences as clinicians and caregivers.
- We will feature presentations from **palliative care leaders across the world** on methods for program implementation from Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean.
- Participants will engage in discussions with **interprofessional and internationally based presenters** about patient, family, and community implications for palliative care practice and scholarship.

The 2023 WHPCD theme, **Compassionate Communities: Together for Palliative Care**, will be a cornerstone throughout this year’s conference.

This program is co-hosted by Memorial Sloan Kettering’s **Supportive Care Service** and the **Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences**.

Who Should Attend

This virtual Conference is focused on the care of seriously ill patients and their caregivers, and is appropriate for national and international health care workers including and not limited to physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, social workers, chaplains, psychiatrists, psychologists, pharmacists, and patient advocates regardless of specialty palliative care or oncology experience. **We proudly welcome all members of the community to join on a complimentary basis.**



2023 Conference Dates and Times

In effort to make this program as accessible as possible, the program will be broken up into two half-days - one morning session and one afternoon session. Please note that this Conference will be held virtually (via Zoom). Detailed access and participation instructions will be emailed to registered attendees prior to the start of the program.

Day 1, Tuesday, October 3

New York (ET): 7:55 AM - 1:20 PM

California (PT): 4:55 AM - 10:20 AM

West Africa (UST): 12:55 - 6:20 PM

India (IST): 5:25 - 10:50 PM

Day 2, Wednesday, October 4

New York (ET): 11:55 AM - 6:10 PM

California (PT): 8:55 AM - 3:10 PM

West Africa (UST): 4:55 - 11:10 PM

India (IST): 9:25 PM - 3:40 AM (next day)

Online Syllabus

Registered attendees will receive **access to an online syllabus after the Conference**, which includes select PDFs of the faculty presentations (slides) and recorded videos from the course. Attendees must check in on the day of the course in order to receive access to the syllabus.

Educational Objectives

By attending this Conference, learners will be able to:

- Apply interdisciplinary approaches to address patient and family needs across the domains of palliative care to improve quality of life and alleviate serious health-related suffering.
- Address health disparities in hospice and palliative care and identify actionable methods to promote social justice.
- Discuss national and global advocacy efforts to promote universal access to palliative care as a component of universal health coverage.
- Describe evidence-based approaches and advances in symptom management, serious illness communication, bereavement, and advance care planning
- Describe ethical dilemmas encountered throughout the serious illness trajectory and employ best practices using interdisciplinary models.

MSK Planning Committee

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Conference Director

BILLY ROSA, PHD, MBE, APRN, FAANP, FPCN, FAAN

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Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
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2021 Cambia Health Foundation Sojourns Scholar



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Nurse Practitioner
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Conference Co-Director

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Program Manager, Ethics Committee and
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LAUREN AKUA KORANTENG, PHARM.D, BCPS

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist
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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.

Conference Faculty

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Jimmie C. Holland Chair in Psychiatric Oncology
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ALISON WIESENTHAL, MD

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Chief, Palliative Care Services
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Refer to page 12 for biographies of the
Conference faculty.




Schedule

All times listed below are Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)

Each presentations will conclude with a discussion/Q&A with the faculty

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

7:55 AM	Attendee Sign On to Zoom	
8:00 AM	Welcome and Orientation Billy Rosa, PhD, MBE, APRN, FAANP, FPCN, FAAN Judith Nelson, MD, JD William Breitbart, MD, FACLP, DFAPA, FAPOS	
8:15 AM	OPENING KEYNOTE MODERATOR: Shila Pandey, DNP, AGPCNP-BC, ACHPN  Annual World Hospice and Palliative Care Day Lectureship: Care, Compassion, and Community M.R. Rajagopal, MD Chairman Emeritus, Pallium India Director, Trivandrum Institute of Palliative Sciences Trivandrum, India	
9:00 AM	Q&A and Discussion	
9:15 AM	Weaving the Global Narrative of Palliative Change Agents on the Ground MODERATOR: Billy Rosa, PhD, MBE, APRN, FAANP, FPCN, FAAN Jamaica • Dingle Spence, MBBS, Dip Pall Med, FRCR Sudan • Nahla Gafer, MD, MSc Uganda • Eve Namisango, Msc, PhD Mexico • Felicia Marie Knaul, PHD	
10:00 AM	Q&A and Discussion	
10:15 AM	Break	
10:20 AM	Breakout Sessions	
	SESSION A Transitional Bereavement Care MODERATOR: Liz Blackler, MBE, LCSW-R FACULTY: Wendy Lichtenhal, PhD, FT Lauren Breen, PhD	SESSION B Approaches to Community-Based Palliative Care Provision MODERATOR: Lauren Akua Koranteng, PharmD, BCPS FACULTY: Danetta Sloan, PhD, MSW, MA Mrs. Malissa Spaulding Jennifer Tjia, MD, MS Susan DeSanto-Madeya, PhD, RN, FPCN, FAAN
11:05 AM	Q&A and Discussion	Q&A and Discussion
11:20 AM	Break	



11:30 AM	<p>Clinician-Patient Conversation Frank Licciardi <i>MSK Patient and Family Advisory Council for Quality (PFACQ) Member</i> MODERATOR: Andrew Epstein, MD, FAAHPM</p>
12:00 PM	<p>Q&A and Discussion</p>
12:15 PM	<p>Top Ten Tips Palliative Care Clinicians Should Know MODERATOR: Christopher Jones, MD, MBA <i>Top Ten Tips Palliative Care Clinicians Should Know About:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioral Pain Management for Persistent Pain James Gerhart, PhD • Anorexia / Cachexia David Blum, MD, PhD Barry Laird, MBChB, MD, MRCGP
1:00 PM	<p>Q&A and Discussion</p>
1:15 PM	<p>Closing Summary Billy Rosa, PhD, MBE, APRN, FAANP, FPCN, FAAN</p>
1:20 PM	<p>Adjourn</p>


Wednesday, October 4, 2023

11:55 AM	<p>Attendee Sign On to Zoom</p>
12:00 PM	<p>Opening Remarks and Welcome Billy Rosa, PhD, MBE, APRN, FAANP, FPCN, FAAN</p>
12:05 PM	<p>Palliative Justice for Minoritized and Marginalized Peoples MODERATOR: Liz Blackler, MBE, LCSW-R</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care for Marginalized People Afsan Bhadelia, PhD • Communication Needs of People of Color Crystal Brown, MD, MA • Care for the LGBTQ+ Population Katherine Bristowe, PhD, MA, BA (Hons), FHEA Debbie Braybrook, BSc, PhD
12:50 PM	<p>Q&A and Discussion</p>
1:05 PM	<p>The Palliative Story Exchange: A Storytelling Intervention MODERATORS: Richard Leiter, MD, MA Alexis Drutchas, MD Rachel Rusch, LCSW, MSW, MA, APHSW-C</p>
1:50 PM	<p>Q&A and Discussion</p>



2:05 PM	<p>Clinician-Caregiver Conversation Amy Hamblin, MFA <i>Caregiver and spouse of the late palliative care pioneer, Dr. Jared Randall Curtis.</i> MODERATOR: Billy Rosa, PhD, MBE, APRN, FAANP, FPCN, FAAN</p>	
2:35PM	<p>Q&A and Discussion</p>	
2:50 PM	<p>Break</p>	
3:00 PM	<p>Breakout Sessions</p>	
	<p>SESSION A Serious Illness Communication: Advances, Debates, and Next Steps MODERATOR: Andrew Epstein, MD, FAAHPM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of a Meta-Analysis of Advance Care Planning and Goal Concordant Care Kristin Levoy, PhD, MSN, RN, OCN, CNE • Acceptability of a Serious Illness Conversation Guide for African American Patients Justin Sanders, MD, MSc • Expansion of VitalTalk to Japan Shunichi Nakagawa, MD 	<p>SESSION B Palliative Care for Non-Cancer Conditions MODERATOR: Lauren Akua Koranteng, PharmD, BCPS <i>Palliative Care for End Stage:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardiac Conditions Shellie Feder, PhD, APRN, FNP-C, ACHPN, FPCN • Pulmonary Conditions Donald Sullivan, MD, MA, MCR • Liver Disease Cristal Brown, MD, MHS
3:45 PM	<p>Q&A and Discussion</p>	<p>Q&A and Discussion</p>
4:00 PM	<p>Break</p>	
4:05 PM	<p>INVITED RAPID FIRE TALKS Compassionate Communities: Together for Palliative Care MODERATOR: Shila Pandey, DNP, AGPCNP-BC, ACHPN <i>Brief 10-minute Presentations on the Following Topics:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Appalachia Tracy Fasolino, PhD, APRN • TransTasman Tele-Palliative Care: Challenges and Opportunities for Compassionate Service Delivery Aileen Collier, BSc(Hons), PhD • Geographic Mapping of Palliative Care Access in Malaysia Malar Velli Segarmurthy, MD, MPH • Serving Those Who Serve: Front Lines of Military Palliative Care Alison Wiesenthal, MD • Palliation for Health Workers Through Organizational Compassion Rachel Thienprayoon, MD, MSCS 	
4:55 PM	<p>Q&A and Discussion</p>	



5:15 PM	Break
5:20 PM	CLOSING KEYNOTE MODERATOR: Billy Rosa, PhD, MBE, APRN, FAANP, FPCN, FAAN  Dr. Richard Payne Lecture on Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging in Serious Illness: <i>Listening to the Silent Screams</i> Corey L. Kennard, MACM Patient Experience Manager, Ascension St. John Hospital Pastor, Amplify Christian Church Detroit, Michigan
5:50 PM	Q&A and Discussion
6:05 PM	Closing Remarks and Thank You Billy Rosa, PhD, MBE, APRN, FAANP, FPCN, FAAN
6:10 PM	Adjourn

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 **10.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™**. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

ANCC CNE Statement

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center–Nursing Professional Development / Continuing Education is accredited with distinction as a provider of nursing continuing professional development (NCPD) by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation.

10.75 contact hours will be awarded to participants who attend the program in its entirety and complete a program evaluation. Partial credit not awarded.

Continuing Education for Licensed Psychologists in New York State*

This event offers 10.75 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.

Social Work Accreditation Statement**

This presentation is approved for a maximum of **10.75 Continuing Education Contact Hours of Live Virtual Training**.

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center is recognized by the New York State Education Department’s State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers #SW-0228.

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

**Not all states accept NYS CEUs. Please check with the licensing board in your state for guidance on their acceptance of the credit types offered for this course.

Complimentary registration:

mskcc.org/whpcd

FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES

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



We'd like to extend a special thank you to **Frank Licciardi** and **Amy Hamblin** for participating in this year's Conference.



FRANK LICCIARDI

[Patient]

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AMY HAMBLIN, MFA

[Caregiver]

Advisory Board, Cambia Palliative Care Center of Excellence, University of Washington
Advisory Board, Creative Aging Program, Frye Art Museum,
Seattle, WA

Caregiver and spouse of the late palliative care pioneer, Dr. Jared Randall Curtis.



AFSAN BHADELIA, PHD

Assistant Professor
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Afsan Bhadelia, PhD, MS (she/her) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health at Purdue University. She has been working in global health and conducting comparative systems research for two decades. Using mixed methods, she applies an equity and justice lens towards the advancement of value-based health systems that are grounded in and informed by the lived experience of patients and caregivers. Dr. Bhadelia has been developing new methodologies and metrics at the convergence of public health, complexity science, public policy, ethics, and economics to examine social and structural determinants of health. She uses chronic diseases, particularly cancer and palliative care, as tracers of health systems performance, and examines health and health systems from a gender perspective. Her transdisciplinary research promotes public discourse and community partnership in knowledge generation around health with the aim of citizen-driven priority-setting and implementation that is in alignment with societal values.

Dr. Bhadelia was previously a Fulbright U.S. Scholar, an Albert Schweitzer Fellow, and an NIMHD Health Disparities Research Institute Scholar. She was awarded the Presidential Award for Citizenship and Public Service by the Office of the President at Tufts University as well as the Mary and Carl Taylor Award and the Gordis Fellowship at Johns Hopkins University for excellence in service, teaching, and research, respectively. She is a member of multiple Lancet Commissions, including the Lancet Commission on the Value of Death and the Lancet Commission on Cancer and Health Systems. She co-chaired the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Lancet Commission on Global Access to Palliative Care and Pain Relief and lead co-authored its seminal report. Dr. Bhadelia has published in leading medical and health policy journals such as Health Affairs and The Lancet, and co-edited and co-authored the book "Closing the Cancer Divide: An Equity Imperative."

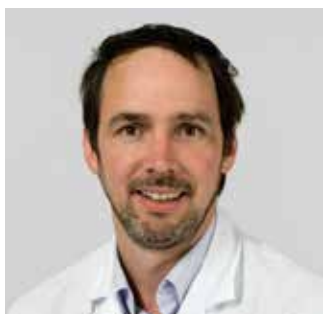


LIZ BLACKLER, MBE, LCSW-R

Program Manager, Ethics Committee
and Consultation Service
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
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Liz Blackler, MBE, LCSW-R is the Program Manager for the Ethics Committee at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. She is an experienced Clinical Ethics Consultant with a Master of Science in Bioethics from Albert Einstein College of Medicine-Benjamin Cardozo School of Law and a Master of Science in Social Work from Columbia University.

Her clinical interests involve end-of-life communication, decision-making and mediation. Her academic focus is on bioethics education and training of clinical staff.



DAVID BLUM, MD, PHD

Professor, Universitätsspital Zürich -
University Hospital Zurich (USZ UZH)
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Prof David Blum is certified in Internal Medicine and Oncology and is a specialist in Palliative care. He worked at the European Palliative Research Center in Trondheim Norway, the Cicely Saunders Institute London, UK and the University Clinic Eppendorf, Hamburg Germany. Since 2019 he is Assistant Professor for Palliative Care at USZ/UZH Zurich.

His research encompasses cachexia, symptom assessment and digitalization and early integration of palliative care



DEBBIE BRAYBROOK, BSC, PHD

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[@DEBraybrook](#)

Debbie Braybrook, BSc, PhD is primarily a qualitative researcher with a background in the sociology of health and illness, and a focus on identities, close relationships and health-related communication. In 2018, she joined the Cicely Saunders Institute to work towards inclusive health-related communication for LGBT+ patients living with serious illness and their significant others. The study highlighted the challenges that persist in care, and the clear need for freely available, evidence-based resources and training. She is now co-leading a project that aims to ensure the resources are utilised in practice to support person-centred palliative care for LGBT+ people.

As a founding member of the European Association for Palliative Care task force for LGBT+ Inclusive Palliative & End-of-Life Care, Debbie is working alongside colleagues committed to equitable care for LGBT+ people across 16 countries. The task force has co-produced guidance informed by international evidence, and translations are now underway. Debbie is committed to facilitating meaningful research involvement for patients and the public, across all of her work. She is excited that her research and PPI work supports active engagement with intersectionality, inclusivity and equity.



LAUREN BREEN, PHD

Professor, School of Population Health
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Lauren Breen, PhD, FT is a Professor of Psychology and Discipline Lead of Mental Health Psychology at Curtin University, Perth, Australia. Lauren's 150+ publications show substantial breadth across multiple areas of dying, death, and bereavement. She is passionate about communicating her research findings to health professionals and the wider community, both within her own country and around the world, and translating her research into policy and practice.

Lauren is a Fellow of the Australian Psychological Society; a Fellow in Thanatology: Death, Dying and Bereavement; a member of the International Work Group on Death, Dying and Bereavement; and Managing Editor of *Death Studies*.

In 2022, she received the Association for Death Education and Counseling's Research Recognition Award. Lauren is on the Board of the Grief Australia and Lionheart Camp for Kids. She recently delivered a TEDx talk on grief, which so far has been viewed over 50,000 times. Along with Dr. Carrie Arnold, she is co-editor of the forthcoming "Routledge International Handbook of Child and Adolescent Grief in Contemporary Contexts".



WILLIAM BREITBART, MD

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William Breitbart, MD is Chairman, The Jimmie C. Holland Chair in Psychiatric Oncology, and Attending Psychiatrist, Psychiatry Service in the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY. He is the recipient of Lifetime Achievement Awards from the International Psycho-oncology Society (IPOS), the Academy of Psychosomatic Medicine, the American Psychosocial Oncology Society (APOS), and the American Cancer Society.

Dr. Breitbart also served as President Emeritus of IPOS. Dr. Breitbart's research efforts focus on psychiatric aspects of cancer and palliative care. His most recent efforts focus on Meaning-Centered Psychotherapy for cancer patients. He has had continuous NIH RO1 funding of investigator initiated research since 1989. Dr. Breitbart was PI of the "Network Project, NCI R25 grant (1992-98) which trained clinicians in cancer pain management and psycho-oncology.

He is currently PI of R25 CA190169 which is training a national cohort of cancer care clinicians in Meaning Centered Psychotherapy. He has over 400 peer review publications, chapters and review papers, and 13 textbooks including: *Psycho-oncology* - 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Editions; the treatment manuals for *Meaning-Centered Group Psychotherapy in Advanced Cancer Patients*, and *Individual Meaning-Centered Psychotherapy for Advanced Cancer Patient*; and *Meaning Centered Psychotherapy in the Cancer Setting* from Oxford University Press. Dr. Breitbart is Editor-in-Chief, of Cambridge University Press' international palliative care journal entitled, "Palliative & Supportive Care".



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Katherine Bristowe, PhD, MA, BA (Hons), FHEA is the Herbert Dunhill Lecturer at the Cicely Saunders Institute of Palliative Care, Policy & Rehabilitation, King's College London. She is a qualitative methodologist with a background in sociolinguistics and health communication research. Her programme of research focuses on: widening access to palliative and bereavement care for people from minoritised and marginalised groups including the LGBT+ communities, and people from minoritised ethnic groups and improving communication between health and social care professionals and service users in the context of advanced illness.

As a qualitative methodologist she contributes to a diverse portfolio of research studies in the context of: serious and advanced illness, bereavement, HIV, COPD, kidney disease, frailty, breathlessness, development and evaluation of complex interventions to improve health and social care, development and validation of person centred outcome measures, and development and refinement of theories in the context of palliative care and bereavement.



CRYSTAL BROWN, MD, MA

Assistant Professor of Medicine
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Bioethics
and Humanities
Department of Medicine
University of Washington
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Crystal Brown, MD, MA is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine and an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Bioethics and Humanities at the University of Washington. She has a K23 from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities and is a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Harold Amos Scholar.

Dr. Brown's research focuses on healthcare inequities experienced by racially minoritized patients during serious illness and at end-of-life.



CRISTAL BROWN, MD, MHS

Assistant Professor
Gastroenterology and Hepatology
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[@Dr_Latanza](#)

Cristal Brown, MD, MHS is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School. She is a board-certified transplant hepatologist, managing patients with acute and chronic liver diseases.

Dr. Brown's research focus is improving the end of life experience for patients with end-stage liver disease by identifying and developing innovative interventions to address gaps in serious illness conversations throughout the trajectory of illness.

Her long-term research goal is to improve the delivery of goal-concordant care to patients with advanced liver disease by increasing goals of care discussions, particularly in patients from disadvantaged populations.



Aileen Collier, BSc(Hons), PhD, an Associate Professor, has worked as a specialist palliative care nurse in a diverse range of settings in Scotland and Aotearoa New Zealand as well as Australia. Her research program is focused on safety, quality and equity of palliative care. She is passionate about building research capacity of nurses and other clinicians.

Aileen's research interests and teaching philosophy undergirds a commitment to her practical work, with moral and pragmatic questions always being anchored to clinical 'realities'.

She is interdisciplinary in inclination and is an advocate of interdisciplinary research that brings together diverse disciplines in response to 'wicked' problems.

AILEEN COLLIER, BSC(HONS), PHD

Associate Professor, Palliative Care
and Aged Care Nursing
Research Centre for Palliative Care
Death and Dying
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Adelaide, South Australia
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Susan DeSanto-Madeya, PhD, RN, FPCN, FAAN is the Interim Associate Dean, Professor and Miriam Weyker Endowed Chair for Palliative Care at the University of Rhode Island, College of Nursing. She is a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN), Fellow in Palliative Care Nursing (FPCN), and a Cambia Foundation Sojourns Palliative Care Scholar Leader.

As a nationally recognized Palliative Care leader, scholar, and advocate, Dr. DeSanto-Madeya has been influential in advancing palliative care education, science, and policy. She is passionate about promoting equity, and inclusion in palliative care and optimizing the quality-of-life and care for persons, families, and communities living with serious illness. Dr. DeSanto-Madeya is committed to providing the next generation of healthcare professionals with the knowledge and skills needed to deliver high-quality, goal-concordant care. Her research interests and current work in palliative and end-of-life care have evolved from over 25 years of clinical experiences working with adult populations in a variety of settings from the intensive care unit to the community. Her work through direct patient/family care and research with varying populations has demonstrated that physical, psychological, social, and spiritual pain, distress, and suffering negatively influence patients' and family's quality of life and death.

As a palliative care leader, researcher, innovator and advocate, Dr. DeSanto-Madeya has led major palliative care initiatives at the local, state and national level. She is a mPI on a NIH/NINR funded RO1: Structural Racism and Engagement of Family Caregivers in Serious Illness Care (Equity in Caregiving). She is chair of the American Academy of Nursing Palliative and End-of-Life Expert panel, Board member for HopeHealth, and Executive Board member and Vice-chair for the Partnership to Reduce Cancer Rhode Island.

Dr. DeSanto-Madeya is an active member in the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA), Massachusetts Coalition for Serious Illness, and the International NeuroPalliative Care Society (INPCS). She is a co-founder and was the inaugural president for the HPNA Rhode Island chapter. She has authored numerous papers and chapters related to palliative and end-of-life care, as well as presented nationally and internationally.

Dr. DeSanto-Madeya received her BSN from East Stroudsburg University, her MSN and PhD from Widener University.

**SUSAN DESANTO-MADEYA,
PHD, RN, FPCN, FAAN**

Associate Dean; Professor; Weyker
Endowed Chair for Palliative Care
University of Rhode Island,
College of Nursing
Kingston, RI

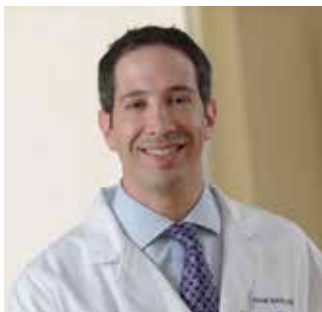


ALEXIS DRUTCHAS, MD

Palliative Care Attending Physician
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Geriatric Medicine
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Alexis Drutchas, MD is a palliative care physician at Massachusetts General Hospital. She trained in Family Medicine at Brown University, during which time she co-founded the Rhode Island Trans Health Conference. Following residency, Alexis worked as a primary care physician at Fenway Health, a nationally known LGBTQ+ health center in Boston. She was the Director of Women's Health at Fenway from 2018-2019, at which time she left to pursue a fellowship in palliative care. Alexis completed the Harvard Interprofessional Palliative Care Fellowship Program in 2020. She remained at MGH thereafter as a faculty member on the inpatient palliative care service. While on the inpatient service she supervises fellows and residents, teaches serious illness communication with The Continuum Project, and co-leads the fellowship's health equity education efforts. Alexis was selected to be a 2022 Cambridge Health Alliance Health Equity Scholar.

Alexis is also an avid writer and was chosen to be a 2021 OpEd Project Public Voices Fellow, which is a national program that seeks to uplift historically under-represented voices. Her work has been featured in The New England Journal of Medicine, NBC, CNN, Newsweek, Health Affairs, and The Boston Globe among others. Alexis co-founded The Palliative Story Exchange in 2020, which seeks to build community, foster meaning, and increase resilience and sustainability for interprofessional palliative care clinicians through storytelling. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her wife and their son.



ANDREW EPSTEIN, MD, FAAHPM

Associate Attending
Medical Oncology and Supportive
Care Services
2017 Cambia Health Foundation
Sojourns Scholar

Andrew Epstein, MD, FAAHPM is an Associate Attending at Memorial Sloan Kettering and an Associate Professor of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical Center. He has completed fellowships in Palliative Medicine and Medical Oncology and holds joint appointments at MSK in GI Medical Oncology and Supportive Care.

His research focuses on improving the delivery of care to patients and their families by optimally integrating cancer care with palliative medicine. He has received grant funding for research in patient-physician communication and advance care planning from various organizations including from ASCO, the National Palliative Care Research Center, the Cambia Health Foundation, and the NIH. In 2019,

Dr. Epstein was named an Emerging Leader in Hospice and Palliative Medicine by AAHPM. In collaboration with the MSK Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, he teaches communication skills to fellows at Memorial. Since starting it at MSK in 2013, he leads the case-based interprofessional and psychosocial Schwartz Rounds at MSK.

On the national level, he is active in palliative oncology, serving as Chair of ASCO's Palliative Oncology Symposium program committee in 2019, and he is a member of the NCCN Palliative Care Guidelines panel.



TRACY FASOLINO, PHD, APRN

Professor, Distinguished Palliative
Care Leader
Clemson University School of Nursing
Clemson, SC

Tracy Fasolino, PhD, APRN is a Professor, Board Certified Hospice & Palliative Care Nurse, and Family Nurse Practitioner with Clemson University and Bon Secours St. Francis. She has more than 20 years of bedside experience and is passionate about advancing healthcare research and evidence-based practice in palliative care for individuals with chronic and serious illnesses living in rural communities.

As an educator, she focuses on sharing her knowledge and skills at all levels of the interdisciplinary healthcare team. She strives to introduce novel strategies for educating pre-licensure and practicing nurses using various platforms, such as podcasts and short educational videos known as 'Just in Time' Learning.

As a researcher, she is focused on addressing policy and legislation for access to palliative care and hospice services for rural communities, particularly in Appalachia.



**SHELLI FEDER, PHD, APRN,
FNP-C, ACHPN, FPCN**

Assistant Professor
Associate Director, Yale National
Clinician Scholars Program
Yale University School of Nursing
Orange, CT
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Shelli Feder, PhD, APRN, FNP-C, ACHPN, FPCN is an Assistant Professor at the Yale School of Nursing, Associate Director of the Yale National Clinician Scholars Program, and an organizational health services researcher. She has over a decade of clinical experience as an advanced practice nurse in hospice and palliative care settings.

Dr. Feder's program of research develops, evaluates, and implements novel models of palliative care delivery that expand access and improve care quality for people with cardiopulmonary conditions with a focus on Veterans' health and people with heart failure. Dr. Feder's research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health/National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, the Hartford Centers for Gerontological Nursing Excellence, the Palliative Care Research Cooperative, and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Her current funded study seeks to identify best practices in palliative care and end-of-life care delivery for Veterans with heart failure using mixed methods.

Dr. Feder has contributed to over 50 academic publications and two book chapters. She was awarded the 2021 New Investigator award from the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association and was selected as the 2021 Eastern Nursing Research Society Rising Star.

Dr. Feder is certified as an Advanced Certified Hospice and Palliative Nurse and is a Fellow in Palliative Care Nursing.



NAHLA GAFER, MD, MSC

Researcher
Head of Palliative Care Unit;
Oncology Department
Khartoum Oncology Hospital
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Nahla Gafer, MD, MSc is a clinical oncologist who completed her MD at Sudan Medical Specialization Board. She has worked for 14 years as oncologist at Khartoum Oncology Hospital, with special interest in breast cancer. She has volunteered to develop a palliative care service there. In 2009 she trained at Hospice Africa Uganda, Initiators Course, and mid 2010 she started the first palliative care clinic in the country. The Palliative Care Unit grew to provide inpatient consultation, outpatient clinics, and home care. More than 6,000 patients passed through the unit receiving specialist palliative care in addition to their cancer treatment. Dr Nahla helped grow the palliative care team by training locally and finding opportunities of training overseas. The team is formed of palliative care doctors, medical officers, palliative care nurses, psychologists and volunteers. Oncology registrars rotate as part of their training.

She was also involved in supporting the establishment of palliative care services in other parts of the country and in the region. She contributed to training activities in Kuwait (WHO EMRO regional workshop), Mauritania through Carideas Sahara and in Gaza Islamic University, online. She received two awards: The IDEA PC from ASCO grant foundation and the title Visionary in Palliative Care from the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. She is an active member of the International Association of Hospice and Palliative Care, and she is interested in research concerning the early integration of palliative care into oncology.

Currently she is completing her PhD in Palliative Care at King's College London. She is a mother of two young men and is currently residing in Cairo after the war broke in Khartoum.



JAMES GERHART, PHD

Associate Professor of Psychology
Director of Clinical Training
Department of Psychology
Central Michigan University
Mt. Pleasant, MI

James Gerhart, PhD received his PhD in Clinical Psychology from Central Michigan University in 2011 and completed a postdoctoral research fellowship in Trauma and Resilience Psychology at Rush University Medical Center.

He conducted research, provided psychological services to patients with cancer, and oversaw psychosocial distress screening at the Rush University Cancer Center before joining the clinical psychology faculty at CMU. His teaching and research interests pertain to the impacts of anger, stress, and trauma in the context of chronic illnesses.



CHRISTOPHER JONES, MD, MBA

Associate Professor of Medicine
Editor-in-Chief, Journal of
Palliative Medicine
Duke Palliative Care
Durham, NC
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Christopher Jones, MD, MBA is an Associate Professor and the Director of Outpatient Palliative Care for Duke Health in Durham, North Carolina. He trained in General Internal Medicine at Brown University and completed fellowships in Geriatric Medicine and Hospice and Palliative Medicine (HPM) at Duke University. His interest in the Business of Medicine, specifically within HPM, led him to complete a Master's of Business Administration degree at East Carolina University.

After 5+ years leading the Specialists/Top Ten Tips series in the Journal of Palliative Medicine, Dr. Jones was asked to succeed Dr. Charles von Gunten as JPM's third Editor-in-Chief in 2023.



**LAUREN AKUA KORANTENG,
PHARMD, BCPS**

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist
Supportive Care Service
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
New York, NY

Lauren Akua Koranteng, PharmD, BCPS is a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in the Department of Pharmacy at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in Manhattan, New York, since 2013. She serves as a member of the interdisciplinary team on the Supportive Care Service, contributing pharmacotherapy expertise both inpatient and outpatient.

She obtained her undergraduate degree from Mount Holyoke College in Neuroscience and Behavior with a minor in Complex Organizations. She earned her Doctor of Pharmacy Degree from Temple University followed by an American Society of Health Systems Pharmacists(ASHP) accredited PGY1 residency at the University at Buffalo/Niagara Hospice and an ASHP accredited PGY2 Pain Management and Palliative Care Residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

She serves as a clinical preceptor to MSK pharmacy residents for the Pain Management and Palliative Care rotation. She is board-certified in pharmacotherapy and has membership in several professional organizations. Her special interests include pain management and access to safe oncology and supportive care medicines in developing countries.



**COREY KENNARD,
MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN
MINISTRY (MACM)**

Pastor, Amplify Christian Church
Director, Interdisciplinary Teams
Amplify Christian Church / Ascension
St. John Hospital
Detroit, MI

Corey Kennard, MACM is Pastor of Amplify Christian Church and also serves as an activist in the field of healthcare. His holistic approach (body, mind, and spirit) serves as the foundation for his desire to see all human beings treated with dignity, honor, and respect. Corey earned a Masters Degree from Ashland Theological Seminary. He's been in the field of healthcare for over 20 years with over 15 years of experience in the areas of Palliative Care and Hospice. As a Certified Patient Experience Professional (CPXP), he currently seeks to enhance the patient/family experience in the healthcare setting as a Hospital Administrator. His work has also included leading a spiritual care team at one of Detroit's largest hospitals, and formerly serving as a Faculty Lead for Duke University's Institute on Care at the End Of Life (ICEOL) national training program called, "APPEAL." In this role, he was instrumental in co-creating a national teaching module for understanding spirituality at the end of life for African-Americans.

Corey has served as a Board Member for the International End of Life Doula Association (INELDA), and as a National Advisory Board Member for The Hospice Foundation of America. He also has served as the Co-Director of a Community Faith Advance Care Planning Project for the University of Virginia. He currently resides on the Board of several national Healthcare related organizations which includes the Cambia Foundation's Sojourns Scholar Leadership Program, and he has been recently appointed as the Board Chair for Reimagine.

Corey has been a New York Times contributing columnist, he's been published in the Journal of Palliative Medicine and has authored two books - "Goliath Must Fall" and "Hamburgers & A Holy Man." He is also a featured author in the book "Shattered: Trauma and Grief," published by Hospice Foundation of America.



FELICIA KNAUL, PHD

Director, University of Miami Institute
for Advanced Study of the Americas
Coral Gables, FL
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Felicia Knaul, PHD has dedicated more than three decades to academic, advocacy, and policy work in global health and social development to reduce inequities focusing on low-and middle-income countries, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean.

She currently serves as the Director of the Institute for Advanced Study of the Americas and the Office of Hemispheric and Global Affairs and is a professor at the Miller School of Medicine at the University of Miami. She is Co-Chair of the Lancet Commission on Gender-based Violence and Maltreatment of Young People and the Lancet Commission on Cancer And Health Systems. She previously chaired the Lancet Commission on Global Access to Palliative Care and Pain Relief and was the lead author of the Commission's final report, "Alleviating the access abyss in palliative care and pain relief -an imperative of universal health coverage."

As a health and social sector economist, she dedicates herself to closing the global cancer and pain divides and promoting access to palliative care, promoting gender equity and eliminating gender-based violence, reducing the impact of child maltreatment, and strengthening health systems around Universal Health Coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals. To address these complex global challenges, Knaul maintains a synergistic program of research and advocacy, including as founding President of Tómatelo a Pecho, a Mexican NGO dedicated to issues around women's health and leading a research group based at the Mexican Health Foundation.

She has also held senior federal government positions in Colombia and Mexico. She has over 300 publications in leading health journals such as The Lancet and has published several books, including one on her cancer journey titled Beauty without the Breast. She is married to Dr. Julio Frenk, and they have two daughters, Sofia Hannah and Mariana Havivah.



BARRY LAIRD, MBChB, MD, MRCGP

Professor; Consultant
University of Edinburgh
Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Barry Laird, MBChB, MD, MRCGP holds positions as a Professor in Palliative Medicine and Supportive Care at the University of Edinburgh, and consultant physician posts in the Edinburgh Cancer Centre and St Columba's Hospice. He graduated in medicine from the University of Glasgow and completed specialist training in palliative medicine. He was awarded a prestigious National Cancer Research Institute fellowship and joined the University of Edinburgh in 2007 (Professor Fallon's Group) where he has remained. Working in the field of supportive oncology and starting cachexia research in 2010, he was awarded a fellowship from the European Palliative Care Research Centre (PRC).

Following his mentorship from the late Professor Ken Fearon, he continues to develop research in cancer cachexia. He is passionate about transforming the landscape of this through improved understanding of the genesis, mechanisms and treatment via an evidence based translational research programme from basic science to clinical trials. He works on a programme of interventional clinical trials in cancer cachexia in either CI or Senior PI roles, has secured over \$5million in funding and supervised doctoral students. His trials range from characterisation work (REVOLUTION), basic interventions (optimal background cachexia care, ENERGY), anti-inflammatory trials (MENAC) and targeted therapies including immunomodulation and cannabinoids.

His work has demonstrated that the host/tumour inflammatory response influences survival, quality of life, lean mass, treatment outcomes and has provided valuable insight into the genesis of cachexia and related symptoms. He has published over 150 papers, is part of ESPEN and ESMO guidelines groups, and is a member of the NIHR Cachexia Group and Cancer Cachexia Society.



RICHARD LEITER, MD, MA

Attending Physician; Instructor
Department of Psychosocial Oncology
and Palliative Care
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Richard Leiter, MD, MA is a co-founder of the Palliative Story Exchange. He is palliative care physician, writer, and researcher at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Brigham and Women's Hospital and an Instructor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. He serves as Director of the Adult Inpatient Palliative Care Consult Service and directs the Dana-Farber Department of Psychosocial Oncology and Palliative Care's Writing Core.

Dr. Leiter received his medical degree and an MA in Medical Humanities and Bioethics at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. He completed Internal Medicine residency and Chief Residency at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center before matriculating to the Harvard Interprofessional Palliative Care Fellowship Program.

Dr. Leiter writes about the intersection of palliative care and ethics, and the emotional experience of working in the field. His writing has been published in the New York Times, The New England Journal of Medicine, STATNews, Journal of Clinical Oncology, and Cell, among others.



KRISTIN LEVOY, PHD, MSN, RN, OCN, CNE

Assistant Professor, Department of Community and Health Systems, Indiana University School of Nursing
Research Scientist, Indiana University Center for Aging Research, Regenstrief Institute
Indianapolis, IN

[@KristinLevoy](#)

Kristin Levoy, PhD, MSN, RN, OCN, CNE is an Assistant Professor at the Indiana University (IU) School of Nursing with a joint appointment as a Research Scientist at the IU Center for Aging Research (IUCAR) at Regenstrief Institute. She is a registered nurse with certifications in oncology nursing and nursing education.

Dr. Levoy's research interest arose from over a decade of experience working with patients and caregivers affected by cancer. Her research focuses on optimizing the care planning processes through which patient and caregiver preparation for the end-of-life can be enhanced across chronic life-limiting illness trajectories, such as cancer. Her inquiry has focused on understanding ways to enhance two key care planning processes—advance care planning and serious illness communication. Her long-term research goal is to develop effective primary palliative care interventions that better support patients and caregivers while living with chronic life-limiting illnesses. Such efforts will leverage novel communication strategies and enhanced caregiver engagement in care delivery as a critical means of improving outcomes.

Dr. Levoy's research has been supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Future of Nursing Scholars Program, the American Cancer Society, a National Institute of Nursing Research institutional training grant, and the National Palliative Care Research Center's Kornfeld Scholars Program.



WENDY LICHTENTHAL, PHD, FT

Director, Center to Advance Bereavement Science, Training, and Care
Associate Professor, Pending Rank
Department of Public Health Sciences
University of Miami, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
Miami, FL

[@wendylic](#)

Wendy Lichtenthal, PhD, FT is Founding Director of the Center to Advance Bereavement Science, Training, and Care at the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center and Associate Professor, Pending Rank, in the Division of Prevention Science and Community Health, Department of Public Health Sciences in the Miller School of Medicine at the University of Miami. She is a licensed clinical psychologist and has worked as a grief specialist for 20 years.

Since 2005, she has been at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK), where she was Founding Director of the Bereavement Clinic and Associate Attending Psychologist, and where she now serves as Consultant Faculty. She completed her undergraduate studies at The University of Chicago, her doctorate at the University of Pennsylvania, her clinical psychology internship at Payne Whitney/Weill Cornell Medicine, and a postdoctoral research fellowship in psycho-oncology at MSK, where she was Chief Research Fellow.

She was a recipient of the 2012 International Psycho-Oncology Society Kawano New Investigator Award, the 2019 Association for Death Education and Counseling Research Recognition Award, and the 2023 American Psychosocial Oncology Society Outstanding Clinical Care Award. She was elected to the Board of Directors for the Association for Death Education and Counseling in 2023. Her National Institutes of Health-funded research has focused on prolonged grief disorder, grief intervention development, and identifying the bereaved in greatest need.



SHUNICHI NAKAGAWA, MD

Associate Professor,
Adult Palliative Care
Department of Medicine
Columbia University
Irving Medical Center
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Shunichi Nakagawa, MD is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the Columbia University Medical Center. He is Director of Inpatient Palliative Care Services and Director of Cardiac Supportive Care Services in NewYork Presbyterian Hospital. He became an Apgar member in 2019. He has extensive training background in general surgery, internal medicine, geriatrics medicine and hospice and palliative care medicine, both in Japan and the US.

Dr. Nakagawa's clinical and research interests are palliative care for the seriously and critically ill, including those with cancer or advanced heart failure. He developed palliative care consultation program prior to left ventricular assist devices implantation at NewYork Presbyterian Hospital.

Dr. Nakagawa teaches palliative medicine to different level of trainees, including fellows, residents and medical students at bedside. He is sought after as a lecturer, having been invited to conferences in Japan and in the US, locally and nationally. He has strong commitment in teaching medical communication, such as how to break bad news, lead family meetings and navigate difficult decision making for the seriously ill. He received Apgar Grant Awards in 2017 and co-developed the communication skills practice program for general surgery residents.



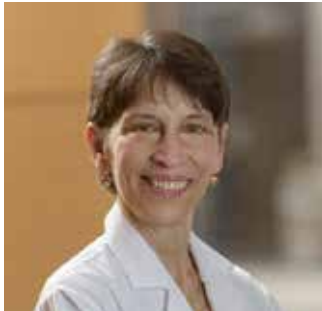
EVE NAMISANGO, MSC, PHD

Programmes Research and
Development Manager
Palliative Care, Policy and Rehabilitation
African Palliative Care Association
Kampala, Uganda
[@EveNamisango](#)

Eve Namisango, Msc, PhD Programmes and Research Manager at the African Palliative Care Association, and honorary senior health scientist at the college of Health Sciences, Makerere University. She is also a board member at the Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care in Africa. She has previously provided child life support services in Rakai district in the early years of the HIV pandemic and was involved in the delivery of home-based care for terminally ill patients.

She holds masters and PhD degrees in palliative care and rehabilitation from the Cicely Saunders Institute Kings College London. Her research interests include - End of Life care, Quality of Death and Dying, people and person-centred care, costing models of care, pediatric palliative care, patient-public engagement and involvement, social justice and health and equity in health, Global Health, health economics, service development, and health systems strengthening.

She is involved in on-going work on developing person-centred models of care, Integrated child- and family-centred outcome measurement to drive person-centredness and quality use of technology in palliative care, capacity building for palliative care research in Intensive Care Units, and using community led advocacy models to increase uptake for cervical cancer screening.



JUDITH NELSON, MD, JD

Member, Supportive Care, Critical Care
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Professor of Medicine, Weill Cornell
Medical College
New York, NY

Judith Nelson, MD, JD is Attending Physician on the Supportive Care and Critical Care Services at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and Professor of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College. She is an experienced clinician, investigator, educator, mentor, and physician leader.

Dr. Nelson's academic program focuses on systematic, early integration of palliative care with intensive care and oncologic care. She has been principal investigator of multiple career development and research awards from NIH, including an ongoing study of nurse-led discussions of health-related values with Latinx and other individuals facing cancer.

Dr. Nelson has led multiple initiatives to enhance both specialist and "primary" (non-specialist) palliative care, such as the IPAL-ICU (Improving Palliative Care in the ICU) Project sponsored by NIH and the Center to Advance Palliative Care, and the Supportive Care Committee of the Alliance of Dedicated Cancer Centers. She is currently leading the Palliative Care Domain of the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine's Palliative and End of Life Care Guidelines Project.



**SHILA PANDEY,
DNP, AGPCNP-BC, ACHPN**

Nurse Practitioner
Supportive Care Service
APP Education Specialist
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
New York, NY

Shila Pandey, DNP, AGPCNP-BC, ACHPN is palliative care nurse practitioner on the Supportive Care Service at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York. Currently, she is practicing in the outpatient setting after years of inpatient palliative care experience. As a registered nurse, she worked on medical-surgical, step-down, and intensive care units. She received her 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 the current treasurer for the local New York City Hospice and Palliative Nursing Association chapter. She is adjunct faculty in the graduate department of New York University Rory Meyers College of Nursing. Shila 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 disorder, and communication skills training.



M.R. RAJAGOPAL, MD

Doctor of Medicine in Anesthesia
Chairman Emeritus
Department of Palliative Care
PALLium India
Trivandrum, Kerala, India
[@mrraj47](#)

M.R. Rajagopal, MD is the director of the WHO Collaborating Center at Trivandrum, the founder-chairman of “Pallium India” and Adjunct Professor of Global Oncology, Queen’s University, Canada. His initiatives to remove regulatory barriers in availability of oral morphine for pain relief have contributed to the amendment of the NDPS Act of India in 2014, a Government policy on Palliative Care in the state of Kerala in 2008 and Government of India’s National Program for Palliative Care in 2012.

The international organization “Human Rights Watch” honored him with Alison Des Forges award at Los Angeles in November 2014. In 2017, a documentary film titled “Hippocratic: 18 experiments in gently shaking the world” based on Dr. Rajagopal’s contributions to palliative care was released by Moonshine Agency, Australia (www.hippocraticfilm.com). He was named one of the 30 most influential leaders in hospice and palliative medicine by American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine in 2017.

In 2018, Dr Rajagopal was honored with Padma Shri, the third highest civilian award given annually from Republic of India. Dr Rajagopal recently published his memoirs called ‘Walk with the Weary’ (www.amazon.in/Walk-Weary-Life-changing-Lessons-Healthcare/dp/9393852448).



BILLY ROSA, PHD, MBE, APRN, FAANP, FPCN, FAAN

Assistant Attending Behavioral Scientist
Department of Psychiatry &
Behavioral Sciences
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Visiting Research Scholar,
University of Miami Institute for
Advanced Study of the Americas and
Hemispheric and Global Affairs
2021 Cambia Health Foundation
Sojourns Scholar
[@BillyRosaPhD](#)

Billy Rosa, PhD, MBE, APRN, FAANP, FPCN, FAAN is the Course Director for the MSK Cancer Center World Hospice & Palliative Care Day conference. He received his PhD and Master of Bioethics as an RWJF Future of Nursing Scholar from the University of Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of 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. His streams of research focus on cancer pain disparities, global palliative care inequities, and LGBTQ+ inclusive palliative care communication.

Dr. Rosa is the editor of five books, has contributed more than 150 academic publications in journals and texts, and was lead researcher for the *2021 Nurses for Health Equity: Guidelines for Tackling the Social Determinants of Health Policy* report endorsed by the World Health Organization. He has been recognized with numerous distinctions, including the International Association for Hospice & Palliative Care’s Individual Recognition Award (high-income country category). He was named to the Crain’s New York Business Notable in Health Care 2021 list, served on The Lancet Commission Breast Cancer Writing Committee, and is a collaborator on the Lancet Commission on Cancer And Health Systems. Dr. Rosa serves as Associate Editor for *Palliative & Supportive Care*, Associate Editor for Nursing for *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*, Co-Editor for the *Journal of Palliative Medicine Palliative Specialists Series*, and Coordinating Editor of the *American Journal of Nursing Palliative Care Perspectives* column.

Dr. Rosa is a 2021 Cambia Health Foundation Sojourns Scholar, International Council of Nurses Global Nursing Leadership Institute Scholar, and an American Psychosocial Oncology Society Health Equity Scholar. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, American Association of Nurse Practitioners, Hospice & Palliative Nurses Association, and New York Academy of Medicine. You can find more information at: www.linktr.ee/billyrosa



**RACHEL RUSCH, LCSW, MSW,
MA, APHSW-C**

Palliative Care Education & Practice
Coordinator
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Rachel Rusch, LCSW, MSW, MA, APHSW-C is the Palliative Care Education & Practice Coordinator with the Division of Comfort and Palliative Care at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. Her career experience includes pediatric palliative care clinical social work and the study of early childhood development. With an extensive background in the performing arts, Rachel's current education and program building initiatives include the incorporation of theatre, improvisation, and creative writing toward the enhancement of clinical communication and the uplifting of patient centered narratives.

Rachel is additionally a proud member of the Social Work Hospice and Palliative Care Network, receiving the 2020 award for Emerging Leader in Clinical Practice. A recipient of the Cambia Health Foundation Sojourn's Scholar Leadership Program grant, her research centers on the power of story, narrative and the humanities in health care.



JUSTIN SANDERS, MD, MSC

Kappy and Eric M. Flanders Chair in
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Justin Sanders, MD, MSC is the Kappy and Eric M. Flanders Chair of Palliative Medicine, Director of the division of Palliative Care, and Associate Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at McGill University. He is an associate faculty member at Ariadne Labs, a health systems innovation center at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, MA. In this role, he continues to lead efforts to develop innovative communication skills curricula and tools to support equity and high-quality communication in healthcare.

With colleagues in the McGill network, Dr. Sanders is working to develop the Interprofessional McGill Program in Advanced Communication Skills. As a clinician-investigator and physician leader, Dr. Sanders' work focuses on the promotion of authentic healing relationships in serious illness through social-science informed and equity-focused communication and implementation research.



MALAR VELLI SEGARMURTHY, MD, MPH

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Training Division,
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Malar Velli Segarmurthy, MD, MPH graduated from Universitas Padjajaran Medical School in Bandung, Indonesia, in 2008. Thereafter, she obtained her master’s degree in the field of public health at Universiti Malaya in 2020. Her exposure to palliative care began when she was the medical officer in charge of setting up the Palliative Care Unit in the National Cancer Institute, Putrajaya, Malaysia, under the tutelage of Dr. Richard Lim Boon Leong, the National Head of Palliative Care Service. Thereafter, she served in the Planning Division, Ministry of Health Malaysia, as a senior principal assistant director.

These experiences gave her the clarity that improving palliative care services in a primary care setting is paramount to enhancing the quality of life for our population. Her research focuses on delivering sustainable palliative care to adults dealing with serious health-related suffering (SHS) in Malaysia. It aims to explore the knowledge, challenges, and barriers faced by primary care doctors. The study also looks into the availability of minimum standards for providing palliative care in primary care facilities in Malaysia.

Currently, she is a Doctor of Public Health candidate in the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine at Universiti Malaya under the supervision of Prof. Nirmala Bhoopathy. She is currently a member of the National Technical Committee of Community Palliative Care, Malaysia.



DANETTA SLOAN, PHD, MSW, MA

Assistant Scientist
Social Work Scientist
Department of Health, Behavior
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[@danettasloan](#)

Danetta Sloan, PhD, MSW, MA is a Social Work Scientist who has a passion for improving health care equity for aging Black Americans. She believes that it is her ministry to seek ways to improve health care delivery and access for Black Americans through faith-centered initiatives. Trained in the diseases of aging, Dr. Sloan completed a 10-year tenure as a palliative and hospice care social worker during which time, she was a caregiver for her own mother diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease at 84 years old.

Dr. Sloan is currently an Assistant Scientist in the Department of Health, Behavior and Society at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her work uses participatory methodologies to partner with the Black church and faith community to strengthen community capacity in early diagnosis and access to care, and future care planning for those who experience chronic life limiting illness such as dementia.

Dr. Sloan’s work has been funded through the National Institute of Aging, National Institute on Minority Health, and Health Disparities, and she is a 2019 recipient of a Cambia Foundation Sojourns Scholar Award. These mechanisms of support have afforded the opportunity to serve and promote the health and wellbeing of Black people, many of whom experience health, social, financial, and economic inequities.



MRS. MALISSA SPAULDING

Member and Community Leader
St. Mark AME Church
Baltimore, MD

Mrs. Malissa Spaulding is a faith based volunteer and believes we are God’s hands and feet called to serve and show love to others.

As a member of St. Mark AME Church, Mrs Spaulding serves as Steward Pro-Tem, Vice Chair of the Commission on Social Action, Vice President of the Alice Petty Lawrence Women’s Missionary Society, and President of the Usher Board.

Mrs. Spaulding ministry works led her to partner with Dr. Danetta Sloan, Johns Hopkins University, and the African American Faith Communities Transcending Dementia (AAFCTD) Program.



DONALD SULLIVAN, MD, MA, MCR

Associate Professor; Research Scientist
Department of Medicine
Oregon Health and Science University
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[@DSullyResearch](#)

Donald Sullivan, MD, MA, MCR is an Associate Professor and health services researcher in the Department of Medicine, Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) and Research Scientist at the VA Portland Healthcare System. He received his M.D. from the University of Arizona, and completed residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Maryland and Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellowship at OHSU. His primary research focus is on improving the quality of life and value of care among persons with serious illness. This work includes an emphasis on persons with serious respiratory illness including lung cancer, and those at risk for pulmonary complications of their underlying illnesses such as persons with dementia.

One of the goals of Dr Sullivan's research program is to improve the quality of palliative and end-of-life care delivery. He is also interested in developing resources to enhance shared decision making among patients with lung cancer. He has methodological expertise in mixed-methods, qualitative, population-based data, and epidemiology research. He is or has been funded by the National Institutes of Health- National Cancer Institute and National Institute on Aging, American Thoracic Society, American Lung Association, the American Cancer Society, Borchard Foundation, Cambia Health Foundation, Knight Cancer Institute, Medical Research Foundation, and UPENN Roybal Center. Dr. Sullivan also enjoys providing research mentorship to medical students, residents, fellows, and post-doctoral candidates. He teaches pulmonary physiology at the OHSU School of Medicine and within the Department of Medicine at OHSU.



DINGLE SPENCE, MBBS, DIP PALL MED, FRCR

Consultant
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Dingle Spence, MBBS, Dip Pall Med, FRCR is a Jamaican physician with training in both Clinical Oncology and Palliative Medicine. She recently retired (March 2023) after 20 years as the Senior Medical Officer of the Hope Institute Hospital, Jamaica's only dedicated Oncology and Palliative Care unit.

Dr Spence is an Associate Lecturer at the University of the West Indies, Mona, and is co-founder and co-director of the Jamaica Cancer Care and Research Institute (JACCRI), a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of cancer care and palliative care in Jamaica and the Caribbean. She has also co-founded the Palliative Care Association of Jamaica and the Caribbean Palliative Care Association.

Dr Spence also has training in Traditional Chinese Medicine (acupuncture), Reiki, homeopathy, and other energy medicine modalities. She has research interests in the use of plant-based medicines such as cannabinoids and psychedelics for holistic symptom relief for people with palliative care needs.



RACHEL THIENPRAYOON, MD, MSCS

Chief Clinical Wellness Officer
Associate Professor of Anesthesia
and Pediatrics
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[@RThienprayoon](#)

Rachel Thienprayoon, MD, MSCS is an Associate Professor of Anesthesia and Pediatrics at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. She completed pediatrics residency and a pediatric hematology/oncology fellowship at the University of Texas Southwestern in Dallas, Texas, and her fellowship in pediatric hospice and palliative care at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati, OH. She has been a faculty member in the Palliative Care team at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center since 2014.

She is the Chair of the National Pediatric Palliative Care Task Force, a project of the National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Palliative Care Quality Collaborative. In 2020, she was named a Sojourns Scholar by the Cambia Healthcare Foundation.

Her research focuses on measuring clinician experiences of compassion within teams and organizations. She lives in Cincinnati, OH with her husband, Paul, and their two girls.



JENNIFER TJIA, MD, MS

Professor
Department of Population and
Quantitative Health Sciences
UMass Chan Medical School
Worcester, MA

Jennifer Tjia, MD, MS is Professor (tenure track) of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences in the Division of Epidemiology at UMass Chan Medical School. She received her MD from Boston University's Combined BA-MD Medical Program and a Master of Science in Clinical Epidemiology from the University of Pennsylvania. She is a geriatric palliative care physician whose research agenda aims to improve healthcare delivery for vulnerable populations.

Her funded projects focus on two areas: (1) the impact of structural racism and implicit bias on care delivery and (2) optimizing medication use with goal concordant prescribing and deprescribing in serious illness. She is co-PI of a NIH R01 grant to conduct a mixed-methods study to disentangle the relationships between residential segregation, neighborhood deprivation & healthcare utilization in serious illness [R01 NR020439], and a R01 grant for a clinical trial to evaluate an implicit bias recognition and mitigation training program for clinicians [R01 MD011532].

She is also PI of a completed R21 to pilot test a deprescribing intervention for home hospice [R21 AG060017]. She received a K24 award from the NIH to mentor promising early-stage investigators in palliative medicine research [K24 AG068300], is co-lead of the Investigator Development Core of the US Deprescribing Research Network (USDeN), and is a recipient of a 2015 Cambia Health Foundation Sojourns Leadership Scholar award for leadership in community-engaged health system transformation.



ALISON WIESENTHAL, MD

Chair, Department of Rehabilitation
Medicine
Chief, Palliative Care Services
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Alison Wiesenthal, MD is the Chair of the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at Brooke Army Medical Center and the Chief of Palliative Care Services.

Dr. Wiesenthal is the first civilian, first female and youngest chair of the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at Brooke Army Medical Center, the military's largest and only level one trauma hospital. She is a double-board certified internal medicine and palliative medicine physician, fellowship trained at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. She brought palliative care to the military in 2017, starting the Department of Defense's first interdisciplinary Palliative Care Service. She oversees the Center for the Intrepid, rehabilitating wounded warriors and special operators. She was recognized as San Antonio Business Journal's Top 40 Under 40 and awarded the prestigious Civilian Meritorious Service Medal.

Since the pandemic, Dr. Wiesenthal has served on the Pandemic Medical Operations Working Group of Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC) and led their Resiliency mission to support healthcare providers. She was recently appointed to the Texas Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council. Dr. Wiesenthal is an Associate Professor at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, promoting palliative care education for America's next generation of military physicians and allied health professionals.



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