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Current Palliative Care related projects and topics

2009 Rod MacLeod, Anna Janssen: Doctors and death: Patients informing practitioners about quality palliative care.

PhD supervision through the University of Otago

PhD Supervisor: Rod MacLeod

Richard Egan: Aims to investigate explore and improve spiritual well-being concepts and practices in New Zealand palliative cancer care.

Roz McKechnie: Aims to investigate the lived experience of palliative care for people who are not enrolled in a hospice program – to improve care and to identify barriers in service provision that need to be addressed.

Simon Walker: This thesis will discuss what is serious in life and how the value of life is deepened. It will attend specifically to the way suffering affects our sense of life's meaning and how we sustain values amidst the reality of suffering.

PhD supervision through the University of Auckland

PhD Supervisor: Rod MacLeod

Andu Iordache: Dreams and people who are dying

Erin Gaab: Paediatric palliative care (not finalised yet)

Elaine Rogers : Mechanisms and treatment of cancer cachexia in NSLC

Cancer Society:

Richard Egan: Assessing psycho-social-spiritual research priorities of the NZ Cancer Society's Support Services Staff. Publication due mid 2009.

Elizabeth Taylor: Mary Potter Hospice

(a) Presently (2009) conducting retrospective chart review study of all Mary Potter patients who died on service during 2006-2008 to identify if there is disparity in hospice service usage (admission to service, length of stay, frequency of inpatient stays) between Maori, Pacific peoples, and other ethnic groups. Other major study variables include demographic factors, diagnosis, and place of death.

(b) Starting in 2009 a mixed methods intervention study to investigate the meaning of meals amongst hospice patients and family caregivers. Based on qualitative study (phase 1) findings, an intervention (i.e., an interactive, educational pamphlet to be completed by both the patient and the primary family caregiver will be developed. The efficacy of this intervention will be tested during phase 2, a descriptive, correlational study that measures dyadic adjustment, appetite symptom distress, death anxiety, and spiritual/existential well-being.

(c) Planning a study to explore NZ hospice RNs' perspectives regarding spiritual care (i.e., barriers to spiritual care, frequency of spiritual care provision).

Jean Clark: Arohanui Hospice and Midcentral Health

LCP research project. 2005 – Current:

Lead investigator for this project at Arohanui Hospice. The project title is *A Multi-site qualitative investigation of staff perceptions of end of life care pre and post implementation on an integrated care pathway for the dying patient.*

The research question: *Do staff perceive that an integrated care pathway for the imminently dying patient and their family and whanau positively influences care?*

Sites include three aged residential care facilities with hospital level care and two acute care hospital wards in a secondary care facility. Final reports for the Aged residential care and Acute care arms of the project are currently being completed.

OPCARE9 2008 - current

Arohanui Hospice is the institutional link to OPCARE9, and Simon Allan and I are the contact people. OPCARE9 is described as *A European Collaborative to optimise research for the care of cancer patients in the last days of life.*

OPCARE9 is a Coordination and support action project funded by the 7th Framework of the European Commission. The nine countries involved are; the United Kingdom, Sweden, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, Slovenia within Europe and Argentina and New Zealand outside Europe. The basis of relationships of the countries and personnel is the Liverpool Care pathway for the dying patient.

Clare Randall, Arohanui Hospice

Current Research project:

Intranasal midazolam for the palliation of dyspnoea in patients with life-limiting disease. This is in the development stages – intending to do a placebo-controlled RCT. Multi-sites. Please click here to email Clare (clare.r@arohanuihospice.org.nz)

International

Timely Access & Seamless Transitions in Rural Palliative/End of Life Care funded by CIHR (RDM one of a number of international collaborators in this 10 project programme)

"Reducing Health Disparities and Promoting Equity for Vulnerable Populations Interdisciplinary Capacity Enhancement Grants"

Research Focus
The research program will address key knowledge deficits that exist in palliative care through a focus on timely access and seamless transitions in rural P/EOL care. This focus is grounded in the social requirement to assist the most vulnerable persons in our society, targeting the aged and terminally-ill persons. Plans are in development to repeat a number of these programmes in New Zealand in the next year

To access minutes of the HNZ Research Collaborative click here (members only)