

Newsletter

November 2009



International
Palliative Care
Family Carer
Research
Collaboration

Welcome

Welcome to the second official IPCFRC newsletter. We hope that the newsletter will serve as a valuable communication tool for those interested in family carer research within the context of palliative care.

Background to IPCFRC

For information on the background to the establishment of the IPCFRC and its objectives please refer to the IPCFRC website:
www.ipcfrc.unimelb.edu.au.

Update on projects and achievements

1. **A systematic review of family carer instruments.** The review has been completed and a manuscript is being prepared for submission to an international multidisciplinary peer reviewed journal. A link to the article will appear on the website upon publication.
2. **European Association for Palliative Care Family Carer Taskforce.** The work of the IPCFRC has been instrumental in the EAPC establishing a Family Carer Taskforce. The IPCFRC and the Carer Taskforce steering committees are working in partnership. Although the functions of the IPCFRC and Carer Taskforce are complementary the main difference is that the Taskforce is time limited and has a European remit. A journal article about the taskforce has been published (Payne S, Hudson P. EAPC Task Force on Family Carers: aims and objectives. European Journal of Palliative Care 2009;16(2):77-81). For more information on the taskforce please see the website: www.eapcnet.org/projects/FamilyCarers.html and/or contact Sheila Payne: s.a.payne@lancaster.ac.uk



3. **Systematic review of psycho-social interventions for family carers of palliative care patients.** The review has been completed and a manuscript is being prepared for submission to an international multidisciplinary peer reviewed journal. A link to the article will appear on the website upon publication.
4. **Overview of family carer policies in selected countries.** Planning is under way for this joint initiative with the EAPC Family Carer taskforce.
5. **Reference library data base of family carer publications.** We have commenced work on the development of a database, which we hope to be able to upload to the IPCFRC website and updated regularly.
6. **Priority driven family caregiver research agenda.** Work has commenced on the development of a survey to assist in determining the priority areas for family carer research and ethics approval for this initiative is pending.

Profiling and marketing

The IPCFRC was promoted during 2009 at the European Association for Palliative Care, Congress (Austria) and 10th Australian Palliative Care Conference and the 8th Asia Pacific Hospice Conference (Australia).

We encourage colleagues to profile the IPCFRC via their local and national networks. This can be achieved by asking key organizations to include a link to the IPCFRC website www.ipcfrfrc.unimelb.edu.au and/or asking them to include the IPCFRC flyer and newsletter in their electronic networks. (The flyer is in a PDF version on the website and hard copies are available upon request.)

Membership and interest in progressing the IPCFRC

We are pleased that approximately 20 colleagues have become financial members of the IPCFRC in 2009. We acknowledge, however, that more significant incentives are needed for financial members beyond their involvement in the development of the IPCFRC. Creating an appealing 'members only' section on the website may assist in this regard; to include, for example, the aforementioned reference library. The steering committee will continue to discuss and progress this matter and your suggestions are welcome.

Membership is based on a calendar year. New members and continuing members for 2010 are encouraged to complete the relevant membership form available on the IPCFRC website.

For those people who do not want to become paid up members but would like to be kept informed about the development of the IPCFRC please advise us via email: cpcpa@medstv.unimelb.edu.au

Budget

The financial status of the IPCFRC continues to be an issue. While membership fees are helpful, we do not anticipate the fees alone will generate enough income to cover ongoing costs such as administration, teleconferences (for the steering committee), website maintenance, production of newsletters, project management, etc. Many of these services continue to be provided 'in kind' by the CPCER (Centre for Palliative Care Education and Research (St Vincent's Hospital and Collaborative Centre of The University of Melbourne, Australia; www.pallcare.unimelb.edu.au). We welcome your suggestions for additional funding opportunities.



Next meetings

The next meeting of the IPCFRC steering committee will be held via teleconference in December 2009 .

A meeting of people interested in knowing more about and/or being involved in the IPCFRC and/ or the EAPC Family carer taskforce will be held at EAPC Research Congress (Glasgow, June 2010). It is envisaged that the meeting will occur during the luncheon break (1–2pm) on Thursday 10 June (please refer to the EAPC conference website for any changes).

Please keep in touch: we value your ideas and contributions

For further information and membership enquiries please contact:

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