CAMBIA PCCE NEWSLETTER

A Message from the Director

We begin our Summer at the Cambia Palliative Care Center of Excellence with lots of terrific news.

On May 15th, 2015, we conducted our first palliative care quality metrics stakeholder meeting. We invited a diverse group of stakeholders across UW Medicine and throughout the region that included clinicians, healthcare administrators, quality improvement professionals, information technology professionals, health services researchers, payers, and patients or patient advocates. We had a total of 120 individuals attend this 6-hour meeting. We presented our initial metrics and preliminary results for input and feedback. Through a generous grant from the Cambia Health Foundation, we will be using these important metrics to improve healthcare regionally and create a model for use in healthcare systems globally.

We are excited to announce the recruitment of two new faculty members to the University of Washington. Joan M. Teno, MD, MS is a Professor of Health Services, Policy, and Practice and Associate Director of the Center for Gerontology and Health Care Research at the Brown University School of Public Health. Dr. Teno's focus has been on measuring and evaluating interventions to improve the quality of care for seriously ill and dying patients. Both as a researcher and clinician, Dr. Teno has devoted her career to understanding how to measure and improve the quality of end-of-life care for vulnerable populations. We are very excited to welcome Dr. Teno to the Cambia Palliative Care Center of Excellence and she will start with us in September.

We are also excited to announce the recruitment of Dr. Rashmi Sharma to join the Cambia PCCE as well as the Center for Scholarship in Patient Quality and Safety. Dr. Sharma completed medical school and residency at the University of Washington followed by a General Internal Medicine Fellowship at the Johns Hopkins University where she received a Masters in Health Sciences from the Bloomberg School of Public Health.

August 2015

www.uwpalliativecarecenter.com

The Frazier Family Foundation has recently given a generous gift to the Cambia Palliative Care Center of Excellence at UW Medicine. This tremendous support will help secure crucial funding which is vital to the growth of the Center. These funds will enable J. Randall Curtis, M.D, MPH, Director of the Cambia Palliative Care Center of Excellence at UW Medicine, and his team to recruit and retain nationally respected faculty leaders with expertise in palliative care and health services research. In addition, through this investment, Center leadership will build upon promoting UW Medicine’s palliative care expertise by hosting symposia and conferences, enhancing educational programs, and raising public awareness about palliative care.

Newsletter Spotlight

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Health. Upon completion of her fellowship, she joined the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine as a faculty member. Her research focuses on the role of race, ethnicity, and gender in inpatient end-of-life communication and decision making for patients with serious illness. Dr. Sharma will start in October 2015.

The Center also launched a Palliative Care Research Fellowship funded by a T32 Training Grant from the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute. We are excited to welcome Drs. Heather Coats and Crystal Brown as our first two fellows into this new program. You can read more about the launch of the fellowship and our candidates below.

I would like to offer a special thank you to the Frazier Family Foundation for its recent and generous gift to the Cambia PCCE. Please see the Newsletter Spotlight to the right for more information about this support.

As always, thank you for your support and interest in the Cambia Palliative Care Center of Excellence. We welcome your feedback and look forward to your participation in the ongoing implementation of our Center and in providing excellent care to all patients with serious illness and their families.

J. Randall Curtis, MD, MPH
Director, UW Cambia Palliative Care Center of Excellence
A. Bruce Montgomery – American Lung Association Endowed Chair in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine

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**Cambia PCCE Welcomes two Palliative Care Research Fellows**

The Cambia Palliative Care Center of Excellence announced openings this year for a new Palliative Care Research Fellowship Program funded by a T32 Training Grant Award from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. We are pleased to announce the acceptance of two candidates into our fellowship program.

Heather Coats, PhD, MS, APRN-BC recently received her PhD at the University of Arizona College of Nursing. As a Palliative Care and Advanced Oncology Nurse Practitioner, she joins us with over 18 years of clinical experience in palliative, oncology and hospice care. Her dissertation, titled *African American Elders Psycho-Social-Spiritual Healing across Serious Illness*, describes her research interests.

“First, because of my background in transcultural nursing, minority elders are my research population of interest. Second, focusing my research on serious illness allows me to contribute to palliative care science, a field with which my clinical practice interests align. Third, the phenomenon of psycho-social-spiritual healing for patients with serious illness, despite the person’s physiological status, is a focus for palliative care practitioners. Fourth, my research helps fill knowledge gaps in palliative care science.” Heather begins her fellowship with us on September 1st.

Crystal Brown, MD is our other fellow in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care.

“With this support from the Frazier Family Foundation, we are able to enhance our ability to provide patients an extra layer of support by facilitating autonomy, increasing access to information, and, perhaps most important, ensuring patients receive the care they would choose when fully informed about their options,” says Dr. Curtis.

“We are very pleased to partner with Dr. Curtis and his colleagues as they lead the way nationally in integrating palliative care into today’s healthcare requirements,” says Alan Frazier of the Frazier Family Foundation. “The course of thousands of lives will change by empowering patients with information and choices and helping to transform our healthcare system to fully incorporate palliative care.”
Cambia PCCE Community Advisory Board held Palliative Care Panel at Trinity at Redmond Ridge

On Thursday, June 18th, the Community Advisory Board of the Cambia PCCE, led by Mr. Ron Peck, organized a very successful event entitled “To Your Health Series: A Palliative Care Panel” at Trinity at Redmond Ridge. Dr. Caroline Hurd, Chair of the Cambia PCCE Education Operations, led the panel which also included Karen Clay, MSW LICSW, Greg Malone, Chaplain, and Stephanie Mehl, RN. Over 130 residents of Trinity attended the event.

The event was centered around a screening of the Emmy Award winning film, “Consider the Conversation, A Documentary on a Taboo Subject”, followed by the panel discussion and questions from the crowd. To find out more about the film, you can visit the website at: http://www.considertheconversation.org/

Samantha Pak with The Redmond Reporter interviewed Dr. Hurd at the event and featured an article in its June 19th publication. To find out more about the event, please read Ron Peck’s article describing the event by clicking on the link below:

Palliative Care and the Conversation by Ron C. Peck

Crys tal Brown, MD is currently a fellow in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at the University of Washington. Crystal’s research is the effect of health literacy on adherence in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and how physician trust mediates this effect. “My research interests include studying empirical bioethics questions that pertain to justice in health care and health care disparities. By understanding the effects of health literacy and physician trust on adherence to guideline recommended therapies in patients with COPD, we can better understand the patient and physician characteristics that promote adherence to therapies and improve patient outcomes.”

Please join us in welcoming these two outstanding post-doctoral fellows to the UW Palliative Care Research Fellowship.
**Congratulations to the Graduating 2015 Palliative Care Medicine Fellows**

The Cambia PCCE would like to congratulate the 2015 Graduating Palliative Care Clinical Fellows.

(pictured)
Dr. Sarah Combs
Dr. Frances DeRook
Dr. Jennifer Kett
Dr. Cynthia Meyer

And welcome the new incoming fellows to the next year’s Palliative Care Clinical Fellowship Program.

Dr. Josephine H. Amory
Dr. Jeremy V. Edwards
Dr. Hayden R. Hamilton
Dr. Kyle N. Lavin
Dr. Jody A. Waldron

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**Washington End of Life Coalition Save the Date—November 13**

Save the date!
The 2015 Washington End-of-Life Coalition Annual Meeting
Friday, November 13, 2015
9:00am—3:30pm
Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Seattle Airport

The 2015 Washington End-of-Life Coalition annual meeting will feature a keynote presentation, short presentations on end-of-life-related initiatives from community representatives and a ‘state of end-of-life in the state’ presentation by Coalition representatives. The meeting provides an excellent opportunity to network with colleagues from across the state who share an interest in end-of-life issues. More information, including how to register, will be distributed and posted as details develop. For now, save the date.
SAVE the DATE

OCT. 29
2015

sojourns awards
& PALLIATIVE CARE SUMMIT

Celebrate Innovators & Leaders in Palliative Care

Please join us for an afternoon of inspiration at the 2015 Sojourns® Awards as we celebrate this year’s regional and national award winners.

Following the hosted luncheon, join the Cambia Health Foundation for an afternoon summit featuring a range of interactive sessions with national palliative care leaders. Learn more about how palliative care is a catalyst for innovation within the health care system and how the Foundation is partnering with stakeholders to advance programs and principles that improve outcomes and experiences for patients and their families.

Thursday, October 29, 2015 at 11:30 am
Portland Art Museum
934 SW Salmon Street | Portland, OR 97205

For more information contact Feather Graham at Feather.Graham@cambiahealth.com
**Notable Members' Accomplishments**

Megan L. Morrison, PhD, MSN, ARNP, FNP-BC, ACHPN, who is an Attending Nurse Practitioner at Northwest Hospital and Medical Center has received the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association Individual Scholarship.

Ruth Engelberg, PhD and Randy Curtis, MD MPH have received a pilot grant from the Institute of Transitional Health Sciences to support community-based research with their project: “Shape and Future of Advance Care Planning in WWAMI Region.”

Taryn Lindhorst, PhD LCSW, Carol LaMare Associate Professor of Social Work, received the UW Award of Excellence for Distinguished Teaching Award for 2015.

Ardith Doorenbos, PhD RN FAAN received the Excellence in Research Award for 2015 from Sigma Theta Tau International, Kappa Iota Chapter.

Ann Long, MD, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Fellow, has been awarded the National Palliative Care Research Center Junior Investigator Award.

Dr. Caroline Hurd was featured in the Puget Sound Business Journal’s article, “40 Under 40: Here are a few young health care leaders to watch.”

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**Cambia PCCE Members Bibliography**

*Articles listed are 2015 publications in peer-reviewed journals and book chapters. If you have an article you would like to have featured, please email pallcntr@uw.edu.


Creutzfeldt CJ, Wunsch H, Curtis JR, Hua M. Prevalence and Outcomes of Patients Meeting Palliative Care Consultation Triggers in Neurological Intensive Care Units. Neurocrit Care. 2015 May 5. [Epub ahead of print]


