

Many thanks to all who will be travelling from across the country and around the world to join friends and colleagues in Scottsdale, Arizona for this fifth annual General Assembly of the Social Work Hospice and Palliative Care Network (SWHPN)! It is truly gratifying that so many of you are able to attend for three days of learning, discussion, friendship, camaraderie and self-care. I wanted to note here a brief overview of two components of the program and some special features you have to look forward to.

First the pre-conference workshops provide excellent opportunities for participants to learn in depth knowledge and skills in specialty areas from outstanding social work leaders in our field. Don't miss this opportunity to advance your career through discussion, interactive experiences, and up to date resources.

Topics include:

Foundations for Social Workers New to Palliative Care

Effectively Communicating Social Work Skills, Knowledge and Values specific to Hospice.

Making the Connection Between Literature, Theory, Practice, and Publication

Expanding the Social Work Role in Advance Care Planning

Advance Care Planning in Pediatrics: Navigating the Burden of Care

Ageing Matters: Assessing and Intervening with Older Patients in Palliative Care

Exploring Boundaries and Ethical Issues in Hospice and Palliative Care

Embracing Accidental Leadership: Making the Most of Opportunities to Champion Social Work

Plenaries are the big meetings for all participants that address critical issues confronting our field. Our theme of Advancing Inclusive Practice in Hospice and Palliative Social Work frames these topics and they could not be more important!

Opening Plenary: Creating Cultures of Respect and Inclusion in Hospice features two outstanding experts in the field:

Judith Mintz, LCSW, Director of Support Services, Unity Hospice of Chicagoland, LLC, A Hospice dedicated to providing services to disadvantaged populations. She will describe their unique hospice model and the challenges and joys for social work practice.

Richard Payne, M.D., Esther Colliflower Professor of Medicine and Divinity, Duke University, will describe challenges, opportunities and inventive practices for engaging medically under-served populations, and training health care staff.

Monday Afternoon Plenary: The Policy and Politics of Palliative and Hospice Care: A Washington Perspective
What does the 2016 election mean for palliative care and hospice? What is the path forward?

Andrew MacPherson, Principal, Healthspieren LLC, Senior Policy Advisor to C-TAC

Tuesday Morning Plenary: Perspectives on Physician Assisted Dying: Lessons Learned and Clinical Opportunities. Speakers will discuss the history of this issue, current attitudes, what has been learned from patients who pursue this option and clinical guidelines for discussions with patients and families.

Susan Hedlund, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C, Manager of Patient and Family Support Services, OHSU Knight Cancer Institute

Myra Christopher, President and CEO at Center for Practical Bioethics

Tuesday Afternoon Plenary: The Power of Language: Empowering Social Work to Influence Word Choice in Patient-Centered Care

This panel of outstanding social work leaders will provide an extraordinary frame for our meeting and much food for thought and discussion on the way home!! It doesn't get better than hearing from these incredible leaders who have contributed so much to our field on a vital practice challenge.

Terry Altilio, MSW, LCSW, ACSW, founder and leader of the hospice and Palliative Social Work List serv, Coordinator of Social Work for the Department of Pain Medicine and Palliative Care at Beth Israel Medical Center in New York City.

Anne Kelemen, MSW, LICSW, ACHP-SW, Vickie Leff, MSW, LSW, BCD, ACHP-SW, Duke University Med Center

