

THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL
EDITH RICHNER

Palliative Care Conference



**MOLLOY
UNIVERSITY**

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2026 • 8:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

16th Annual Edith Richner Palliative Care Conference

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2026

Molloy University, in collaboration with community partners, is pleased to be offering its 16th annual Edith Richner Palliative Care Conference on Long Island.

The conference will be held on Friday, June 5, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. in the Madison Theater at Molloy's Rockville Centre campus and also online via Zoom. The agenda for the day will include a Keynote Session, a series of topics offered during two concurrent sessions and a Closing Session. The keynote speaker will be **Dr. Cristian Zanartu**, Physician, MJHS and Zanartu Medical PLLC.

The 2026 conference will offer two options to attend: in-person and virtual through Zoom.

The main objective of this year's conference is for the participants to enhance their ability to provide professional, competent, empathetic care to patients and their families.

This year's conference will focus on the new developments in this growing and dynamic field. Experts from medicine, nursing, pastoral care, child life and social work will present the latest advancements in the fields of symptom management, ethics and communication, staff self-care and bereavement. Clinicians from across the continuum will engage participants in discussions about best practices and barriers, to timely excellent palliative care in hospitals, nursing homes and hospice organizations. As always, the main objective of this year's conference is for the participants to come away with new tools to provide professional, competent, compassionate care to patients and their families. At this year's conference we will again provide clinicians from all disciplines with a wide variety of palliative care topics, presented by an outstanding group of speakers.

NEW FOR 2026: POSTER SESSION!

A Poster Session will be held during lunch. If you are interested in presenting a poster at the conference, please visit www.molloy.edu/ce/pcc

STUDENTS AND THOSE NEW TO PALLIATIVE CARE

If you are a student or new to palliative care there are two concurrent sessions that were designed with you in mind: "Building Novice Staff Confidence in End-of-Life Care Using Interprofessional Simulation" in Concurrent Session I and the "Lynda Cooper Mentoring Session for Those New to Palliative Care" in Concurrent Session II.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

8:00 - 8:30 a.m. Registration and Breakfast with Exhibitors

in the Madison Theatre Lobby, Public Square

Breakfast Sponsored by Flynn Fellows

8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Welcoming Remarks

in the Madison Theatre, Public Square

Louis J. Cino, Dean, Division of Continuing Education and Professional Studies

9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Cristian Zanartu, Physician, MJHS and Zanartu Medical PLLC

10:00 - 10:15 a.m. Break with Exhibitors

in the Madison Theatre Lobby, Public Square (in-person only)

10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Concurrent Sessions I (locations to be announced)

Conference participants will be able to pick from a variety of topics presented during this session. The virtual sessions through Zoom are indicated by light blue highlight Zoom. All sessions are also offered in person.

Space constraints did not allow for the inclusion of session descriptions or speaker bios. Please visit our conference webpage at: www.molloy.edu/ce/pcc for session descriptions and speaker bios. Participants will be asked to pre-register for the topics that they would like to attend. In-person seating is limited, so please make your selections early. Those attending virtually will be emailed the Zoom link for their sessions. Please use the conference code to the left of the session title when completing the registration form on the inside back cover of this brochure.

Conference participants will be able to pick from the following topics presented during this concurrent session:

1A. *End-of-life Doulas, particularly in Pediatric Settings - Marianne Muzic, LCSW, APHSW-C, PMH-C, Palliative Care Program Manager, St. Mary's Healthcare System for Children

1B. *Living with 9/11 Cancer: A Support Group Aimed at Helping WTC Health Program General Responders and Survivors Diagnosed with 9/11 Related-Cancer and the Introduction of Patient Centered-Goals and Discussing Treating the Person vs Treating the Disease - Sharon Daneshgar, LCSW-R, OSW-C and **Georgianne Kraft**, LCSW-R, OSW-C

1C. *Crisis of Faith: Spirituality - Sr. Edith Menegus, OSU, BCC, ThM, Director of Pastoral Care, St. Charles Hospital & St. Catherine of Siena Hospital; **Rabbi Deborah Miller**, BCC, Chaplain at Northwell Health; **Sanaa Nadim**, Director-Islamic Society SBU, Chair-Interfaith Center SBU, Chaplain-Spiritual Care Dept. SBUH; **Reverend Karen Jones**, MA, MDiv, Hospital Director, Spiritual Care Services, NYU Langone Hospital—Long Island

1D. *Building Novice Staff Confidence in End-of-Life Care Using Interprofessional Simulation - Dr. Kathleen Wagner, DNP, MSN, RN, NE-BC, CPN, Director Clinical Professional Development, Magnet Program at Peconic Bay Medical Center ([Zoom](#)) and ([in-person](#))

1E. *A Cross-Cultural Analysis of the Uses of Music in Death and Grief: Considerations for Clinical Music Therapy Practice - Kaitlyn Kelly, MS, LCAT, MT-BC, Molloy University ([Zoom](#)) and ([in-person](#))

1F. *Toolkit for New Leaders on Coaching and Development - Joyce Palmieri, MS, RN, CHPN, FPCN, Senior Vice President of Clinical Services, MJHS Hospice and Palliative Care and **Jade Johnson**, LCSW, ACHP-SW, AD of Hospice Clinical Practice, MJHS Hospice and Palliative Care ([Zoom](#)) and ([in-person](#))

1G. *Promoting Respectful and Inclusive Serious Illness Care for the LGBTQ+ Community: Practice, Research, and Policy Perspectives - Cathy Berkman, PhD, MSW, Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service; **Adam Schoenfarber**, MSW, Westchester Medical Center, Palliative Care Service; **Noelle Marie Javier**, MD, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Internal Medicine, Geriatrics, Palliative Care ([Zoom](#)) and ([in-person](#))

1H. *Advanced Care Planning for Dementia Patients Dr. Emilin Pandian, Palliative Medicine Physician at Northwell Health - Dr. Emilin Pandian, Palliative Medicine Physician at Northwell Health

1I. *What Matters Most and Implementing Goals of Care for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Supported by OPWDD - Dr. Lindsey Semprini, MD, Palliative Medicine, Northwell Health & **Christine Gallo**, LCSW, GC-C, YTT, Palliative Medicine, PBMC-Northwell Health

* These session are approved for SW CE credit

11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Lunch with Exhibitors

in the Madison Theater Lobby, Public Square (in-person only) and Poster session (Larini Room, Public Square) Lunch is sponsored by Fordham University, Graduate School of Social Service

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions II (in-person locations to be announced)

Conference participants will be able to pick from the following topics presented during this concurrent session. See directions under Concurrent Session I

2A. *The Journey and Struggle in Setting Healthy Boundaries For Ourselves - Dr. Jay R. Horton, PhD, ACHPN, FNP-BC, MPH, Thyme Care ([Zoom](#)) and ([in-person](#))

2B. *The Mindful Practitioner: Developing an Artful Contemplative Practice - Dr. Katherine Patterson, Molloy University

2C. *Lynda Cooper Mentoring Session for Those New to Palliative Care - Sue Degnan, LMSW, OSW-C, ACHP-SW and **Joyce Palmieri**, MS, RN, CHPN, FPCN, Senior Vice President of Clinical Services, MJHS Hospice and Palliative Care

2D. *Supporting Family Caregivers Through Empathy, Education, and Empowerment - Patricia Daly, LCSW, APHSW-C, Sr. Program Manager, Serenity Family Caregiver Program, Northwell Health LIJ Medical Center

2E. *When Grief Gets Complicated - Gail Carter, LCSW-R, Bereavement Social Worker, Northwell Health, Hospice Care Network and **Christine Gallo**, LCSW, GC-C, YTT, Palliative Medicine, PBMC-Northwell Health

2F. *Carrying our Roots in Song: Music Therapy as a Modality to Explore Ideas of Home, Identity, and Connection at the End-of-Life - Charla Burton, MMT, MT-BC, LCAT, Creative Arts Therapy Clinical Training Program Coordinator, MJHS Hospice and Palliative Care; **Meredith Ferrel**, MA, MT-BC, LCAT, HPMT, CT, FT, Creative Arts Therapy Team Leader, MJHS Hospice and Palliative Care and **Robin Mitchell**, MA, MT-BC, LCAT, Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapist, Creative Arts Therapist, MJHS Hospice and Palliative Care ([Zoom](#)) and ([in-person](#))

2G. *Comfort, Connection and Care: Child Life Support During End of Life Across the Healthcare Setting - Emily Altstadter, MS, CCLS, Child Life Specialist, Cohen Children's Medical Center and **Marianne Porzelt**, MS, CCLS, Certified Child Life Specialist, Cohen Children's Medical Center

2H. *Current Issues Affecting Veteran's Health at End-of-Life - Ashton Stewart, Veteran Program Manager, MJHS Health System ([Zoom](#)) and ([in-person](#))

2I. *Ripples of Grief: Music Psychotherapy from First Moments to Last - Lauren Fagan-Antonelli, MS, LCAT, MT-BC and **Lillie Klein**, MS, LCAT, MT-BC, Molloy University ([Zoom](#)) and ([in-person](#))

* These sessions are approved for SW CE credit

2:00 - 2:15 p.m. Break in the Madison Theater Lobby, Public Square

2:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. Closing General Session (Madison Theater)

Panel Discussion: Ethics and the Multidisciplinary Team in Palliative Care - Moderator: Renee McLeod-Sordjan, DNP, PhD, CENP, FNP, FNYAM, FAME, FAAN, Director, Division of Medical Ethics, Department of Medicine, Northwell Health System and NuHealth, Chair, Northwell Health System Ethics Review Committee, Associate Professor, Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/ Northwell, Co-Course Director, Hofstra University Bioethics Center

Panelists: To Be Announced

3:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Distribution of Certificates of Completion in the Madison Theater Lobby



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CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT:

Nursing Continuing Education Credit

Molloy University is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the New Jersey State Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses' Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation approval #NPY273-6/2025. 1 contact hour will be awarded for the keynote session, 1.5 hours for each concurrent session of the two Concurrent Sessions and 1.5 hours for the Closing Session for a total of 5.5 contact hours if you attend each session of the conference.

Social Work Continuing Education Credit

Molloy University Social Work CPE is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers #0110 and that a number of sessions offered for the Palliative Care Conference have been approved for Social Work CE credit. The keynote session is approved for 1 hour, the Closing Session is approved for 1.5 hours and a number of the Concurrent Session I & II (1.5 hour each) are approved. Therefore, a total of 5.5 hours will be granted if the participant attends the approved sessions. The approved sessions are listed in the Concurrent Sessions sections with an asterisk.

Licensed Mental Health Counselors (LMHCs)

Molloy University is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Mental Health Practitioners as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed mental health counselors. #MHC-0052. This conference is offered for 5.5 CE contact hours for Licensed Mental Health Counselors (LMHCs).

Music Therapy Continuing Education Credit (CMTE and LCAT)

The Annual Palliative Care Conference is pending by the Certification Board for Music Therapists, approval number: P-102, to award 6 Continuing Music Therapy Education Synchronous (in-person) Opportunities. The Provider maintains responsibility for program quality and adherence to CBMT Policies and Criteria for Continuing Music Therapy Education. Molloy University is an approved provider for CE credit from NY State for Licensed Creative Arts Therapists (LCAT): approval number CAT-0015. This program is offered for 5.5 hours of CEU credit for Licensed Creative Arts Therapists.



Tribute to Lynda Cooper

It is with great sadness that the Conference Planning Committee shares that Lynda Cooper, Culture Leader for Northwell Health at Home, passed away this past December. Lynda, along with the Richner family, were the driving force behind the creation of the Edith Richner Palliative Care Conference. Lynda was an incredible person, leader and friend who will be greatly missed by so many. Since Lynda was a mentor to many in the palliative care field, the Conference Planning Committee will be offering scholarship opportunities in her name for students to attend the conference in the future and to also offer a, "Lynda Cooper Mentoring Session" in upcoming conferences. May we all keep Lynda, her family and her Northwell family in our thoughts and prayers.



Edith Richner Palliative Care Conference

The inspiration for this conference was born out of the experience of the Richner family, which lost its much beloved matriarch, Edith Richner, to a rare brain disorder, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, in the fall of 2006. The conference was the result of the efforts of the Richner family to educate and inform health and human service professionals to better deal with the end of life issues faced by their patients and their families. This year we are pleased to re-name the conference, the Edith Richner Palliative Care Conference, in her honor.

Edith Richner Palliative Care Conference

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Tara Anglim, EdD, LCSW-R, ACHP-SW
VP of Culture and Experience
Northwell Health- Peconic Bay Medical Center

Cathy Berkman, PhD, MSW, Professor and Director, Palliative Care Fellowship; Chair, Institutional Review Board; Fordham University, Graduate School of Social Service

Louis J. Cino
Dean, Division of CE & Professional Studies
Molloy University

Andrea Cowles, RN, BSN, MA, CCM
Director of Intake and Service Development
Visiting Nurse Service and Hospice of Suffolk

Bernadette D. Curry, PhD, RN, FAAN
Dean Emerita & Professor
Barbara H. Hagan School of Nursing and Health Science
Molloy University

Carolina B. de Elia, MD
Eastern Market Director of Geriatric and Palliative Medicine,
Director of Geriatric and Palliative Medicine, Huntington Hospital,
Assistant Professor Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine
at Hofstra/Northwell

Stacey Fanelli, PMHNP-BC, RN, CHPN, LCSW-R, ACHP-SW
Director of Hospice Clinical Services
MJHS Hospice and Palliative Care

Lori Hardoon, LCSW
Palliative Care Social Worker/ Co-Owner
Guiding Hearts Helping Hands LCSW, PLLC

Renee McLeod-Sordjan, DNP, PhD, CENP, FNAP, FNYAM, FAME, FAAN, Director, Division of Medical Ethics, Department of Medicine, Northwell Health System and NuHealth, Chair, Northwell Health System Ethics Review Committee, Associate Professor, Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell, Co-Course Director, Hofstra University Bioethics Center

Sr. Edith Menegus, OSU, BCC, ThM
Director of Pastoral Care
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St. Mary's Healthcare System for Children

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Zainab Toteh Osakwe, PhD, RN, NP; Associate Professor,
College of Nursing and Public Health, Adelphi University

Maria Vitsentzos, MSN, RN, ANP-C
St Francis Hospital; Inpatient Palliative Care
St Francis Hospital Cancer Institute; Outpatient Palliative Care

In Memoriam:

Lynda B. Cooper, LCSW

Edith Richner Palliative Care Conference Registration Form

Please register quickly, as space is limited.

REGISTRATION FEES:

- There are two different tuition rates: one for participants who are attending in-person and one for those attending remotely through Zoom. Please note that there will be less concurrent sessions to choose from in the Zoom format. We are offering 4 Zoom sessions to choose from in each of the 2 concurrent sessions. Please also note that the Zoom option has a lower rate of tuition than the in-person option because food will not be offered.
- If you pay by credit card there will be a fee of 2.95% for domestic cards and 4.25% for international cards added to the tuition. You can avoid the credit card fee by paying with a check online or by mail.

FORMAT SELECTION (please check either in-person or virtual through Zoom)
☐ In-person ☐ Zoom

REGISTRATION FEES:

“In-Person” Section Tuition Rates (includes breakfast, lunch and breaks):

- Early Registration until March 13, 2026: \$95
- Regular Registration, March 14-May 8: \$125
- Late Registration, May 9-29: \$145
- After May 29 or at the door: \$165
- Molloy students (please use your Molloy email when registering): \$25
- Full-time students: \$25 (please provide your student ID at check-in) by May 29
- Molloy Faculty and Staff- no charge (please use your Molloy email address as your contact email when registering) by May 29
- Molloy Alumni- 25% discount (currently \$71.25) by May 29

“Zoom” Section Tuition Rates (no food is included with fewer concurrent sessions to choose from):

- Early Registration until March 13, 2026: \$75
- Regular Registration, March 14-May 8: \$105
- Late Registration, May 9-29: \$125
- After May 30 or at the door: \$145
- Molloy students (please use your Molloy email when registering): \$15
- Full-time students: \$15 (please provide your student ID at check-in) by May 29
- Molloy Faculty and Staff- no charge (please use your Molloy email address as your contact email when registering) by May 29
- Molloy Alumni- 25% discount (currently \$56.25) by May 29

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES:

- **Online registration** is available at: the conference website at: www.molloy.edu/ce/pcc
- **Phone** your registration by calling 516-323-3554 with your Visa, Discover, MasterCard or purchase order information.
- **Mail-in** your registration by completing the registration form with your Visa, MasterCard or purchase order information and include a check (made payable to: Molloy University) or your credit card information or purchase order to: Molloy University, Division of Continuing Education, 1000 Hempstead Ave., PO Box 5002, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-5002.

A confirmation, with directions to the campus and a campus map, will be sent upon receipt of your registration.

Name _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Organization _____ Title _____

Fax _____ E-Mail _____

Please check if you are a full-time student ☐ If so, which school do you attend _____

CONCURRENT SESSION SELECTIONS

(please see agenda and indicate your 1st and 2nd choice for each session below):

Concurrent Session I (10:15 – 11:45 a.m.):

1st Choice: _____

2nd Choice: _____

Concurrent Session II (12:30 – 2:00 p.m.):

1st Choice: _____

2nd Choice: _____

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Enclosed is my check or money order made payable to Molloy University ☐ Enclosed is a purchase order

Please charge the tuition to my credit card ☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ MC # _____

Exp. Date _____ Name on the card _____

Signature _____

Questions: If you should have any questions regarding the registration, please contact Ramona Ali at: 516-323-3553 or by email at: rali@molloy.edu.

The conference website address is: www.molloy.edu/ce/pcc.



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Division of Continuing Education
and Professional Studies
1000 Hempstead Ave.
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Register Now – Space is Limited!