10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  Concurrent Sessions I

Conference participants will be able to pick from the following topics presented during this concurrent session. Participants are asked to pre-register for the session that would like to attend since seating will be limited in most of the sessions.

“Dementia in the Palliative Care Setting”
Dr. Joseph Milano, Director of Palliative Medicine at Huntington Hospital. Review of 1) assessment and staging for patients with the diagnosis of dementia 2) management of symptoms and treatment regimen 3) Information regarding support for the patients and caregivers.

“Symptom Management at the End of Life”
Dr. Lori Ann Attivissimo, M.D., F.A.C.P., F.A.A.H.P.M., Senior Medical Director, Hospice Care Network and Mary Ellen Cubbon, RN, CHPN, CWCN, Education Manager, Hospice Care Network. In this session we will provide a definition of pain and discuss the “Total Pain” concept. A brief review of four Pain Scales utilized in pain assessment. Equianalgesic Dosing using Hospice Care Network’s card for Reference. Successful Pain Strategies including, but not limited to, medications. Definition of Dyspnea. Causes of Dyspnea, including physiological, anxiety, depression, panic attacks. Assessment of Dyspnea, including onset, quality, intensity, oxygen saturation, lung sounds and chest pain. Treatment strategies including, but not limited to, medication, blood transfusion, muscle training, nutritional therapy, oxygen, and more non-drug measures. Discussion of noisy respirations at EOL. Definition and physiological reasons provided for noisy respirations. Assessment, medications, and non-drug strategies in management of this distressing symptom for families

“Bereavement, Reminiscence and Coping”
Maureen P. Cardoza, PhD, RN, Nursing Faculty, N.Y.I.T. The death of family, friends, neighbors and co-workers forever alters our self-identity and worldview perspective. The bereavement process incorporates reconciling the death and the assimilation of the “new self” within an altered personal and environmental orientation. This seminar will explore human responses and coping strategies that assist the bereaved to reminisce, reconcile and cope with death.

“Caring for the Professional Caregiver”
George Teachey, DMin, BCC, Chaplin and Frank J. Monastero, LCSW, Medical Social Worker, Hospice Care Network. Who cares for the Professional Caregiver? How do we deal with the secondary trauma associated with working with the dying and their families? How do we care for others who are in a storm when we ourselves are struggling to stay afloat? Come...join us in exploring ways to enhance our own mental health.

“Crisis of Faith”
Judith Pollack, LCSW; Clinical Coordinator. FEGS, Partners In Dignity; Sr. Mary Alice Aschenbach, Mercy Medical Center; Seemi Ahmed, Islamic Center of LI; Rev. Steve Unger and Dr. Aaron Glatt, Executive VP, Mercy Medical Center. A panel of distinguished religious leaders will discuss how, despite a crisis of faith, people often times can draw strength from their beliefs in coping with illness.

“Cultural Competence”
Joyce Palmieri, RN, MS, CHPN Director of Clinical Services MJHS Hospice and Palliative Care. This presentation will provide an opportunity for you to explore and understand cultural differences. We will look at barriers to care, such as racism, cultural misunderstandings, and linguistic communications as being causes of unequal treatment in healthcare. It is expected within our industry that patients receive effective and respectful care that is in alignment with the patient's beliefs and practices. Through awareness and acceptance of cultural differences we can greatly impact the delivery and the quality of effective healthcare, leaving our patients being well cared for, feeling understood and respected. This session will provide some educational tools to assist practitioners.

“Childhood Bereavement”
Susan Thomas LCSW, CT, Bereavement Coordinator, Center for HOPE, Steven and Alexandra Cohen Children’s Medical Center of NY. Recognizing that sometimes the smallest hearts are asked to bear the heaviest pain, this workshop will explore children’s understanding and reactions to death, dying and bereavement. The presenter will provide both a theoretical framework as well as tools of the trade offering clinicians concrete suggestions for effectively supporting bereaved children.
1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions II

Conference participants will be able to pick from the following topics presented during this concurrent session. Participants are asked to pre-register for the session that would like to attend since seating will be limited in most of the sessions.

“Pediatric Pain & Symptom Management in Children with Advanced Illness” Linda Siegel, MD, FAAP, Director, Pediatric Chronic Pain and Palliative Care Team, Cohen Children's Medical Center of New York. In this session we will discuss nociception, pain, and suffering and age-appropriate pain assessment scales. Pharmacologic (non-opioids, opioids and adjuvants), integrative non-pharmacological, and rarely invasive treatment modalities for the management of intractable pediatric pain at the end-of-life including developmental and physiologic considerations will be covered. Opioid dose escalation and limitations related to age-dependence of opioid tolerance and opioid-induced hyperalgesia will be discussed.

“What is Normal About Grief?” Sue Degnan, LMSW, OSW-C, ACHP-SW, Palliative Medicine Department, Huntington Hospital. Discussion of “normal grief” and categorizations of types of grief: Complicated, Anticipatory, Traumatic. Interventional skills will be provided to assist in the identification and management of grief issues.

“Myths and Realities of Hospice Care” Amy Olshever, LCSW, Director of Social Work and Bereavement, Good Shepherd Hospice and Maria Rubino, RN CHPN, Senior Nurse Manager, Good Shepherd Hospice. While hospice services provide a range of clinical, psychosocial and spiritual support services to patients at the end of life and their families, the demands of caring for a loved one at home can be challenging for families, who may have expectations that cannot be met. This workshop will focus on strategies to help families anticipate what is likely to happen as their loved one’s condition changes, and adapt the services so that patients can remain at home.

“End-of-Life Issues: How to Have a Conversation with the Family” Maria Vitsentzos, RN, MSN, ANP-BC; Director and Nurse Practitioner for Palliative Care Program, St. Francis Hospital and Lori Hardoon, LCSW, Director, F+E+G+S Health and Human Services, Partners in Dignity, The LI Regional Care Center of Jewish Healing and Hospice Alliance an initiative of UJA-Federation of NY. The art of communication for a seriously ill patient and their family at the end-of-life is a gentle fusion of honesty, empathy and hope. The clinician must not only speak to the clinical challenges a person faces but also explore the impact these challenges will have on the physical, emotional, psychosocial and spiritual dimensions of a person’s life.

“Bereavement: The Truths and Myths of the Grieving Process as Depicted in the Movies and on Television” Joanne Archer and Barbara McGuire, Hospice Care Network. Grief has been a taboo subject in our society for generations. We don’t like to think about it, let alone talk about it. Most of us, including Health Care Professionals, have learned what we do know and how to deal with it from our parents, who learned it from their parents. This has culminated into multi-generational, religious and culturally influenced myths as our foundation to describe grief. In this instant gratification-seeking era, people often choose to utilize movies as an educational tool and many assume that what they observe on film is the unmitigated truth. Since most movies are based in the unchallenged traditional beliefs, they subsequently perpetuate these misconceptions. This presentation will embrace our changing learning habits by utilizing movie clips as an educational tool to expel the myths and identify the truths of grief. We can transform the future of health care by enlightening our Health Care Professionals.