AAHPM American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine

NEWS RELEASE
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Experts Convene to Promote Excellence in Hospice and Palliative Medicine

AUSTIN, Texas – The premier meeting for healthcare providers who care for patients with serious or life-threatening illnesses will provide disease updates as well as sessions on the latest advances in clinical research, cultural, ethical and legal, psychological, social, and spiritual aspects of care.

The American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM), in collaboration with the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association, will host its Annual Assembly March 25-28, 2009, at the Austin Convention Center, in Austin, Texas.

This conference brings together more than 2,100 physicians, nurses, social workers, chaplains, pharmacists, and others who practice hospice and palliative care. The program offers paper presentations, plenary sessions, educational sessions, and opportunities for personal and professional growth, and networking.

Conference highlights include:

- Jeffrey Zaslow, co-author of "The Last Lecture", will speak and accept a humanitarian award on behalf of himself and Randy Pausch. Randy is receiving the award posthumously.
  Jeffrey Zaslow, Columnist for *The Wall Street Journal*

- Will the Mystery of Pain Ever be Unraveled?
  Judith Paice, PhD RN FAAN Northwestern University Medical School

- Communication Skills for Transitions in Goals of Care
  Anthony Back, MD, University of Washington

- Hospice in Long-Term Care: Regulations, Ethics, Quality, and Collaboration
  William D. Smucker, MD CMD, Summa Health System

- Advanced Pediatric Pain Management
  Stefan J. Friedrichsdorf, MD, Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota

- Identifying Heart Failure Patients Appropriate for Palliative Care: Experience from the Trenches
  Sarah J. Goodlin, MD, Patient-Centered Education and Research

- Evidence-Based Medicine and Research Challenges in Terminally Ill Patients
  Amy P. Abernethy, MD FAAHPM, Duke University Medical Center

- Special Considerations in the Palliative Care of Patients with Head and Neck Cancer
  Michael W. Rabow, MD, University of California-San Francisco

- Cross-Cultural Conflict Resolution: It Is Not What You Say; It Is What They Hear
  VJ Periyakoil, MD, Stanford University School of Medicine and VA Palo Alto Health Care System

- Measuring Outcomes in Outpatient Palliative Medicine: Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How
  Elizabeth A. Kvale, MD, Birmingham VA Medical Center and University of Alabama at Birmingham

Hospice and palliative medicine is a newly recognized medical subspecialty. This unique specialty reflects the need for specialized medical care for the growing number of older adults and persons with serious, complex, and chronic illnesses, which currently pose an enormous challenge to the healthcare industry.

Palliative medicine focuses on relieving pain and suffering, improving the quality of life, and helping patients and their families to cope with life-limiting illnesses. Healthcare providers trained in palliative care are equipped to communicate with patients and families under difficult circumstances and to help them navigate the healthcare system while making decisions concordant with their goals and values. The ultimate goal is for patients to receive care in the setting of their choice. The management of physical pain and non-pain symptoms, while relieving multiple causes of suffering is a clinical focus. Palliative medicine can reduce medical costs by facilitating discussions with patients and families about changing goals of care and ensuring that patients get the highest quality care in the appropriate setting at the right time.

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AAHPM's membership includes more than 3,600 physicians and other medical professionals dedicated to excellence in hospice and palliative medicine and the prevention and relief of patient and family suffering. Since 1988, AAHPM has supported hospice and palliative medicine through advancement of clinical practice standards, fostering research, providing education, and through public policy advocacy. For more information about the 2009 Annual Assembly or membership in the Academy, contact AAHPM at 847/375-4712 or visit the Web site at www.aahpm.org.

Credentialed media representatives are welcome in the press room (room #15) at the Austin Convention Center. Contact Mary Louise Carr at 847/375-3688 or email MLCarr@AAHPM.org to register for the meeting in advance.

American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine
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