

NEWSLETTER

The IPPCN comprises general practitioners, family practitioners, and researchers from a range of disciplines including social sciences and oncology from many countries. Every continent is represented in our membership.

The aim of the group is to provide collegiate support to like-minded individuals, who are committed to see palliative care practised as a core part of comprehensive primary care practice. This involves advocating for improved recognition of the role of primary care in the delivery of palliative care. The group also aims to encourage primary palliative care researchers to present their work and to explore the possibilities of international collaboration. Finally, the group recognises the huge need for palliative care in developing countries and hopes to assist local practitioners in these areas to develop sustainable and effective services.

Update since Spring 2015 Newsletter



EAPC annual meeting Copenhagen

We had a stimulating meeting at the European Association of Palliative Care Congress in May, where the Primary Palliative care Toolkit was presented, and a number of GPs in the audience from different countries were enthusiastic to use it and it has already been translated to French and German, see www.eapcnet.eu/Themes/Organisation/Primarycare.aspx.

The taskforce who produced this is applying to be a permanent steering group in the EAPC to advocate for palliative care to be integrated in the community, and this will be confirmed by the end of this year.



WHA resolution

Following the **WHA resolution** that declared that appropriate palliative care is an essential element of every national health system, especially in **Primary care and the Community**, two key WHO staff in charge of taking the recent WHO resolution to integrate palliative care in the community attended the IPPCN annual meeting in Copenhagen. Our network has been specifically invited to advise the WHO about integrating palliative care in primary care.



WHO fact sheet on palliative care.

This excellent sheet clarifies and details the relevance of palliative care for all diseases and in all care settings, and a very valuable tool to support integration of primary palliative care in all countries.

It is available at www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs402/en/

The WHO have also developed an **infographic** on palliative care to accompany this fact sheet.

Overleaf highlights new initiatives that have happened in specific countries, and there is also a conference update which demonstrates that primary palliative care is increasingly featuring as plenaries and workshops in International conferences.



IPPCN now has over 187 members, and we are affiliated with the Cancer and Palliative care interest group of WONCA, the European Association of Palliative care and the European Forum on Primary Care 'Working Group on Primary Care and Palliative Care'.

All these conferences feature primary palliative care presentations from the IPPCN members in 2015 and the conference presentations are available on the **IPPCN website**.

Prof Scott A Murray

*St Columba's Hospice Chair of Primary Palliative Care, Primary Palliative Care Research Group, Centre for Population Health Sciences, University of Edinburgh
Co-Chair, IPPCN*

Prof Geoff Mitchell

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Resources

The UK Royal College of General Practitioners, in partnership with Marie Curie Cancer Care have developed a **toolkit** to help support patients, clinicians and commissioners in dealing with issues surrounding palliative and end of life care. The palliative and end of life care **toolkit** aims to help GPs access good quality resources to augment the work they are currently doing and raise the standard of care even higher across the country. The toolkit hosts links to strategic palliative and end of life care reports and practical tools. The resources were collated after surveying academics, clinical leaders and those at the coal face working with patients in primary palliative and end of life care. The toolkit is one of several products of the three-year partnership between RCGP and Marie Curie Cancer Care to develop End of Life Care, The toolkit can be accessed from 1st November through the RCGP website

<http://www.rcgp.org.uk/endoflifecare> and they are keen to receive your feedback – for more information please email circ@rcgp.org.uk.

Articles

The following article on primary palliative care in Japan has been published in the European Journal of Palliative Care. Oishi, A., & Hamano, J. (2015) Good deaths for all in Japan: the potential role of primary palliative care; *European Journal of Palliative Care*, 22(5), 236–238. It describes the current status of primary palliative care, challenges and potentials, including the emerging awareness among general public. Dr Oishi is currently conducting a PhD at the University of Edinburgh, investigating how family physicians in Japan can identify patients for palliative care approach using the SPICT as an example.

An article based on the value of early identification and anticipatory palliative care planning using RCT was published in

the BMC Family Practice by Thoonsen et al (2015), and reported that those patients that had been identified as in need of palliative care died at home more often. Full link here <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2296/16/126>

Prof G Mitchell contributed to an article published in *Lancet Oncology* addressing the expanding role of primary care addressing cancer control (Rubin et al 2015). It notes the strengths of primary care are particularly evident in end of life care as well as prevention; diagnosis and survivorship care and recommends tools for integration of care as key to continuous and co-ordinated care.

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanonc/article/PIIS1470-2045\(15\)00205-3/abstract](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanonc/article/PIIS1470-2045(15)00205-3/abstract)

Dr Santiago Correa is leading the way for primary palliative care in Brazil, and the EJPC have accepted an article on “We are by your side” primary palliative care initiative, created by a Primary Health team in Brazil, which cares for 3,000 people. This project, designed by Dr Santiago and his team, implements the systematisation and advance planning of care according to the needs of patients, and seeks to standardise delivery of palliative care in a community setting. It seeks to provide patients and families with support, protection and comfort, minimising avoidable crises as well as the demands on Brazilian hospitals, and responds to challenges posed by patients living in the community and their families as they required holistic care, addressing physical, social, psychological and spiritual dimensions. Check out their Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/estaraoseuladorg?ref=hl>

The Palliative Care Association of Sri Lanka have prepared an article on the role that Carers play in palliative care in the community and offer practical suggestions as to how they can be supported in this work.

Getting our message across at Conferences

Month	Conference	Date	Title
MAY	European Association of Palliative Care, Denmark	8 & 9 May	EAPC primary care taskforce annual meeting Future plans and dissemination & Primary Palliative care Parallel Session
	Public Health and Palliative Care Bristol England	13 – 15 May	Developing an innovative model of palliative care in the community in Brazil: <i>Dr Santiago Rodrigues Correa, Brazil & Primary Palliative Care in Japan, Dr Ai Oshi Japan</i>
	Cancer and Primary Care research and International Network – CAPRI Denmark	21 & 22 May	Meeting of the IPPCN & Anticipatory palliative care: the role of the General Practitioner: <i>Yvonne Engels, Assistant Professor, Radboud UMC, Nijmegen, The Netherlands</i>
AUG	European working group for Primary Care, Amsterdam	31 Aug & 1 Sep	European Primary Palliative Care working group & Integrating palliative care in the community EAPC <i>Dr Rotar, Dr Sebastien Moine & Marie Lynch</i>
SEP	Advance Care Planning and End of life care, Germany	9 - 12 Sep	Advance Care planning in Primary Care, <i>Prof Scott Murray and Dr Joel Rhee</i>
OCT	WONCA Europe Istanbul, Turkey	22-25 Oct	Primary Palliative care, <i>Dr Alis Ozcaker and Dr Hibah Osman</i>
	NAPCRG, Cancun Mexico	24-28 Oct	Plenary Panel Session: End of life care in Primary Care <i>Prof F Burge and Prof G Mitchell</i>