The Ethics of Humility and Vulnerability in Health Care

Conference Synopsis

Deeply honest conversations are at the heart of all mutual, fulfilling relationships. When we talk with one another with openness and vulnerability, we bring all of our humanity to bear. The relationship between health care provider and those we serve contains elements of hope, expectation and, often, challenge. While risky, having genuine conversations—right from the beginning of care—is essential to mitigating ethical conflict. In having these complex conversations, we learn to honour people's decisions, recognize our own vulnerabilities and understand what human dignity entails.

Learning Objectives

Participants will:

• Understand personal and systemic values and perspectives that influence ethical decision-making

• Examine the value of open communication in ethical decision-making—amongst colleagues and between health care providers and patients, and between health care providers and families

• Explore strategies to build consensus and support ethical decision-making through your work
Thursday, June 13, 2013
Delta Edmonton South
4404 Gateway Blvd, Edmonton

All program information is subject to change.

7:00 a.m. – 7:45 a.m.  Breakfast and Registration

7:45 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.  Conference Opening
Gordon Self, Vice President, Mission, Ethics and Spirituality
Jon Gilchrist, Clinical Ethics Leader

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.  Plenary Address
Dignity, Vulnerability and the Care of the Patient
Daniel Sulmasy

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.  Plenary Address
In the Patient’s Voice
Kathy Torpie

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  Refreshment Break

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  Concurrent Sessions (45 minutes per presentation)
Room A:
1. The Vulnerabilities of Capacity Assessments
   Jasneet Parmar, Associate Professor of Family Medicine, University of Alberta
   Barb Martini, Director, Office of the Public Guardian, Alberta Human Services
   Dino McLaughlin, Partner, Field Law LLP

2. Many Voices, One Dilemma: The Struggle for Culturally Competent Dialogue in Health Care Settings
   Scott Stewart, Social Worker, Edmonton General Continuing Care Centre

Room B:
1. The Family Conference at End of Life: Rationale, Indications and Practical Framework
   Meg Hagerty, Palliative Social Worker, Edmonton General Continuing Care Centre
   Ingrid DeKock, Associate Clinical Professor, Palliative Care Medicine, University of Alberta Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

2. Relational Practice: Caring in the Human Health Relationship
   Scott Harrison, Director, Urban Health and HIV/AIDS, Providence Health Care
   Brynn Grierson, Clinical Nurse Leader, HIV Program, Providence Health Care
   Neil Fowler, Program Assistant, Providence Health Care

Room C:
1. Family Presence during CPR: The Crossroads of Compassion, Dignity and Risk at End of Life
   Tim Wharton, Clinical Educator, Coronary Care Unit, Misericordia Hospital
   Sarah Kosowan, Nurse Practitioner, Cardiology, Misericordia Hospital

2. Perspectives on Journeying with Patients through Life
   Randy Naiker, Physician, Edmonton West Primary Care Network
   Fraser Armstrong, Physician, Edmonton Meadowlark Health Centre
Lunch

Interactive Panel
Reclaiming Advocacy, Restoring Voice
Moderator: André Picard
Panelists: Jasneet Parmar, Associate Professor of Family Medicine, University of Alberta
Konrad Fassbender, Assistant Professor, Palliative Care Medicine at the University of Alberta Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Kathy Torpie, Psychologist and International Healthcare Speaker

Refreshment Break
Light refreshments will be available in concurrent session rooms

Concurrent Sessions Repeat (45 minutes per presentation)

Rapporteur’s Report
André Picard

Conference Closing
Jon Gilchrist, Clinical Ethics Leader
Plenary Speaker:

**Daniel Sulmasy**
Kilbride-Clinton Professor of Medicine and Ethics, Department of Medicine and the Divinity School; Associate Director, MacLean Centre for Clinical Medical Ethics, The University of Chicago

Dr. Sulmasy is the Kilbride-Clinton Professor of Medicine and Ethics in the Department of Medicine and Divinity School at the University of Chicago, where he serves as Associate Director of the MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics. He has previously held faculty positions at New York Medical College and at Georgetown University. He received his A.B. and M.D. degrees from Cornell University and completed his residency, chief residency, and post-doctoral fellowship in General Internal Medicine at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. He received his Ph.D. in philosophy from Georgetown University in 1995. He has served on numerous governmental advisory committees, and was appointed to the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues by President Obama in April, 2010. His research interests encompass both theoretical and empirical investigations of the ethics of end-of-life decision-making, ethics education, and spirituality in medicine. He is the author of four books—The Healer's Calling (1997), Methods in Medical Ethics (2001; 2nd ed. 2010), The Rebirth of the Clinic (2006), and A Balm for Gilead (2006). He serves as editor-in-chief of the journal, Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics. His numerous articles have appeared in medical, philosophical, and theological journals and he has lectured widely both in the U.S. and abroad.

Plenary Speaker:

**Kathy Torpie**
Psychologist, Author & International Healthcare Speaker, New Zealand

Kathy Torpie is a psychologist, author, and long-term multi-trauma patient with experience of health care services at just about every level of care. Her story and presentation style has engaged the attention of thousands of medical professionals from around the world. She offers a perspective on health care that is systemic as well as personal. Her area of expertise is the patient experience and the role that interpersonal and communication skills play in the clinician/patient relationship and in relationships throughout the health care organization.

She is the author of Losing Face; A Memoir of Lost Identity and Self Discovery (Harper Collins, N.Z), an insightful narrative of her medical and personal journey of recovery offering a deeply intimate view of the patient experience – one that is often hidden by more visible physical trauma.

Moderator:

**André Picard**
Public Health Reporter, The Globe and Mail

André Picard is the public health reporter at The Globe and Mail and author of the best-selling books Critical Care: Canadian Nurses Speak for Change and The Gift of Death: Confronting Canada’s Tainted Blood Tragedy. He is also the author of A Call to Alms: The New Face of Charity in Canada. André has received much acclaim for his writing, including the Michener Award for Meritorious Public Service Journalism, the Canadian Policy Research Award, and the Atkinson Fellowship for Public Policy Research.
Fraser Armstrong

Biography not available at this time

Ingrid DeKock

Dr. Ingrid de Kock joined the Edmonton Zone Palliative Care Program in July 2000, after completing a Fellowship in Palliative Care Medicine at the University of Ottawa. Prior to this she was working in several provinces/territories as rural GP surgeon/anesthetist.

As Palliative Care Physician with the Edmonton Zone Palliative Community Consult Team she provides consulting services to the community, acute care hospitals, Edmonton hospices and long-term care facilities. She has a strong clinical focus and is involved in teaching and research activities of the Division of Palliative Care Medicine in the capacity of Associate Clinical Professor. Her research focus is on the role of marijuana in Palliative Care Medicine, prognostication and clinical aspects of patient care.

She is the Physician Lead for the Palliative Community Consult Team and is actively involved in program development projects to enhance care for palliative patients in the community setting.

She is currently Past President of the Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians.

Konrad Fassbender

Dr. Konrad Fassbender is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Palliative Care Medicine. He holds cross-appointments as Adjunct Assistant Professor in the School of Public Health, Fellow of the Institute of Public Economics at the University of Alberta, Inaugural Scientist for the Integrated Centre for Care Advancement through Research (iCARE, a joint venture of the University of Alberta and Capital Health, now Alberta Health Services) and Research Associate with the Sociobehavioural Research Centre (BC Cancer Agency). He supervises medical trainees, graduate students and teaches health economics, health finance and econometrics. Dr. Fassbender works with clinicians, administrators and policy makers to measure cost and performance associated with the financing and delivery of health care and social services. His program of research concentrates on the effects of health reform and technological change on health and economic outcomes of dying patients and their families.

Neil Fowler

Neil Fowler is the Program Assistant for the Immunodeficiency Clinic (IDC) at St. Paul’s Hospital, Vancouver and UBC certified Peer Counselor. With a long background in hospitality management, Neil followed his passion to health care and has worked in HIV care since 2009. Providing support to the interprofessional clinical team at the IDC, Neil has a key role in patient engagement, quality improvement and person-centered care. He helps to lead the Patient Advisory Group, and is a leader in the creation of Community of Care, which aims to provide patients with access to a healthy life, not just health care. Neil’s Aboriginal heritage helps guide the Providence Health Care Aboriginal Health Improvement Committee. He is passionate about person centered care, HIV/AIDS care and Aboriginal health and rights.

Brynn Grierson

Brynn Grierson RN, BScN, MSN is a Registered Nurse who graduated from the University of Ottawa with a Bachelors of Nursing in 2004 and a Masters of Nursing from the University of British Columbia in 2012. Brynn has worked as a Registered Nurse with Providence Health Care in Vancouver since 2004. Most of Brynn’s nursing career has been dedicated to HIV/AIDS nursing. She has worked in a variety of different roles including staff nurse on the in-patient HIV unit (10C), patient educator in the Immunodeficiency Clinic (IDC), and currently as the Clinical Nurse Leader of the IDC. The IDC is an outpatient clinic that provides HIV primary care to approximately 1100 patients living with HIV. She is the Pacific Regional representative for the national nursing organization, Canadian Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (CANAC). Brynn also does sessional work at the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) as a Clinical Instructor in the undergraduate nursing program. She is also on the Faculty Committee at the University of British Columbia for the interdisciplinary health course IHHS 402: HIV Prevention and Treatment.
SPEAKER BIOS

Meg Hagerty
Meg Hagerty BA, BSW, RSW has worked as Registered Social Worker in Palliative Care since the early 1990’s, presently at the Mel Miller Hospice, at the Edmonton General Continuing Care Centre – Covenant Health. She is a member of the Covenant Health Ethics Committee. Meg has been employed in various areas of health care, child welfare, and the not for profit community sector for close to 3 decades. She has a passion for companionsing her clients and their families in their journeys through the last stages of life, as well as supporting professional colleagues in this challenging work.

Scott Harrison
Scott Harrison is an experienced nurse, midwife, Nurse Practitioner and health care leader, with a background in critical care nursing, public health and primary care. Throughout his 20 years of clinical practice, Scott has focused on vulnerable and marginalized communities including the homeless, people with learning disabilities, mental health issues and people living with HIV/AIDS.

He is currently the Director of Urban Health & HIV/AIDS with Providence Health Care in Vancouver and Adjunct Professor of Nursing with the University of British Columbia. Focused on the Downtown Eastside and Vancouver Inner City, Scott manages HIV/AIDS services, Addiction services and Aboriginal Health services.

Scott is also the President of the Canadian Association of Nurses in AIDS Care, the national nursing organization for nurses working in HIV/AIDS, and has been recognized for his work with the Canadian Association of Nurses in AIDS Care Award of Excellence for Exceptional Contribution to HIV/AIDS Nursing and the Providence Health Care Mission Award (in 2010) and the College of Registered Nurses of BC Advocacy Award (in 2012).

Sarah Kosowan
Sarah Kosowan MN, NP has over 10 years of cardiac experience and is currently working in Edmonton at the Misericordia Community Hospital as a Nurse Practitioner in Cardiology. She received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Alberta in 2003 and Master of Nursing in 2010. Family presence during resuscitation was the focus of her master’s degree and her research was published in the Canadian Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing in 2011, coauthored by her faculty advisor Dr. Louise Jensen. Sarah is an active part of the Resuscitation committee, as well as the Covenant Health Ethics Committee, and is an active Heart and Stroke Advanced Cardiac Life Support Instructor.

Barb Martini
Barb Martini has over 25 years experience with the Provincial Government in many roles and locations. Her career has included: Income Support; Client Service Coordination; Family Support for Children With Disabilities, and Supplementary Health Benefits. With the Office of the Public Guardian, she has been a Public Guardian Representative, the North Public Guardian and is now Provincial Director. Barb was an active participant in the community and stakeholder consultations as part of the review of Personal Directives Act and the 30 year old Dependent Adults Act. The revised Personal Directives Act was proclaimed in 2008 and in 2009 the new Adult Guardianship and Trusteeship Act was proclaimed, which includes a new capacity assessment model. She is passionate about vulnerable Albertans being aware of and having access to the supports and programs which will assist them throughout their lifespan.

Barb has a Bachelor of Social Work degree and Masters of Education and Community Rehabilitation and Disabilities Studies.

Dino McLaughlin
Dino McLaughlin LLB, BEd, has been with Field LLP since February of 1990. He spent his first years at the Bar in general practice with emphasis on criminal and general litigation. His main practice areas for the past several years has been civil litigation, with an emphasis on health law, advising local pension authorities and practicing criminal law acting primarily for teachers.

Dino has been an instructor of a number of courses offered by the Legal Education Society of Alberta, taught Bar Admission Courses in Family Law and given lectures to various classes of the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Education. Dino is involved with a number of charitable organizations as a volunteer including the Boyle McCauley Health Centre, the Bissell Centre, the Norwood Community Service Centre (Board Member), and the Edmonton Inner City Housing Society.
Randy Naiker

Biography not available at this time

Jasneet Parmar

Dr. Jasneet Parmar MBBS. Dip.COE is an Associate Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Alberta. She has worked for the Specialized Geriatrics Program, as Care of the Elderly Physician, since 1992. She is the Medical Director of Home Living, Continuing Care, Edmonton Zone. She has been extensively involved in developing and implementing the current DMC Model in Edmonton and Calgary Zones. She has been a member of the Office of Public Guardian (OPG) Advisory Group on DMC and has provided education on the capacity assessment process under the Personal Directive Act & Adult Guardianship and Trusteeship Act to physicians & allied health disciplines across the province. She has been involved in training the Designated Capacity Assessors for the Office of the Public Guardian.

Scott Stewart

Scott Stewart BRE, MSW, RSW, has worked as a Social Worker in a variety of health care settings, including: Acute Care, Community Care, and Continuing Care. He has also served as adjunct faculty at Vanguard College for 16 years, teaching psychology and counselling. As a multiethnic person, he brings a unique perspective to the topic of cultural competence within health care settings.

Tim Wharton

Tim Wharton is currently employed as a Clinical Educator for the Coronary Care Unit at the Misericordia Hospital, Covenant Health in Edmonton, Alberta. He is a Registered Nurse with 28 years of experience in a variety of areas including: Emergency Care, Coronary Care Intensive Care and rural hospital care, CV Surgery, Cardiac Rehabilitation, Cardiac Clinical Education, Cardiac Triage, Cardiac Surgery Waiting List Management, Cath Lab and Cardiac Testing Management. Tim’s work has led him from Sudbury Ontario where he first graduated, to Inuvik NWT, Victoria BC, Karachi Pakistan, Toronto ON, and finally to Edmonton AB where he has resided since 2003. He has a Canadian Nurses Association Specialty designation in Cardiovascular Nursing and he is also a current ACLS Instructor/Course Coordinator. In addition to providing specialized resuscitation education for staff in the Coronary Care Unit and Intensive Care Unit, he trains and supports the Cardiac Arrest Team in the hospital.
The Vulnerabilities of Capacity Assessments
Jasneet Parmar, Associate Professor of Family Medicine, University of Alberta
Barb Martini, Director, Office of the Public Guardian, Alberta Human Services
Dino McLaughlin, Partner, Field Law LLP

At the conclusion of this presentation, delegates will be able to:
• Embrace the dynamic of complexity
• Recognize the strengths and limitations of the legislative acts that concern capacity assessment
• Utilize clinical networks for support and information on capacity assessment
• Articulate the lessons learned as a result of the presenters’ discussion and experiences

Many Voices, One Dilemma: The Struggle for Culturally Competent Dialogue in Health Care Settings
Scott Stewart, Social Worker, Edmonton General Continuing Care Centre

As the Canadian population continues to become more diverse, and as options in medical treatment continue to expand, health care providers are being increasingly challenged to engage patients and their supporters in meaningful, yet culturally competent dialogue about their health care. This presentation endeavors to briefly review the notion of cultural competence in health care settings, and to introduce practical ways health care providers can facilitate culturally competent dialogue.

At the conclusion of this presentation, delegates will be able to:
• Review the concept of cultural competence, its importance in health care conversations, and the possible barriers to culturally competent dialogue
• Introduce practical techniques to facilitate culturally competent dialogue in health care settings

The Family Conference at End of Life: Rationale, Indications and Practical Framework
Meg Hagerty, Palliative Social Worker, Edmonton General Continuing Care Centre
Ingrid DeKock, Associate Clinical Professor, Palliative Care Medicine, University of Alberta Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Patients and their families often struggle with difficult questions and concerns during the final stages of a life limiting illness. The family conference can be an important format for framing the conversations about loved ones who are at the end of life, bringing together patient, family and members of the patient’s health care team. Some ethical tensions may be mitigated by the quality and timeliness of these conversations.

Though individual health care professionals may be called upon many times in a career to conduct or participate in such conferences, few have formal training. Based on a review of the literature and practical experience of the presenters, this session will provide a rationale for the role of a family conference at the end of life and explore a framework for conducting effective family conferences.

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:
• Understand the role of and indications for family conferences
• Demonstrate enhanced practical skills for conducting successful family conferences
Relational Practice: Caring in the Human Health Relationship
Scott Harrison, Director, Urban Health and HIV/AIDS, Providence Health Care
Brynn Grierson, Clinical Nurse Leader, HIV Program, Providence Health Care
Neil Fowler, Program Assistant, Providence Health Care

As health care becomes more hectic and technology driven, the risk to patients is losing the key human relationships which are the foundation of caring and healing. Increasingly, those seeking health care and requiring ongoing interventions live at the margins of health and social inclusion. Rather than discussion ‘vulnerable people’, we prefer to focus on ‘vulnerable systems’ – systems of health care delivery which are losing the ability to truly engage with patients and include them in their own healing. The session discusses the specific elements of Relational Practice, cultural safety and cultural competence, using presentation and video to demonstrate how to re-capture the art of caring.

At the conclusion of the presentation, delegates will be able to:
- Understand the key concepts and practice of cultural safety and cultural competence
- Learn skills to work from a strengths-based approach with patients/clients
- Develop the knowledge to begin to put relational practice into action in health care delivery

Family Presence during CPR: The Crossroads of Compassion, Dignity and Risk at End of Life
Tim Wharton, Clinical Educator, Coronary Care Unit, Misericordia Hospital
Sarah Kosowan, Nurse Practitioner, Cardiology, Misericordia Hospital

Cardiac arrest treatment requires aggressive and invasive therapies by health care professionals that are infrequently witnessed by family members. The challenge that is now occurring for those who are treating such patients is this: should families be allowed to witness the treatment of their loved ones who are in cardiac arrest? This session will discuss the occurrence of family presence during CPR, the perceived benefits, concerns surrounding this practice and implementation strategies.

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:
- Articulate the benefits and concerns surrounding family presence during CPR
- Describe the literature surrounding the issue
- Discuss the future of family presence during CPR
- Explain how to implement related policies in a faith based health care organization

Perspectives on Journeying with Patients through Life
Randy Naiker, Physician, Edmonton West Primary Care Network
Fraser Armstrong, Physician, Edmonton Meadowlark Health Centre

Information not available at time of publication
### Registration Fees

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<tr>
<th>Early Bird Registration</th>
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<tr>
<td>On or before May 27, 2013</td>
<td>After May 27, 2013</td>
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<td>$190</td>
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All registration fees are subject to 5% GST in addition to the amount above. Fees listed are in Canadian Dollars (CAD).

### Consent for Release of Information

Do you consent to having your information included on this list?  
- Yes  
- No

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