

NEWSLETTER



About us

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 practiced 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.

We were pleased to see an increase in activity relating to primary palliative care, at a policy, research and practical level throughout 2015. This has been enabled by the leadership and commitment from the European Association of Palliative care (EAPC), the WHO Executive and Policy Board and WONCA. We are currently working with the WHO executive as they prepare Manuals to support the 2014 WHA Palliative Care Resolution and we were very encouraged that the EAPC accepted our proposal to form a Primary Palliative Care Steering Committee (see details on this group below).

This steering group will be a great platform to demonstrate how the French National Plan for Palliative Care (2015-2018) will deliver on community palliative care, which is one of 4 key axis of their strategy. For the first time in France, primary care professionals will be directly mobilised in the integration of palliative care in the continuum of care and this is supported by an investment of €190 million. Early identification of palliative needs will be promoted by regional health agencies. Dr Sébastien Moine, a GP and a member of the IPPCN is co-ordinating a task force aiming to implement Axis 3 of the plan.

Finally we value the support from WONCA for our call for a Declaration on the need for Pain Control throughout the world. This newsletter gives a brief overview of the outcomes from the conference activity in 2015 signals the conferences that our members are speaking at this year as well as research articles getting published. We are aware of the advantages of developing local networks to support primary palliative care research and activity and in this regard we are encouraging Regional Primary Palliative Care Networks in Asia and are planning the 2017 IPPCN Annual meeting to take place in India.

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.



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EAPC PRIMARY PALLIATIVE CARE STEERING GROUP

The vision of this newly formed group is that *'Palliative care is fully integrated in primary care systems internationally so that all patients have early access to a palliative care approach in the community'*. The input from Specialists in Palliative Care to enable a palliative care approach to be available in the community is critical, and the establishment of this group by the EAPC will support the necessary leadership from SPC to support the work of this group.

The first meeting will take place on Friday 10 June as part of the EAPC Research Congress in Dublin where the draft objectives of the group will be agreed. All IPPCN members are welcome to attend – if you wish to join IPPCN please contact Joel Rhee J.Rhee@unsw.edu.au



Publications

The March edition of the Scandinavian Journal of Primary Healthcare have published an [article](#) by Trine Brogaard, Mette Neergaard and Scott Murray, which describes calls for primary palliative care throughout Scandinavia!

In the March edition of [EJPC](#) Santiago Corrêa et al describes the initiative 'We are by your side' that he has been involved in to formalise primary palliative care in Brazil.

A review article by Afshar et al. from Germany elucidates the importance of optimizing the identification of non-cancer patients in need of palliative care in general practice. The link to this article is available [here](#).

Two recent publications from Canada have helped to put the spotlight on the value and enablers of home deaths. Results of a multi-province study involving 60,000 cancer patients

in their last month of life, found that investment in home-based palliative care reduces overall costs to the health care system. The link to this article by Burge and Lawson et al published in Current Oncology 2016 is available [here](#). The second article also by Burge and Lawson et al, addressed the congruence between the last preferred and actual location of death among adult Nova Scotian's who died from chronic disease. They identified emotional needs being met, nursing and family physician home visits, palliative care program involvement, and being at home for the majority of the last month as independent contributing factors to achievement of a home death among those who voiced the desire to do so. Click [here](#) for the link to this article, which was published in the Journal of Palliative Medicine (Dec 2015).

Finally in February, as part of their focus on health, American's Family Physicians has included on their website a patient orientated resource on [end of life care](#). We encourage colleagues to write similar pieces for their own countries!

CONFERENCE REPORTS

IPPCN members presented their work in at least 8 international conferences across the world in 2015. It was particularly encouraging to hear about how presentation at the WONCA meeting in Turkey was oversubscribed, and the plenary session at the NAPCRG conference in Cancun generated some thought provoking blogs on the topic. The [Global Colloquim](#) on Palliative care in Dublin provided an opportunity for international leaders to debate on the value of Primary Palliative Care and discussing the impact of the WHA resolution.

The relevance of providing primary palliative care in rural areas with low income status, which are difficult to access, was raised as an issue by Daniel Munday (Visiting Professor of Palliative Care), at recent forum hosted by the Nepalese Association for Palliative Care (NAPCare), which addressed the development of a national strategy for palliative care. Nepal's GPs have been identified as key to develop appropriate and affordable palliative care, to work in the rural areas and Nepal is committed to provide training to GPs to support this. A fuller report can be read [here](#).



CONFERENCE CALENDAR

MONTH	CONFERENCE	DATE	DETAILS
March	Palliative Care Congress, Glasgow	10-11 March	Integrated palliative care: an international perspective Can palliative care now go viral? S Murray, Plenary
April	Cancer and Primary Care Research International (CAPRI) Boston	26-28 April	Primary Palliative Care presentation from D Nowels
June	European Association of Palliative Care (EAPC) Research Congress	9-12 June	EAPC Primary Palliative Care Steering Group Meeting Fri 10 June 4 presentations addressing Primary Palliative Care: Y Engels S Murray, S Moine and K Boyd
August	African Palliative Care Conference (APCA) Kampala	16-19 August	Primary Palliative Care presentations from S Murray and L Grant
November	WONCA World Conference Brazil	2-5 November	G Mitchell and S R Correal PPCN Meeting
2017 Save the DATE!			
February 2017	Indian Association of Palliative Care, Coimbatore	10-12 February	Alan Bernard IPPCN Meeting