Palliative Care Conference Schedule

HPM Lecture Series-
Thursdays from 2:00-4:00 PM
VA/ GRECC Conference Room
Room F206 or
UH South Room F7898

Palliative Care Research Conferences-
4th Thursdays of every month
from 4:00-5:00 PM
VA/ GRECC Conference Room
Room F206

January 23, 2020 -
Lesli Skolarus

February 27, 2020 -
Grace Kanzawa-Lee

March 26, 2020 -
Christopher Friese

April 23, 2020 -
Lauren Gerlach

May 28, 2020 -
Victoria Powell

June 25, 2020 -
Suzanna Zick

For other conferences, visit:
http://www.med.umich.edu/i/geriatrics_center/monthly-schedule/index.htm

First Annual Palliative Care Research Lectureship a Success

Thanks to support from a generous UM alumnus, the first Annual Palliative Care Research Lectureship was held on June 28th 2019. Dr. Jennifer Temel, Professor of Medicine from Harvard Medical School and the Clinical Director of Thoracic Oncology at Massachusetts General Hospital, was the speaker. She spoke about her cutting-edge research demonstrating the benefits of early integrated palliative care in the care of patients with lung cancer. On the basis of her research, the American Society of Clinical Oncology currently recommends referral to interdisciplinary palliative care teams that provide inpatient and outpatient care early in the course of disease, alongside active treatment of their cancer. This kind of care has been shown to improve quality of life, reduce distress, and lengthen life. Dr. Temel currently partners with the UM Palliative Care Program on a PCORI-funded study to examine the benefits of palliative care via video visits for patients with advanced lung cancer. At least sixty UM lung cancer patients will be participating in this exciting study.
Meet Our Incoming 2019-2020 HPM Physician Fellows!

Adult Track

Jayme Meredith Laurencelle, M.D.
Med School: Wayne State University School of Medicine
Residency: University of Michigan (IM)

Elizabeth Joy Nafziger, M.D.
Med School: Indiana University School of Medicine
Residency: University of Michigan (Neuro)

Meaghan Elizabeth Trainor, M.D.
Med School: University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health
Residency: University of Michigan (IM)

HPM NP Track

Cullen Gettings, B.S.N.
Bachelor of Science in Nursing: Capital University
Master of Science in Nursing, Primary Care
Adult Gerontology: Ohio State University

Peds Track

Natalie Renee Kontos, D.O.
Med School: Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine
Residency: St. John Hospital and Medical Center

David Charles Muccino, M.D.
Med School: Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine
Residency: University of Connecticut (Pediatrics)

Combined Track

Joseph Dixon, M.D.
Med School: Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California
Residency: Kaiser Permanente; Woodland Hills, CA

Palliative Care Program Partners with Cancer Center

Due to the well-deserved retirement of our friend and colleague Susan Urba MD, there has been a change in physician staffing at the Symptom Management and Supportive Care Clinic in the Rogel Cancer Center. Palliative Care Program members Dr. Ketti Petersen and Dr. Maria Silveira will be stepping in to fill Susan’s big shoes so that Michigan Medicine’s cancer patients can continue to receive the compassionate palliative care that they need. They will be teaming up with Katie Patterson, the nurse practitioner who has served as the backbone of the program. Their goal is to help expand the program to improve access to timely and robust palliative care.

Our beloved colleague, Dr. Susan Urba, retired in June.
Two Investigators Chosen for Palliative Care Research Funding

Thanks to the generosity of the University of Michigan community, the Palliative Care Program is able to fund pilot work investigators interested in palliative care research this year. The winners of the 2018/9 “Pilot and Exploratory Projects in Palliative Care” competition are Dr. Lauren Gerlach from Psychiatry and Dr. Maria Silveira from Internal Medicine.

Dr. Gerlach plans a mixed method study to explore the challenges in managing behavioral symptoms in hospice patients with dementia. In particular, she is interested in describing how providers and caregivers balance the risks and benefits of psychotropic use for this population.

Dr. Silveira plans to examine the neurobiology of pain among patients with non small cell lung cancer. She will be collaborating with Dr. Dan Clauw and members from the Chronic Pain and Fatigue Research Center on this work.

“Clinical Issues in the Care of Older Adults: Palliative Care for Patients with Dementia and Serious Mental Illness”

Michigan Medicine and the VA Ann Arbor Geriatrics Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC) sponsored the conference “Clinical Issues in the Care of Older Adults: Palliative Care for Patients with Dementia and Serious Mental Illness” which happened on September 19, 2019 at the Kensington Hotel in Ann Arbor.

The program was directed by Dr. Marcos Montagnini and Dr. Susan Maixner and included national and local speakers. Some of the topics included: serious mental illness and behavioral and psychological symptoms in dementia; clinical course, outcomes and decision-making in advanced dementia; pain in dementia and serious mental illness; homelessness, serious mental illness, and aging; communication skills, decision-making capacity, caregiver distress; and dementia at the end-of-life.

Over 150 participants from multiple disciplines (Medicine, Nursing, Social Work, Psychology, etc) attended the conference. Conference evaluations demonstrated a very high level of satisfaction with the topics, speakers and the venue. It was a big success!

Palliative Care Research Funding Available

We are pleased to announce the annual launch of the “Pilot and Exploratory Projects in Palliative Care” competition. Investigators can receive as much as $20,000 per study to fund 2 years of pilot research focused on palliative care for patients with life limiting illness and/or their caregivers. Brief applications from UM faculty are due November 1, 2019. The announcement and application can be accessed at: https://umms.infoready4.com
Executive Officers of Michigan Medicine: Marschall S. Runge, M.D., Ph.D., Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs, Dean, U-M Medical School, CEO, Michigan Medicine; David A. Spahlinger, M.D., President, Michigan Medicine, and Executive Vice Dean for Clinical Affairs, U-M Medical School; Patricia D. Hurn, Ph.D., Dean, School of Nursing.

Regents of the University of Michigan: Jordan B. Acker, Michael J. Behm, Mark J. Bernstein, Paul W. Brown, Shauna Ryder Diggs, Denise Ilitch, Ron Weiser, Katherine E. White, Mark S. Schlissel, (ex officio).

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