



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE MEDICINE

Intensive Board Review Course

Faculty

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Janet Bull, MD MBA FAAHPM

Dr. Bull is the Chief Medical Officer at Four Seasons Compassion and holds a consultant assistant professorship at Duke University Medical Center. She directs the research department at Four Seasons and has served as the principle investigator on over 45 clinical trials in hospice and palliative medicine. She is program director of the Palliative Care Immersion Course and a Principal of Four Seasons Consulting Group, which offers consulting services in hospice, palliative care, and research. She is a Fellow of the AAHPM, board certified in hospice and palliative medicine and holds a hospice medical director certification.

Dr. Bull was the recipient of the Sharon O. Dixon Award in 2007, the Cuniff-Dixon Hastings Award in 2012, and the Josefina B. Magno Distinguished Hospice Physician Award in 2013. In 2014, she was recognized as one of the Top 30 Visionaries in the Field award by the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM). She is the current Past President of the AAHPM and has worked as a core member of the team for the Academy on the development of the Alternative Payment Model for Serious Illness Care.



Kimberly Curseen, MD

Dr. Curseen is the Director of Supportive and Palliative Care Outpatient Services for Emory Healthcare. She is the director and the primary provider for the Supportive Oncology Clinic. She is also the lead clinician for Aspire Health Care Atlanta Market. She served as the program developer and director of The Geriatric Palliative Care Clinical Services Program at University of Arkansas from 2009 to 2014. She is board certified in internal medicine, geriatrics, and palliative care.

Dr. Curseen has been named one of the Palliative Medicine Inspirational Leaders under 40 by the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine for 2014 to 2015. She completed her medical school training at Virginia Commonwealth University in 2000 and completed her internal medicine residency training at Yale University. Her fellowship training in geriatrics and palliative care was at University Arkansas for Medical Sciences.



Mary Lynn McPherson, Pharm.D. MA MDE 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. She teaches extensively in the Doctor of Pharmacy curriculum on pain management and end of life care, including didactic and experiential content. She is the Program Director of the Online Master of Science and Graduate Certificates in Palliative Care at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. She also developed one of the first and few palliative care pharmacy residencies in the United States. Dr. McPherson has Master's degrees in Instructional Systems Development, and in Distance Education and e-Learning.

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."



Drew Rosielle, MD FAAHPM

Dr. Rosielle is the medical director of the University of Minnesota Health Palliative Care Program, and the program director of the University of Minnesota's Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship from 2010 to 2018. He practices mostly ambulatory palliative medicine in Minneapolis for Fairview Health Services, and is board certified in internal medicine and hospice and palliative medicine. He attended medical school at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN and then completed an internal medicine residency at the University of Colorado in Denver, CO. He completed a Palliative Medicine fellowship at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Dr. Rosielle is an editor of Fast Facts and Concepts, an online series of short, peer-reviewed, palliative care monographs. He is the founding editor of Pallimed, an award winning palliative care blog, and is on the editorial board of the Journal of Palliative Medicine. He is a faculty member for the Center to Advance Palliative Care's Palliative Care Leadership Centers and VitalTalk. He is the recipient of the 2009 American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine Community Leadership Award and a 2012 Hastings Center Cuniff-Dixon early-career physician award.



Sandra Sanchez-Reilly, MD AGSF FAAHPM

Dr. Sanchez-Reilly is a professor of medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, where she serves as the Interim Division Chief of the Division of Geriatrics, Gerontology and Palliative Medicine and the Palliative Medicine Associate Fellowship Program Director. She leads the Geriatrics and Palliative Care Programs at the South Texas Veterans Health Care System (STVHCS) as the Associate Chief of Staff for Geriatrics and Extended Care and is a senior investigator associated with the San Antonio VA GRECC. She is board certified in internal medicine, geriatrics and hospice and palliative medicine.

Dr. Sanchez-Reilly has earned an international reputation in Palliative Care Education and End-of-Life Communication Research. She is the author of numerous publications, and the co-author of two books, mainly focusing on teaching palliative care to future generations. Dr. Sanchez-Reilly actively participates in national societies such as the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM), the American Geriatrics Society (AGS). She is the Director of the NIA-funded University of Texas Medical Students Teaching in Aging Research Program (MSTAR), influencing several medical students to pursue a geriatrics and palliative medicine related career.



Scott Schwantes, MD FAAP FAAHPM

Dr. Schwantes is a pediatrician specializing in pediatric pain and palliative care. He is the Program Director of the Pediatric Pain Program at Children's Minnesota after previously leading the Pediatric Pain and Palliative Care Team at Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare. He is double board certified by the American Board of Pediatrics and the American Board of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

Dr. Schwantes served as the first volunteer medical director of Crescent Cove from 2010 to 2017, the first pediatric respite and hospice home of its kind in the region. He also serves on the board of directors of the Minnesota Network of Hospice and Palliative Care.



Joseph Shega, MD

Dr. Shega has practiced for the past five years in Central Florida initially as a regional medical director and more recently as the national medical director for VITAS Healthcare. He spent the first 15 years of his career in academic medicine at Northwestern University and the University of Chicago doing clinical care, education, and research including, NIH funding around serious illness and dementia care. He maintains an academic appointment at the University of Central Florida as an Associate Professor of Medicine and is board certified in geriatric and hospice and palliative medicine.

Dr. Shega served as co-managing editor for the Essential Practices of Hospice and Palliative Medicine and has been a key contributor to the UNIPAC series for the past three editions. His efforts have culminated in over 40 peer-reviewed publications focusing on the care of persons with serious illness. He helped spearhead development of quality measures for persons with dementia that incorporate palliation as a member of the American Academy of Neurology Dementia and Mild Cognitive Impairment measurement group. He serves on the National Academy of Medicine Roundtable on Quality Care for Persons with Serious Illness.



Jeffrey Spiess, MD FAAHPM

Dr. Spiess began his hospice palliative medicine career as a volunteer medical director for a local community hospice, seeing it as a natural extension of his practice of hematology and medical oncology. Following 15 years in community practice, he joined the Division of Hematology, Oncology, and Blood and Marrow Transplantation of the Carver College of Medicine at the University of Iowa and also served as director of the palliative care service at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. In 2005, his focus changed to full time hospice medicine, as an associate medical director for Hospice of the Western Reserve in Cleveland, OH, from which he retired in 2016, a transition with particular emphasis on grandchildren.

In 2016, Dr. Spiess was named the recipient of the Josefina B. Magno Distinguished Hospice Physician Award. He has served the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine as a founding member of the Cancer Special Interest Group, as chair of the Membership and Communities Strategic Coordinating Committee and as a member of several committees.



Gregg VandeKieft, MD MA FAAHPM

Dr. VandeKieft is Medical Director for Palliative Care for Providence St. Joseph Health's Southwest Washington Region, in Olympia, WA. He is also Associate Medical Director for the Providence Institute for Human Caring, providing palliative care leadership throughout Providence St. Joseph Health's seven-state system. He holds an appointment as Clinical Associate Professor of Family Medicine at the University of Washington, School of Medicine where he co-directed the Palliative Care Module of the Chronic Care Clerkship from 2009 to 2012.

Dr. VandeKieft serves as chairperson for the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine's (AAHPM) Advocacy and Awareness Strategic Coordinating Committee. He previously co-chaired the AAHPM Public Policy Committee and Ethics Special Interest Group, and chaired the AAHPM State Advocacy Issues Working Group. He serves as the AAHPM's representative on the Patient Quality of Life Coalition's Steering Committee. He is a member of the Washington Department of Health's Palliative Care-Rural Health Integration Advisory Team and is medical director for that group's palliative care telehealth pilot project.



Michelle Weckmann, MD MS FAAHPM

Dr. Weckmann is dually trained in family medicine and psychiatry with a CAQ in Hospice and Palliative Medicine. She is an associate professor at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics where she is the program director for the Family Medicine and Psychiatry Residency Program in addition to engaging in delirium research and serving as faculty for the Hospice Palliative Medicine fellowship. She also works part-time as a Medical Director for a community hospice.

Dr. Weckmann is very interested in education, improving the care of patients with delirium and advancing palliative care both locally and nationally. Her free time is dedicated to her wonderful husband and two amazing children and the family's menagerie of pets.



Eric Widera, MD FAAHPM

Dr. Widera is a clinician-educator in the Division of Geriatrics at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). His main goal is to improve the care provided to elderly patients with severe chronic and/or terminal conditions through program development and educational innovations. He accomplishes this through various leadership roles, including Director of the Hospice and Palliative Care Service at the San Francisco VA Medical Center and program director for the Geriatrics Fellowship at UCSF. Dr. Widera received his medical school training at UCSF and his internal medicine training at Mount Sinai Hospital. He returned to UCSF to complete a fellowship in Geriatric Medicine. He joined the faculty at UCSF in 2006.

Dr. Widera has received numerous grants and awards including a Geriatric Academic Career Award (GACA), the Hastings Center Cunniff-Dixon Palliative Care Physician Award, AAHPM Hospice and Palliative Medicine Leaders Under 40 award, the AAHPM PDIA Palliative Medicine National Leadership Award, and the AAHPM Visionary Award. He is also a co-founder of GeriPal, a Geriatrics and Palliative Care blog and podcast, as well as ePrognosis, an online set of prognostic calculators for the elderly.