



THE INSTITUTE FOR PALLIATIVE MEDICINE

at San Diego Hospice

INTERNATIONAL PALLIATIVE CARE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

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International Physicians Selected for Leadership Program *Groundbreaking initiative will help develop and deliver palliative care worldwide*

(SAN DIEGO) – Across the globe from Africa to Asia to Eastern Europe to Latin America, twenty-two emerging palliative care physician leaders have been selected to participate in the first cohort of the new International Palliative Care Leadership Development Initiative (LDI). Led by The Institute for Palliative Medicine at San Diego Hospice (IPM) in San Diego, California, this precedent-setting Initiative is being funded by a grant from the International Palliative Care Initiative, Open Society Institute; with collaborative support provided by the National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Maryland and The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. Additional support has also been received from the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

The International Palliative Care Leadership Development Initiative (LDI) is a two year program to develop leadership skills among international palliative care physicians in resource-limited countries around the world. The theme of the new Leadership Development Initiative at IPM is “Growing Global Leaders...Advancing Palliative Care.”

There are several unique strengths of the program: personalized attention and guidance from regional and local mentors, outstanding invited faculty, support from the LDI team at IPM, peer engagement and networking and intensive focus on an evolving and more elaborate leadership role for the participant. To launch the program, participants and regional mentors will come together January 23, 2010 at the Institute for Palliative Medicine in San Diego for a weeklong course.

The physicians selected for the Leadership Development Initiative include:

Africa Dr. Patrick Akhiwu, Botswana
Dr. John Weru, Kenya
Dr. Zipporah Ali, Kenya
Dr. Folaju Oyebola, Nigeria
Dr. Hanneke Brits, South Africa
Dr. Natalya Dinat, South Africa
Dr. Diwani Msemo, Tanzania
Dr. George Loy, Tanzania
Dr. Henry Ddungu, Uganda

Eastern Europe Dr. Ondrej Slama, Czech Republic
Dr. Ladislav Kabelka, Czech Republic
Dr. Agnes Csikos, Hungary
Dr. Vadim Pogonet, Moldova
Dr. Urska Lunder, Slovenia

India Dr. Gayatri Palat, India
Dr. Priyadarshini Kulkarni, India
Dr. Anil Kumar Paleri, India

Latin America Dr. Sofia Bunge, Argentina
Dr. Guilherme de Barros, Brazil

Middle East Dr. Mohammed Bushnaq, Jordan

South-East Asia Dr. Bich Thuy Bui, Vietnam
Dr. Do Duy Cuong, Vietnam

“The palliative care physicians selected for the Initiative will be the future leaders of palliative care worldwide,” said Dr. Frank D. Ferris, Director of International Programs, “They are the generation that will develop systems for delivering palliative care to populations who desperately need it. We believe our innovative project will advance palliative care globally and relieve the suffering of millions of people with advanced illnesses.”

The Need for Palliative Care Worldwide

Palliative care is the prevention and relief of suffering by a specialized medical team that focuses on managing symptoms, relieving pain, and improving quality of life for patients with advanced illnesses, whatever the diagnosis.

The need for palliative care is a clear public health issue worldwide. Half of the 10 million people diagnosed annually with cancer are in resource limited nations, and more than half of the world’s advanced AIDS patients are in these regions. In addition, over

half of the world's 600 million people over age 60 live in these same areas. There is an ever increasing need for palliative care throughout the world, particularly in countries where patients typically present late to their healthcare system with advanced diseases.

Led by Dr. Ferris, IPM's International Program help resource-limited nations build capacity and integrate palliative care into their healthcare systems. Since its inception in 2001, the International Program has worked with 14 countries to build interdisciplinary teams of physicians, nurses, social workers and spiritual counselors capable of providing quality palliative care. Once the LDI matures, IPM intends to offer this syllabus and mentorship opportunity to prospective palliative care leaders around the world through subsequent 2-year cohorts.

Institute for Palliative Medicine at San Diego Hospice

The Institute for Palliative Medicine (IPM) at San Diego Hospice is internationally recognized for its excellence in palliative care education and research. Dedicated to the relief of suffering through the transformation of health care, it focuses on discovering, demonstrating and disseminating strategies for palliative care in existing health care systems whether here in San Diego or throughout the world. Physicians and healthcare professionals from around the globe come to The Institute for Palliative Medicine to study. Home to the country's largest palliative medicine physician fellowship program, the Institute also provides education to more than 1,700 health care students and professionals each year. The Institute helped pioneer the palliative medicine subspecialty approved by the American Board of Medical Specialties in 2006. For more information, visit online at www.sdhospice.org

The Open Society Institute

The Open Society Institute works to build vibrant and tolerant democracies whose governments are accountable to their citizens. To achieve its mission, OSI seeks to shape public policies that assure greater fairness in political, legal, and economic systems and safeguard fundamental rights. On a local level, OSI implements a range of initiatives to advance justice, education, public health, and independent media. At the same time, OSI builds alliances across borders and continents on issues such as corruption and freedom of information. OSI places a high priority on protecting and improving the lives of people in marginalized communities.

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