



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF  
HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE MEDICINE

Intensive Board Review Course

# Faculty

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Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square  
Pittsburgh, PA



Lauren Goodman, MD MSc

Dr. Goodman, is a Clinical Assistant Professor and Associate Director of the Medical Intensive Care Unit, at the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center (OSUWMC). She received her medical degree from the Ohio State University College of Medicine, and completed her residency in Internal Medicine and fellowships in hospice and palliative medicine and in pulmonary and critical care medicine there. She is board certified in all four specialties, and actively practices in both the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care and Sleep, and the Division of Palliative Medicine at OSUWMC. Her primary research focus is on integration of palliative medicine in the intensive care unit.



Lisa Humphrey, MD

Dr. Humphrey is the Director of Palliative Care and Hospice Services at Nationwide Children's Hospital which is both an inpatient consultative program and a home-based pediatric palliative care and hospice program. She has an undergraduate degree in child psychology from Columbia University and attained her medical degree at Case Western Reserve University's School of Medicine. She completed her pediatric residency and chief residency at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She was then selected to be the hospital's first pediatric hospice and palliative medicine fellow.

Upon completion of her training, Dr. Humphrey accepted a position at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital where she successfully envisioned and implemented an inpatient, consultative palliative program. In 2013, she accepted a position at Nationwide Children's Hospital as the Medical Director of the Inpatient Palliative Care Service Line and evolved into her current position as Director. Her focus remains primarily clinical with a strong administrative emphasis on programmatic growth and community outreach.

Dr. Humphrey's research interests currently focus on quality improvement efforts to ensure effective and efficient identification and delivery of palliative care services to patients in need and has published and nationally spoken on this topic. She is the newest member-elect for the American Academy of Pediatrics Section of Hospice and Palliative Medicine Executive Committee.



Karen Knops, MD FAAHPM

Dr. Knops is currently on a walkabout with her family while transitioning from New Jersey to the Seattle area. She is the future Medical Director for the Palliative Care Consultation Program at Overlake Medical Center in Bellevue, Washington. She received her medical degree from University of California, Los Angeles and her fellowship in palliative medicine from Stanford University School of Medicine and the Veterans Administration, Palo Alto.

Dr. Knops went on to found the palliative care program at Morristown Medical Center; serving for ten years as its medical director and as the Medical Director for Atlantic Hospice. She has been featured as a “top doc” in palliative medicine in New Jersey Monthly magazine and was a leading physician educator for a New Jersey state initiative to improve end-of-life care. She has also offered workshops for family caregivers on the topics of grief and communication.

Dr. Knops authored an innovative web-based patient education program as well as articles for *Journal of Palliative Medicine* and *Palliative and Supportive Care*. Most recently, she has authored content about communication and palliative care for *Irwin and Rippe’s Intensive Care Medicine* textbook.

Dr. Knops enjoys reading, writing, and going camping with her husband. She is blessed with a three-year-old daughter who serves both as her personal trainer and spiritual teacher.



Michael Levy, MD PhD

Dr. Levy, until his recent retirement, was the Director of the Pain and Palliative Care Program and the Vice-Chair of the Department of Medical Oncology at the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is one of the pioneers of palliative care in oncology. He has spent his entire career on the palliative-curative interface and has advanced both its art and science through his practice, teaching, writing, and leadership.

Dr. Levy spearheaded the integration of palliative care into comprehensive cancer care by championing the vision that palliative care was the completion, not the antithesis, of state-of-the-art cancer care. He has been the Chairperson of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network’s Palliative Care Guideline Panel since its inception in 1999. He guest edited three issues of *Seminars in Oncology* devoted to palliative care in oncology in 1985, 1994, and 2005. Most recently, he served as a Discussant of Oral Abstracts at ASCO’s first annual Palliative Care in Oncology Symposium in October, 2014.

Dr. Levy was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) in 1983 and served as its Treasurer and then its Vice-Chairman in 1989. In 1990, he joined the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM) and served as its President in 1999.

Dr. Levy received the inaugural ASCO Excellence in Teaching Award in 2014 and the AAHPM Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015.



Mary Lynn McPherson, Pharm.D. MA BCPS CPE

Dr. McPherson is Professor and Executive Director, Advanced Post-Graduate Education in Palliative Care in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science at the University of Maryland, School of Pharmacy in Baltimore, Maryland. She has a Master's degree in Instructional Systems Development, and is completing a second Master's degree in Distance Education.

Dr. McPherson has maintained a practice in both hospice (local and national) and ambulatory care her entire career. She teaches extensively in the Doctor of Pharmacy curriculum on pain management and end of life care, including didactic and experiential content. She is developing the first completely online Master of Science degree in Palliative Care in the United States. She also developed one of the first and few palliative care pharmacy residencies in the United States and is President of the American Society of Pain Educators.

Dr. McPherson has won numerous awards for teaching and her innovative practice in end of life care. She has published numerous articles, chapters and four books including the best-selling "Demystifying Opioid Conversion Calculations: A Guide for Effective Dosing."



Daniel E. Ray, MD FCCP FAAHPM

Dr. Ray is a practicing hospice and palliative medicine specialist at Lehigh Valley Health Network where he is Chief of the Section of Palliative Medicine and Director of the Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program. As a critical care specialist, he directed a research program focusing on the integration of palliative care principles (patient/family communication, withdrawal of technological support, psychosocial care, etc.) in a critical care unit. He now leads a group of providers investigating a service delivery model for inpatient and home-based palliative care services.

Relevant AAHPM and palliative care activities:

- Past Chair, Palliative and End-of-Life Care Network Steering Committee, American College of Chest Physicians in 2012
- Elected to the IPAL-ICU Advisory Board for the Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC) in 2009
- Appointed to the AAHPM Clinical Education Committee in 2013



Jennifer Reidy, MD MS FAAHPM

Dr. Reidy is Co-Chief of the Division of Palliative Care at UMass Memorial Medical Center and Assistant Professor at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester, Massachusetts. She completed a fellowship in palliative medicine at San Diego Hospice and Palliative Care (University of California – San Diego) and served as medical director at Merrimack Valley Hospice in Lawrence, Massachusetts, prior to her move to UMass. She is board certified in family medicine and palliative medicine.

Dr. Reidy has a Master's Degree in Journalism from the Columbia University School of Journalism and worked as a newspaper reporter and magazine writer prior to her medical career. She is passionate about language, relationships and humanism in medicine. She teaches extensively at national, regional and local conferences, and served as co-chair of the 2011 and 2013 AAHPM Hospice Medical Director Conferences. She received an Arnold P. Gold Foundation scholarship to attend the Harvard Macy Institute's Program for Educators in Health Professions in 2011-12; as a result, she developed innovative curricula for teaching goals-of-care conversations using simulation at UMass Medical School.

Dr. Reidy has served as physician leader for Schwartz Rounds at UMass, and she is interested in the ties between quality improvement and humanism to promote culture change in medicine. She was a UMass Quality Scholar in 2011-12, and has served on the Quality and Practice Standards Task Force for the AAHPM.



Joseph Rotella, MD MBA FAAHPM HMDC

Dr. Rotella believes medicine belongs as much to the humanities as the sciences, so he prepared for medical school by majoring in English. During his twelve years of primary care internal medicine practice in rural New Hampshire, he witnessed a lot of suffering in his sickest patients and their families and dedicated himself to finding ways to make their healthcare more compassionate.

He established an oncology support clinic at his local hospital and attended a hospice seminar in England where he was inspired by the work of Cicely Saunders.

Dr. Rotella found his home in hospice and palliative medicine where the art and science of medicine act in harmony and interdisciplinary teams care for the whole person. For the next fifteen years, he served as Chief Medical Officer for Hosparus, a community hospice based in Louisville, KY. During his tenure there, he helped to launch hospice inpatient units, palliative care consultation services, and a palliative medicine fellowship.

Recognizing the growing need and opportunity for innovation, Dr. Rotella completed an MBA in Entrepreneurship from the University of Louisville in 2010. His work with AAHPM has included serving on the Quality and Practice Standards Committee and Choosing Wisely Task Force and co-chairing the Measuring What Matters initiative and Hospice Medical Director Conference.

In 2015, Dr. Rotella founded CatalystHPM, a consulting company dedicated to transforming health care with the principles of hospice and palliative medicine and became the Chief Medical Officer for AAHPM. He embraces this era of healthcare reform as a great opportunity to demonstrate the value of hospice and palliative care, humanize the patient and provider experience, and improve quality both within the hospice and palliative medicine specialty and across the broad spectrum of healthcare.



Scott Schwantes, MD FAAP

Dr. Schwantes is currently the Associate Medical Director of Pediatrics at Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare in St. Paul, Minnesota. In this role, he is the Medical Director for both the Primary Care Inpatient Medicine and Pediatric Pain and Palliative Care Programs. He is board certified in hospice and palliative medicine as well as in pediatrics.

Dr. Schwantes received his Bachelor of Science in Physics and Astronomy and Mathematics from the University of Wisconsin and then went on to complete his Doctor of Medicine from the Medical College of Wisconsin. His postdoctoral training included a residency in pediatrics, a year of fellowship in pediatric critical care as well as training in medical acupuncture and business leadership.

Dr. Schwantes is actively involved in numerous professional organizations. He has been a member of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine since 2010 and held various leadership positions on committees and pediatric special interest groups. He is currently co-chair of the Pediatric Palliative Care Coalition of Minnesota and is also a member of the Pediatric Palliative Care Research Network. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

In addition to his physician responsibilities, Dr. Schwantes is an Assistant Professor and Fellowship Supervisor at the University of Minnesota. He has published a myriad of articles and texts on pediatric pain and palliative care and is renowned in his field.



Joseph W. Shega, MD

Dr. Shega is a board certified geriatrician and hospice and palliative medicine physician. He currently serves as the Regional Medical Director for VITAS Healthcare overseeing the care of patients residing in Florida, Georgia, and Alabama. Prior to joining VITAS, he was an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Section of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine at the University of Chicago for over 12 years where he conducted clinical research in hospice and palliative care and dementia. He is co-managing editor of the soon to be released 5th edition of the UNIPAC series and has numerous peer-reviewed publications.



Vincent (Jay) Vanston, MD FAAHPM

Dr. Vanston received his MD degree from Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania after obtaining a degree in industrial engineering from Lehigh University. Upon completion of his residency and chief residency in internal medicine at Abington Memorial Hospital, he joined the faculty of the Scranton-Temple Residency Program in Scranton, Pennsylvania. It was there that he became interested in hospice care.

Dr. Vanston served as the Medical Director of the Mercy Hospice Program and developed an inpatient Palliative Medicine consult service from 1995 to 2010. In 2010, he decided to take a “leap of faith” and committed all of his efforts to palliative medicine. He formed “The Institute of Palliative Medicine”, a private Palliative Medicine practice that year. In 2013, he left Scranton, Pennsylvania and joined the Palliative Medicine Section of Cooper University Hospital in Camden, New Jersey.

Dr. Vanston has served as a faculty member for AAHPM in both its board review and hospice medical director courses over the years. In 2014, he had the privilege of co-chairing the board review course with Michelle Weckmann, MD MS FAAHPM. This year, he is honored to work with his co-chair, Daniel Ray, MD FCCP FAAHPM and the outstanding faculty.

Dr. Vanston has been blessed with great teachers who took the time to educate him in the principles and practice of palliative medicine throughout his career. Through his work with AAHPM, he hopes to repay their time and attention by providing the best education to the next generation of palliative medicine physicians.



Kathryn Anne Walker, PharmD BCPS CPE

Dr. Kathryn Walker is the Senior Clinical Director for Palliative Care for MedStar Health System. She is charged with developing clinical outcomes, research and education along with developing the clinical services at all ten hospitals and in the outpatient community. She also serves as an Associate Professor at the University of Maryland, School of Pharmacy where she contributes to both didactic and experiential pharmacy education. She has served as principle investigator on several grants and co-investigator on an NIH/NINR R01 grant to validate a pain assessment tool for non-communicative patients.

Dr. Walker has been an invited speaker both nationally and internationally at professional conferences and disseminated her work through posters, paper sessions and peer reviewed journal articles. She has served as a research mentor for over ten years to medical students from University of Maryland, School of Medicine and Georgetown University. She is also a board certified pharmacotherapy specialist and certified pain educator. Dr. Walker's passion for safe and appropriate medication use includes a major focus on relief of suffering and drives her efforts in clinical practice, research and education.