Palliative Care Education and Practice


The pediatric track will highlight the unique aspects of pediatric palliative care.

Course Directors

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Co-Director, Harvard Medical School Center for Palliative Care
Director, Serious Illness Care Program, Ariadne Labs
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Pediatric Track Directors

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Information

**Course Description**

As palliative care increasingly becomes an essential component of routine medical care, there is an accompanying workforce shortage of appropriately trained clinicians. The American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine has concluded that “students graduating medical school today have very little, if any, training in the core precepts of pain and symptom management, communication skills, and care coordination for patients with serious life-threatening illness.” There is a substantial need to train clinicians in areas that are essential to palliative care. PCEP exists to efficiently acquire the skills and perspective necessary to influence this changing health care environment.

Palliative Care Education and Practice (PCEP) offers intensive learning experiences for physician and nurse educators who wish to become expert in the clinical practice and teaching of comprehensive, inter-disciplinary palliative care, as well as gain expertise in leading and managing improvements in palliative care education and practice at their own institutions.

The course is delivered in two parts: Part 1 consists of 8 days of intensive learning, followed by a 6-month interim during which participants work on an individual project and contribute to weekly email discussions of problematic, clinical, educational, and program development cases presented by other participants; Part 2 is 7 days of continued experiential learning and training focused on communication, teaching methods, teamwork, and leadership.

Teaching is learner-centered and takes place in a variety of interactive formats including: small groups, large group discussions, demonstration interviews, and panel discussions. Participants have the opportunity to develop action plans for change at their institutions and to practice and receive feedback about their teaching and change strategies. Many opportunities for informal interchange are available.

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> I lack the words to describe the amazing experience I had at PCEP. This course provided me with the best learning experience that I've ever had. I repeatedly tell my colleagues about what I've learned, show them the materials I gathered. I have started to use some of the teaching techniques I learned during the course. As a palliative care specialist and nurse trainer, I feel that I have reached the next level in my professional development where I can serve as a role model for my nursing team.”

Nicoleta Mitrea, Hospice “Casa Sperantei” Romania

**Learning Objectives**

Upon completion of this activity, participants will be able to:

- teach fundamentals of palliative care (evaluation of physical causes of distress, psychosocial and spiritual assessment, ethical and cultural issues, palliative care in geriatric and pediatric populations, depression, and bereavement);
- teach about communication in serious illness (understanding the illness experience, breaking bad news, communicating across cultural barriers, family meetings, and communication about goals of care);
- manage challenges in palliative care education (principles of adult learning, learning styles, new teaching methodologies, and providing feedback to learners);
- develop and promote clinical and educational programs in palliative care (assessing institutional structure and culture, evaluating readiness to change, dealing with resistance, developing and financing palliative care programs, and fundraising strategies);
- develop strategies to manage pain and other symptoms and sources of suffering.
**Who Should Attend?**

PCEP is designed for physician and nurse educators who wish to enhance their skills in clinical practice, teaching, and program development in palliative care and who have, or wish to develop, a leadership role at their institution. The course is targeted both at palliative care specialists, as well as generalist and specialist physicians and nurses who wish to gain additional competencies in palliative care. In addition, mental health clinicians, social workers, pharmacists, and physician assistants are also encouraged to attend. Clinicians of other disciplines will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please note that mastery of spoken and written English is essential for successful participation in PCEP. Candidates for whom English is a second language may be interviewed to determine fluency.

**ACGME Competencies**

This course is designed to meet the following Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education competencies: Patient Care, Medical Knowledge, Practice-based Learning and Improvement, Interpersonal and Communication Skills, Professionalism, and Systems-based Practice.

**Accreditation**

The Harvard Medical School is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians. The Harvard Medical School designates this live activity for a maximum of 86.50 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ for both adult and pediatric track participants. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

**Risk Management Credits**

This activity meets the criteria of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine for 27.50 credits (adult track) and 28.75 credits (pediatric track) of Risk Management Study for Part 1 and 26.50 credits (adult track) and 25.00 credits (pediatric track) of Risk Management Study for Part 2. This includes:

- Adult  Pediatric (Part 1)
  - 2.50  2.50  Credits of Opioid Education and Pain Management Training and
  - 25.00  26.25  Credits of End-of-Life Care Studies

- Adult  Pediatric (Part 2)
  - 0.00  1.00  Credits of Opioid Education and Pain Management Training and
  - 26.50  24.00  Credits of End-of-Life Care Studies

Please check your individual state licensing board requirements before claiming these credits.

**Course Location and Travel**


A limited number of rooms at a reduced rate have been reserved until October 12, 2015 for Part 1 at $279 single/double and until April 12, 2016 for Part 2 at $279 single/double. Reservations should be made directly with the hotel only after acceptance to the course has been confirmed.

*Please do not purchase non-refundable airline ticket(s) until you have received an email from our office confirming your acceptance into the program.*
Faculty

Janet L. Abrahm, MD
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Brigham and Women's Hospital
Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Susan D. Block, MD
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Ariadne Labs
Professor of Psychiatry and Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Eduardo Bruera, MD, FAAHPM
M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Houston, Texas
Professor of Medicine, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Eric Cassell, MD, MACP
Emeritus Professor of Public Health, Weill Medical College, Cornell University
Adjunct Professor of Medicine, McGill University

Eva H. Chittenden, MD, FACP, FAAHPM
Massachusetts General Hospital
Assistant Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Janet Duncan, MSN, CPNP
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Boston Children's Hospital

John Christopher Feudtner, MD, PhD, MPH
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Associate Professor of Pediatrics, School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

Marshall Forstein, MD
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David E. Weissman, MD, FACP
Consultant, Center to Advance Palliative Care
Professor Emeritus, Medical College of Wisconsin

Joanne Wolfe, MD, MPH
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Boston Children's Hospital
Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School
Disclosure Policy

Harvard Medical School (HMS) adheres to all ACCME Essential Areas, Standards, and Policies. It is HMS’s policy that those who have influenced the content of a CME activity (e.g., planners, faculty, authors, reviewers, and others) disclose all relevant financial relationships with commercial entities so that HMS may identify and resolve any conflicts of interest prior to the activity. These disclosures will be provided in the activity materials along with disclosure of any commercial support received for the activity. Additionally, faculty members have been instructed to disclose any limitations of data and unlabeled or investigational uses of products during their presentations.

Tuition

Tuition: $7,250 (USD).

Tuition is due in full by September 25, 2015.

The tuition fee includes the course materials, breakfasts, breaks, lunches, and opening and closing banquets for both Part 1 (November 3–10, 2015) and Part 2 (May 4–10, 2016). The tuition does not include the cost of housing or travel expenses. Tuition is paid before the course begins and covers the entire course. Once you have been accepted into the program you will receive payment instructions.

Refund Policy

A handling fee of $500 is deducted for cancellation. All refund requests must be in writing and received by postal mail, email, or fax no later than September 25, 2015. No refunds will be made thereafter.

Scholarship Opportunities

We are able to offer a small number of competitive, partial scholarships for both U.S. and international applicants. PCEP scholarship recipients will be selected for their leadership abilities, their commitment to participating in building the field of palliative care, their service to underserved populations, and their project’s potential impact.

The goal of the scholarship program is to identify individuals early in their palliative care careers and to support their interests, competencies, and dedication to the field by providing them with outstanding training about teaching and developing palliative care programs in an academic setting.

Special consideration will be given to U.S. clinicians from safety-net hospitals and international candidates.

Scholarship Eligibility Criteria:

- a physician, with an affiliation with a medical school or teaching hospital, in the first five years of an academic appointment, or
- a nurse (master’s level), with an academic affiliation with a hospital or nursing home and at least five years experience in nursing practice, or
- a physician or a nurse (master’s level), affiliated with a safety-net institution.

We are grateful to the Open Society Foundations’ Project on Death in America and Jane Weingarten and the late Dr. Charles Weingarten for their long-term commitment to scholarship funding. Additional scholarship assistance, and support for our “patients-as-teachers” program, is provided by Partners HealthCare, Inc., the Jacqueline S. Alaimo Palliative Care Fund, JoJo’s Education Fund, and the Y.C. Ho/Helen and Michael Chiang Foundation.
The PCEP class was absolutely critical to my being able to finally start a palliative care program at my hospital. I had been trying for five years to receive funding for an inpatient PC consult service, without success. PCEP not only gave me great credibility (due to the ‘Harvard’ connection), it also prepared me to be a better clinician and educator. I highly recommend the program to anyone interested in furthering the field of Palliative Medicine.” Shoshana Helman, MD, Santa Clara Valley Medical Center

PCEP applications will be accepted until August 10, 2015. No applications will be accepted after this date. All applicants will be informed of their status no later than August 31, 2015.

Please note that mastery of spoken and written English is essential for successful participation in PCEP. Candidates for whom English is a second language may be interviewed to determine fluency.

Please include the following with your completed application form:

- A narrative statement (up to three pages) with:
  - Your current or planned activities in palliative care, including a description of your role as an educator and/or leader.
  - Your goals for taking this course, what can be accomplished during the 6 months of the course, and how you expect to use this course in your work.
  - A description of a new or current palliative care project (e.g., development of a palliative care education intervention or an expansion of outpatient services). The description should address the issues of institutional commitment to your project and sustainability. Participants will work on these projects during the course.

- A letter from your Dean, Department Chair, or similar institutional leader indicating a commitment to you and to your career goals; institutional support for your project; and, support for your availability to participate fully in the course.

- Curriculum vitae.

- All applicants seeking scholarship support must include a personal statement (up to one-half page) with:
  - A summary of your need, clearly outlining why you are applying for a scholarship and why you should receive one. Please include options you have pursued to secure funding, and the reasons why these have not worked out. Describe any other extenuating circumstances that would make you a candidate for scholarship support.
  - A brief description of your service to underserved populations and how your participation in PCEP will improve your care to them.

Submission Instructions

Your submission is not complete until the application form and all supporting documents have been received by pallcare@partners.org or at the address below.
Palliative Care Education and Practice (PCEP)


All fields required. Please print clearly.

Full Name
First Middle Name/Initial Last

Institution/Department
Institution Department/Division

Mailing Address
Street City State Postal Code Country

Email Address

☐ Please check if you wish to be excluded from receiving email notices of future HMS DCE programs.

Please note: Your email address is used for critical information about the course including: registration confirmation, evaluation distribution, and certificate delivery. Please be sure to include an email address you check daily or frequently.

Daytime Phone Fax Number

Title Degree(s)

Primary Specialty (Physicians Only) Board Certified: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Professional School Attended (Physicians Only)
☒ Harvard Medical School ☐ U.S. Medical School ☒ International Year of Graduation ________

What course track are you applying to? ☒ Adult Track ☒ Pediatric Track

How many dying patients did you care for in the last year? ______________

Which organization do you most identify with? (Choose only one)
☒ Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC) ☒ American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM)
☒ European Association for Palliative Care (EAPC) ☒ National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO)
☒ Education on Palliative and End-of-life Care (EPEC) ☒ Harvard Medical School Department of Continuing Education

How did you hear about the course?
☒ Brochure ☒ Professional Society
☒ Website ☒ Friend/Colleague
☒ Email ☒ Other ________________________________

Are you applying for a scholarship? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please indicate if you are:
☒ a physician, with an affiliation with a medical school or teaching hospital, in the first five years of an academic appointment
☒ a nurse (master’s level), with an academic affiliation with a hospital or nursing home and at least five years experience in nursing practice
☒ a physician or a nurse (master’s level), affiliated with a safety-net hospital
☒ a physician or a nurse (master’s level), employed by a Partners HealthCare affiliate

Your submission is not complete until the application form and all supporting documents have been received by pallcare@partners.org or at the address on the previous page.
Our goal is to contribute to the training of leaders and educators who can train the next generation of clinicians, and lead new programs to improve access to palliative care services.

This photograph is from a collection of images that depict our evolving culture of death in America, how we emotionally, spiritually, and practically experience mourning, grief, and loss. Our social and cultural environments impact and shape our responses to death and form the basis of traditional rituals as shown in this picture of three women having a picnic in a cemetery in memory of their loved ones.

Palliative Care Education and Practice


Boston, Massachusetts