



The Society for the Psychological
Study of Social Issues

ATTENDING TO PSYCHOSOCIAL ISSUES NEAR THE END OF LIFE: A SPSSI-SPONSORED INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**February 2-3, 2002
Cleveland, Ohio**

www.uakron.edu/eol/conference

Psychosocial issues are a primary determinant of quality of life and of end-of-life decision-making. In fact they appear to be more important than physical pain and suffering. Although research provides clear links between psychosocial factors and end-of-life decisions, virtually all of the legislative, monetary, and research attention has been paid to medical aspects of the dying experience and how to reduce physical suffering.

This conference, sponsored by the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, will focus attention on psychosocial issues in research, education, policy, and practice by considering both our extant knowledge and how we can build upon it to improve care. Research, practice, and training agendas will be articulated and communicated to federal funders and policy makers. Further, the conference's interactive sessions will provide a unique opportunity for dialogue between researchers, practitioners, educators, and policy-minded individuals - both domestic and international - to share ideas and articulate a cohesive vision for the future.

Intended Audience

The conference will bring together researchers, practitioners, and policy-minded individuals to discuss what is known and what is still unknown about psychosocial issues at the end of life. The content will be of special interest to chaplains, marriage and family therapists, hospice workers, nurses, physicians, professional counselors, psychiatrists, psychologists, and social workers. Continuing education credits will be offered.

Goals and Objectives

- (1) to provide attendees with an overview of both the current and cutting-edge research and practice associated with psychosocial issues near the end of life
 - ◆ summarize the state of end-of-life care and decision-making and the role psychosocial issues play near the end of life
 - ◆ discuss ways of improving psychosocial care near the end of life, the state of the science, and future research needs
- (2) to facilitate multidisciplinary discussion
 - ◆ encourage members of different disciplines to collaborate on practice and research agendas
- (3) to develop research, practice, and training agendas to be communicated directly to federal funders and policy-makers
 - ◆ produce comprehensive research, practice, and training agendas to be distributed on Capitol Hill and to federal agencies
- (4) to provide cutting-edge continuing education with the goal of enhancing practice and research skills.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

February 2 (Saturday)

- 8:30 - 8:45 Welcome and overview of the conference
8:45 - 9:30 Overview of end-of-life care
9:30 - 10:15 Overview of psychosocial issues near the end of life
10:30 - 12:20 Panel: Research Needs
- ◆ State of the science, recommendations for the future, and Federal agencies' roles in funding psychosocial care at the end of life
- 12:20 - 2:00 Lunch on one's own and Poster Session/ Information Booths
2:00 - 3:00 Small Group Discussion: Research
- ◆ Brainstorming of recommendations for research and training agendas to guide policy makers and funders
- 3:15 - 5:00 Large Group Discussion: Research
- ◆ Group presentations of small group results
 - ◆ Funding agency representatives comment

February 3 (Sunday)

- 8:30 - 10:20 Panel: Improving End of Life Psychosocial Care
- ◆ State of end-of-life care, recommendations for improvement, and the role of funding agencies
- 10:35 - 11:30 Small Group Discussion: Practice
- ◆ Brainstorming of recommendations to improve care, train providers, and inform policy makers and funding agencies
- 11:30 - 1:00 Lunch (included in registration) and Speaker
1:00 - 2:45 Large Group Discussion: Practice
- ◆ Group presentations of small group results
 - ◆ Plenary speaker comment
- 3:00 - 5:00 Concurrent Continuing Education Workshops
- ◆ Psychologists as Members of Interdisciplinary Teams
 - ◆ Meaning Reconstruction and the Experience of Loss
 - ◆ Assessing and Alleviating Depression and Hopelessness Near the End of Life
 - ◆ The Effects of Culture in End-of-Life Situations
 - ◆ Utilizing Spirituality in End-of-Life Care
 - ◆ Advance Directives: Problems and Possibilities

Scheduled Presenters

William Breitbart, M.D., **Stephen Connor**, Ph.D., **Peter Ditto**, Ph.D., **Karen Orloff Kaplan**, M.S.W., M.P.H., Sc.D., **Donna Kwilosz**, Ph.D., **Robert A. Neimeyer**, Ph.D., **Danai Papadatou**, Ph.D., **Steven Passik**, Ph.D., **Barry Rosenfeld**, Ph.D., U.S. Rep. **Thomas Sawyer** (D-OH -14th), **Margaret Stroebe**, Ph.D., **Sharon Valente**, Ph.D., FAAN, **Robert Washington**, Ph.D.

Conference Location & Lodging

The conference will be held 10 minutes from Cleveland-Hopkins International Airport at the Radisson Southwest (<http://www.radisson.com/middleburgheightsoh>). The same hotel will provide primary lodging for out-of-town attendees. Single/Double occupancy rate is \$75. **Reservations must be made by Jan. 8, 2002.** Parking is complimentary.

Conference Registration

Both professionals and students are strongly encouraged to attend. Registration fees are as follows:

	Professionals	Students
Before Jan. 8, 2002	\$175.00	\$25.00
Jan. 8 - Feb. 1, 2002	\$200.00	\$35.00
On-site	\$250.00	\$50.00

Continuing education credits are pending for counselors, nurses, psychologists, and social workers. Travel awards are available for students (see <http://www.uakron.edu/eol/conference/travelawards.html>).

Inquiries should be directed to Dean Blevins at dblevin@uakron.edu.

For more information, lodging and registration forms, poster submission and travel award guidelines, please consult our website: www.uakron.edu/eol/conference.