

EAPC-East Newsletter
NR 25 – October 04

Dear Friends,

There is a good opportunity to get involved in spreading knowledge and information about palliative care in Europe right now. Several activities go on in countries around Europe with international and national meetings, press conferences seminars etc including the disseminating of the Council of Europe recommendations on palliative care.

Check if others in your country have planned activities and take the opportunity to do a joint effort. On the web site www.eapceast.org you can find the press release in English that you can use the way you find most useful for the palliative care setting you are in. We need to be heard of and tell about the work that is done and the work that need to be done....

Global Day Against Pain

On Monday, October 11, the World Health Organization will sponsor a Global Day Against Pain, organized by the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) and the European Federation of the IASP Chapters. This global day campaign urges that pain relief be viewed as a human right, and asks people to recognize pain as a pressing problem and to act now to relieve suffering. The conference will include presentations and discussions by numerous experts in the pain field and can be viewed by live web broadcast.

To find out more information, you can visit the IASP's website at <http://www.iasp-pain.org/Global%20Day.html> or through the home page of the Pain & Policy Studies Group website.

New self study course for palliative care nurses and social workers.

The American Hospice Foundation announces a new electronic, self-study course for nurses, social workers and other health professionals who perform case management or discharge planning functions or provide care to people with terminal illnesses.

Available on CD-ROM, this course is designed to provide health professionals with an in-depth understanding of the philosophy and principles of hospice care and to offer tools that will make it easier for them to discuss end-of-life issues with their patients and families.

The course is approved for 7.8 contact hours of continuing education (CE) credit for nurses, 6.5 hours for social workers and 6.25 hours for case managers.

For more information: www.americanhospice.org click on "Workshops and Courses"

Marsha H. Nelson, ACSW, MBAPhone: 202-223-0204, Ext. 206
<mailto:mnelson@americanhospice.org>

More self study courses

"Palliative Care: A Self-Study CME Course" is a self-study course containing 15 key topics in palliative care. The course, divided into four modules (End of Life Care, Pain, Other Symptoms, Communication), is available at www.eperc.mcw.edu, Featured Resources in the right hand column of the Web site B) Editorial: Variability in end of life care Diane E Meier <http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/328/7449/E296?ecoll>

Please help out:

I'm currently constructing a clinical website about how to diagnose and treat symptoms in the seriously ill and dying patients. It is called www.symptomcontrol.com

The main audience is doctors and nurses that do not have any training in palliative medicine, but I will ask you to take a look at it for several reasons:

- It is a **clinical teacher on the net**, a way of using the internet that has not been practiced within palliative care before.
- It is based on the literature, but because it has a **strong clinical emphasis** I have used my own clinical experience a lot. In order for this to be as useful as possible I will **ask you to read through a module** from an area that you are interested in and let me know if you have any suggestions on how to improve the content.
- One of the big challenges is to spread the word to those "who do not know what they do not know" because they were never taught. Do you have any suggestions as to how I can do that?
- I know that one way of spreading information is from one doctor to another, therefore I ask you to **forward this e-mail to your palliative medicine colleagues** and **send the letter** that you download from the web site www.eapceast.org to those of your **colleagues outside palliative medicine** that you think would (or should) like to know more about how to manage symptoms.

Looking forward to hearing from you

Marianne Klee, MD, Copenhagen, Denmark, klee@symptomcontrol.com

Start planning for**World Hospice & Palliative Care Day with Voices for Hospices - 8 October, 2005**

The first "World Hospice and Palliative Care Day" will take place across the world on 8 October, 2005, in conjunction with Voices for Hospices. The goal of the day is to raise public awareness and funding for hospice and palliative care services around the world. This celebratory day has grown out of the popular "Voices for Hospices". The purpose of this day is:

- to create an advocacy opportunity for local, national, regional and international hospice and - palliative care organisations;
- to draw attention to the services they provide to relieve the pain and suffering of patients with terminal illness, and their need for accessible opioid analgesics;
- to provide an opportunity to make the case to government officials and policy-makers for the integration of palliative care into basic health care policies and clinical education programmes;
- to stimulate national governments and public funders to be more realistic in their financial support for hospice and palliative care.

The day has arisen after discussions between a number of organisations operating in the field of palliative care from around the world. Enthusiasm for the event has led to the formation of two small steering groups to lead the planning and development of the day.

Please spread the news of the day and let's work together to highlight the need to improve the care of dying patients and their families.

For further details contact Claire Morris, <mailto:c.morris@helpthehospices.org.uk>

Kind regards

Sylvia Sauter

Carl Johan Fürst