





## Attending to Psychosocial Issues



### Near the End of Life: A SPSSI-Sponsored International Conference

Cleveland, Ohio  
February 2-3, 2002

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## *Introduction to the Issues and Overview of the Conference*

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## *Psychosocial Issues Near the End of Life*

- **Diagnosable Mental Conditions**
  - Clinical Anxiety Disorders
  - Clinical Depression & Other Mood Disorders
  - Delirium
  - Dementia
  - Personality Disorders
  - Substance Abuse

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- **Other Personal Considerations**
    - Autonomy/Control
    - Dignity
    - Existential Issues and Spiritual Beliefs
    - Fear
    - Grief
    - Hopelessness
    - Values
  - **Interpersonal and Environmental Issues**
    - Being a "Burden"
    - Cultural Factors
    - Financial Variables
    - Presence/Absence of Significant Others
    - Pressure/Coercion

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## Importance of Psychosocial Issues

- Research, Theory, and Experience Have Demonstrated the Key Role of These Issues in:
  - End-of-Life Decision-Making
  - Quality of Life Assessments
    - Dying Person
    - Significant Others
  - Professional and Volunteer Caregiver Reactions

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## One Perspective on the Importance of Psychosocial Issues

- "To provide comprehensive, effective, quality end-of-life care to the terminally ill, we must attend to the psychosocial aspects of the dying process. . . ."
- "[Further, to] appropriately address comprehensive pain and symptom management, we must incorporate [psychosocial issues] into our overall thinking about mental health, quality of care, and health system structures."

(Wyden, 2000, pp. 580-581).

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## Why: This Conference, Here, Now

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Why This Conference:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Research</li> <li>■ Care/Service</li> <li>■ Education/Training</li> <li>■ Policy</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Why Here:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Universities (e.g., Akron, Case Western)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Why Here (cont.):           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Organizations (e.g., ILDG, WRGEC)</li> <li>■ Hospices &amp; Hospitals (e.g., HWR, University Hospitals)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Why Now:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ APA Activities</li> <li>■ Demonstrates your commitment</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
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## Overview of the Conference

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Introduction           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Kaplan</li> <li>■ Breitbart</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Research           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Connor</li> <li>■ Stroebe</li> <li>■ Knebel</li> <li>■ Hughes</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Care/Service           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Passik</li> <li>■ Papadatou</li> <li>■ Marconi</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Education/Training           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Welcome Students</li> <li>■ CE Workshops</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Policy           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Small / Large Groups</li> <li>■ Congressional Efforts</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
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## *Acknowledgments*

- SPSSI (Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues)
- American Psychological Association
- University of Akron
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- Hospice of the Western Reserve
- Many Individuals

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