

Undergraduate Palliative Care Education (UPCE)

Preliminary concept for the 11th EAPC Congress, 7th-10th May 2009, Vienna

Institute for Health Communication and Ethics (IEKG),
Witten/Herdecke University, Germany

In co-operation with the Department of Palliative Medicine
at the University Hospital Cologne, Germany

Dr. med. Christian Schulz and Dr. med. Christine Schiessl



Institut für Ethik und
Kommunikation
im Gesundheitswesen

in co-operation with



Klinik und Poliklinik
für Palliativmedizin



” *Hire talented junior faculty and provide them with mentoring and support—Young faculty entering a career in palliative care face a much lower income, uncertain job stability, uncertain academic progress and paucity of funding as compared to almost all established specialties at the present time. These individuals need special support and participation in the collective governance of a palliative care program.*

Over the years I have learned that what does work is to hire the most talented people available and to provide them with an environment where they can actively participate in collective leadership. The more traditional CEO/department chair/general leadership style, in my experience, has resulted mostly in individuals with big names and name recognition but poor clinical and academic programs.”

EDUARDO BRUERA, M.D.[1]

During the 7th Congress of the European Association for Palliative Care (EAPC) we would like to highlight the importance of Undergraduate Palliative Care Education (UPCE) by dedicating a full workshop to that topic. We would like to demonstrate recent developments in the European context and present examples of evidence-based successful teaching.

This workshop aims at the following specific goals

The student will know...

- ...what the recent status of Undergraduate Palliative Care Education is.
- ...to what extent differences between European countries exist.
- ...what evidence we have for the effect and necessity of such training.
- ...what the recent conceptual changes in pain management for palliative care patients are.
- ...how to apply general methods of communication to the patient:carer conversation.

The student will be able to...

- ...function as a multiplier of the UPCE idea in his country-specific academic setting.
- ...retrieve information on evidence-based didactic models for UPCE.

...apply modern basic concepts of pain management to his clinical thinking and practice.

The student acquires...

...an understanding of the idea and need for UPCE.

...an interest in encouraging or developing the UPCE setting at his home university.

Maximum audience: 25 participants

All participants will receive a DVD containing all presentations and substantial background information on each topic presented.

The seminar will be evaluated in a pre/post design and the evaluation data will be accessible to all participants via an online-portal (www.palliative-research.de).

Lecturer:

Dr. med. Christine Schiessl, physician, Germany

Dr. med. Christian Schulz, physician, Germany

Nurse or social scientist (to be named)

Key speaker (to be named)

timetable

12 Uhr	13.30 Uhr	14 Uhr	14.30 Uhr	16.00 Uhr
Status quo – <i>Palliative Care Education in Europe</i>	Key speaker – <i>On Third Base but not Home Yet</i>	Break	Palliative care in action – <i>Patient cases</i>	
Lecture/Media	Talk		Interactive discussion/roleplay	
to be named Schiessl Schulz	to be named		Schulz Schiessl	

The following section gives further details about each individual seminar block.

Status quo – Palliative Care Education in Europe

This introductory session is designed to present to the participants a recent overview and status-quo of Undergraduate Palliative Care Education in the European context. Participants will be encouraged to share their experiences from their respective home institution. There will be enough room to discuss UPCE needs as reflected by the group. It's the specific goal of this session to broaden the understanding of UPCE in a multidisciplinary fashion by not merely focusing on medical programs.

Key Speaker Notice

This section is designated for a 30 minutes talk of a key figure in Palliative Care who should speak on Undergraduate Palliative Care Education and Encouragement of Young Professionals. This part of the workshop should serve as a hook for participants and an intellectual exchange at the same time. We believe that this could serve as a rare opportunity to get in contact with a highly influential personality in a relatively private atmosphere which can serve as a welcome experience to both the audience and the speaker.

Palliative Care in Action – Patient Cases

As we believe that a workshop should always be an actual learning experience for all participants we want to demonstrate two different patient cases in this third part of the course. The first case will focus on pain management and is designed to demonstrate recent conceptual changes in the basic clinical understanding and application of pain management. The second vignette will focus on communication aspects and will discuss a patient case in which the participants will need to interactively solve the case through their own communication solutions. Both patient case studies will implement evidence-based didactic methods (roleplay, video-feedback, simulated-patient-contact) and thus serve as models of UPCE.

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1. Bruera, E., *On third base but not home yet*. J Palliat Med, 2008. **11**(4): p. 565-9.