

## Annual Hospice Conference | June 28-29, 2018 About the Presenters

### **Autumn Fiester, PhD**

Dr. Autumn Fiester is Assistant Chair for Education & Training in the Division of Medical Ethics at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. She is the Director of the Penn Program in Clinical Conflict Management, which promotes conflict resolution training for formal clinical ethics consultations and ethics conflicts at the bedside. She is a consultant for the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania Ethics Service, and conducts workshops in conflict management around the country.

Dr. Fiester has been a member of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities task force on clinical ethics consultation professionalization (Clinical Ethics Consultation Affairs Standing Committee). She is also a member of the Advisory Board of the Singapore CENTRES Project (Clinical Ethics Network, Training, Research and Support Initiative) aimed at developing the capacity of clinical ethics committees in Singapore. She is a member of GABEX: Global Alliance of Biomedical Ethics Centers sponsored by the University of Tokyo, designed to create a collaborative, international network of bioethics centers of excellence. She was also a contributing author of the EU-sponsored CHIMBRIDS project (Chimeras and Hybrids in Comparative European and International Research), which produced recommendations to the EU federation about the ethical issues surrounding chimera and hybrid research (Springer 2009).

### **Sarah Housman, PharmD, BCPS**

Dr. Sarah Housman graduated from the University of Florida, College of Pharmacy with her Doctorate of Pharmacy degree in 2010. She then completed an American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists (ASHP) accredited geriatric pharmacy practice residency followed by an ASHP accredited pain management and palliative care residency at the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System. Following residency training, she earned her board certification in Pharmacotherapy.

Dr. Housman joined Optum Hospice Pharmacy Services in 2012. In her role as a clinical pharmacist with Optum, she has served on multiple interdisciplinary hospice teams, provides clinical consults on hospice and palliative care patients, and presents educational programs for internal staff and clients. Dr. Housman has also served as a member of the Clinical Quality Improvement team, and is spearheading Optum Hospice Pharmacy Service's Palliative Care program. She is a member of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO), and numerous pharmacy organizations including the American College of Clinical Pharmacy and the American Society of Health-System's Pharmacists.

### **Melissa Hunt, RPh, PharmD**

Dr. Melissa Hunt graduated from the St. Louis College of Pharmacy with her Bachelor of Science and Doctorate of Pharmacy degrees and then completed an American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists (ASHP) accredited pediatric pharmacy practice residency at Kosair Children's Hospital in Louisville, KY.

Dr. Hunt worked as a clinical pharmacy specialist in a pediatric intensive care unit prior to joining Optum Hospice Pharmacy Services, where she now serves as the Pediatric Clinical Pharmacist. In her role with Optum, Dr. Hunt serves on pediatric interdisciplinary teams, provides clinical consults on pediatric patients, and presents educational programs for staff and clients. Dr. Hunt co-authored the Pediatric Palliative Care Consultant. She is a member of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) and serves on the Children's Project on Palliative/Hospice Services (ChiPPS) pediatric advisory council. In addition, she is a member of numerous pharmacy organizations including Pediatric Pharmacy Advocacy Group (PPAG).

### **Cortney Rogers, Pharm.D, BCPPS**

Dr. Cortney Rogers graduated from the St. Louis College of Pharmacy with her Doctorate of Pharmacy degree and then completed an American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists (ASHP) accredited residency at LeBonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis Tennessee.

Cortney is a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in the Heart Center at St. Louis Children's Hospital (SLCH). She also serves as the supervisor for the SLCH clinical pharmacy team and as a co-coordinator for the PGY1 and PGY2 pharmacy residency program. She provides direct patient care and also leads SLCH efforts focused on medication reconciliation, pediatric medication safety and medication shortage management. Cortney is celebrating 20 years of service at SLCH this year and serves as a preceptor for students from both St. Louis College of Pharmacy and Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville School of Pharmacy.

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**Allison Webb, PharmD, BCGP, CDP**

Dr. Allison Webb graduated from the Ohio Northern University College of Pharmacy with her Doctorate of Pharmacy degree in 2008. She is a Board Certified Geriatric Pharmacist and a Certified Dementia Practitioner.

Dr. Webb worked in specialty pharmacy prior to joining Optum Hospice Pharmacy Services in 2011 as a clinical pharmacist. In this role, she performs medication therapy reviews and assists hospice clinicians with the management of end of life symptoms. She is involved with training new staff and development of clinical quality improvement processes. She also works closely with leadership of select hospice clients to help manage clinical education and cost and clinically effective medication use from the executive level. Dr. Webb has written and published chapters in pharmacology and palliative care reference books and has presented at numerous state and national level hospice and palliative care conferences. She is a member of various pharmacist and hospice organizations, such as the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP) and the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO).

**Myra Belgeri, Pharm.D, CGP, BCPS, FASCP**

Dr. Myra Belgeri graduated from the St. Louis College of Pharmacy with her Bachelor of Science and Doctorate of Pharmacy degrees. She then completed an American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists (ASHP) accredited pharmacy practice residency with a focus on ambulatory care at the Chicago VA in Chicago, IL in 1999.

Dr. Belgeri worked as a geriatric clinical pharmacist and an associate professor of pharmacy practice at St. Louis College of Pharmacy prior to joining Optum Hospice Pharmacy Services in 2009. In her role as a clinical pharmacist with Optum, she has served on multiple interdisciplinary hospice teams, provides clinical consults on hospice and palliative care patients, and presents educational programs for internal staff and clients.

Dr. Belgeri has authored several peer-reviewed publications, served on various editorial boards, and participated as an investigator for several research projects. She is a member of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO), and numerous pharmacy organizations including the American College of Clinical Pharmacy. She has earned board certification in pharmacotherapy and geriatric pharmacy and is a fellow of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists.

**Casandra McAllister, M.Ed, CCLS, CIMI**

Casandra McAllister began her career as a Certified Child Life Specialist in 2011 after completing her Bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Studies with an emphasis in Child Life and a minor in Psychology from the University of Missouri. She then worked full-time at Ranken Jordan Pediatric Bridge Hospital and worked her way up to become Lead Specialist. While working full time, she completed her Master's degree in Early Childhood Special Education with a focus on Autism from the University of Missouri.

In 2016, Cassie started a Child Life program in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital. While at Cardinal Glennon, she received recognition from peers and families including the Exceptional Patient Care award in 2017. Cassie has presented at regional conferences for Child Life, Nursing and Recreation Therapy on a variety of topics including therapeutic play, innovative care and the importance of touch for the hospitalized infant. Cassie integrates into various teams throughout the hospital including palliative care, nursing practice, social work and the developmental therapy team.

**Dianne Gray, BS, CEO**

Dianne Gray is the President of Hospice and Healthcare Communications, an international consulting firm focused on furthering education initiatives and advocacy projects on all aspects of hospice, end-of-life and palliative care. Dianne is an internationally recognized speaker, author, and advocate on topics including national and global palliative care initiatives, communications issues surrounding medical ethical decision making, opioid use in pediatrics, and physician/family communications, as well as her own personal journey of her family's ten year pediatric hospice/palliative care experience with her son, Austin, who died in February 2005, as a result of a rare, neurodegenerative brain disorder.

She is a catalyst for change who continues to be "at the bedside" with families going through the end of life care journey with their own living and dying children. As well, Dianne speaks on behalf of the Elisabeth Kubler-Ross Foundation, sharing Elisabeth's messages of living a full life, the importance of honest communication with the dying, and the necessity of accessibility to adequate pain management for all individuals globally, as part of any quality palliative care program.

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**Gary Gardia, MEd, LCSW**

Over 30 years ago, Gary began his hospice career as a volunteer. Since then he has worked in many capacities leading a variety of teams and departments including volunteers, social workers, bereavement, and education. Gary holds Master degrees in Education and Social Work. He has also worked as a psychotherapist in private practice with a specialty in grief and loss, personal growth and development and substance abuse.

Gary received the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization's (NHPCO) *Heart of Hospice Award* for developing innovative programs to meet the needs of caregivers and the bereaved. He is also the recipient of the national social work organization Social Work Hospice and Palliative Network (SWHPN) *2015 Award of Excellence in Professional Education*. He is a frequent presenter and keynote speaker at state and national conferences and works as a consultant for various businesses and healthcare organizations.

**Megan Cassani, MA, CCLS, CIMI**

Five years ago, Megan Cassani found her passion of working with hospitalized children and their families by volunteering. Since then, she has worked in a variety of pediatric settings including rehabilitation, radiology, hematology/oncology, and emergency medicine. Megan holds a Master degree in Human Development and Family Sciences with an emphasis in Child Life. She also practices infant massage in her daily practice, and is a certified infant massage instructor.

**Judi Lund Person, MPH, CHC**

Judi Lund Person serves as a key contact with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, interfacing with hospice payment policy, Part D, survey and certification, contractor management, and program integrity functions, among others. She also represents hospice and palliative care with the Medicare Administrative Contractors and other federal agencies and many national organizations.

Recent issues include advocating for changes in the Notice of Election filing and payment process, advocating for new guidance regarding Part D and hospice, and ongoing work with the Medicare Administrative Contractors on hospice payment policy issues.

She works daily with hospice providers and state hospice organizations on the ever-increasing array of regulatory and compliance issues and translates complex regulatory language into actionable "plain English" for hospice providers. She works with her team at NHPCO to develop regulatory and compliance tools for hospice providers each year, including hospice payment rates and wage index values, and compliance guides to assist providers in achieving compliance with various federal rules and regulations.

**Diane M. Cogorno, MA, LPC, LCSW**

Diane's interest in working with families in grief goes back to her teenage years, as she witnessed friends, classmates and her own family be impacted by loss while living in Lima, Peru. She followed a course of studies that would lead her to work with loss in various clinical settings. For a number of years, her primary professional focus was in support of families experiencing child abuse and neglect. In 2001, she joined BJC Hospice as a Bereavement Specialist, working with both children and adults in that role. For the past 6 years, her role as Expressive Therapist in the BJC WINGS Program has allowed her to provide therapeutic interventions to seriously ill children on supportive care and hospice, and their families. She is a "book lady", and uses art and other creative activities to support them in their healing and grief journeys. Given her own bilingual and bicultural upbringing, she has a special interest and talent in supporting others in bridging communication, in all ways.

**Jennifer Lang, MA, LPC**

Jennifer's career journey as a professional counselor began with supporting at risk children and adolescents in foster care and adoption placements. Through this work experience, she developed a heart for supporting youth through grief and loss. In addition to her Master of Arts degree in Counseling, Jennifer has received formal education in art. This has created a beautiful framework to help children, adolescents, and families find expression, healing and hope.

In addition to private practice experience, she has had the privilege of working for BJC Hospice for 10 years. Her role as an Expressive Therapist for Wings and Wheels has given her the opportunity to provide counseling and expressive arts therapy to seriously ill children and children grieving due to many different types of losses. EMDR certification has provided her with additional skills to offer children who have experienced trauma. In 2014, Wings on Wheels was awarded the Missouri Hospice and Palliative Care Association "Heart of Hospice" program award. Jennifer was later awarded the "Heart of Hospice" employee award in 2017.

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**Kyna S. Shonkwiler, RN, BSN, CHPN**

Kyna S. Shonkwiler received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from The Ohio State University in 1982. She worked as a critical care nurse in a variety of settings for 14 years, then, began to work in hospice in 1996. She is a Certified Hospice and Palliative Nurse.

Kyna joined Optum Hospice Pharmacy Services in 2011. As a Clinical Nurse Educator, she speaks to pharmacy students, pharmacists, nurses and other hospice clinicians at regional, state and national conferences on end of life topics including wound care, drug abuse and diversion, staff safety, and effective communication strategies. She co-authored the book, *Wound Care at the End of Life*.

**Michael Lahart, PharmD, BCPPS**

Dr. Michael Lahart is a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist for the Heart Center at St Louis Children's Hospital. He provides direct patient care to the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit and works closely with the heart and lung transplant groups. After obtaining his Doctorate in Pharmacy from Drake University in Des Moines, IA, he completed a PGY1 Pharmacy Residency at Primary Children's Hospital in Salt Lake City, UT and a PGY2 Pediatric Residency at St. Louis Children's Hospital where he specialized in critical care and cardiac transplant. He is board certified in pediatric pharmacy.

**Bridget McCrate Protus, RPh, PharmD, MLIS, BCGP, CDP**

Dr. Bridget McCrate Protus is Director of Drug Information for Optum Hospice Pharmacy Services. She graduated with her Doctorate in Pharmacy from The Ohio State University where she also completed a pharmacy practice residency specializing in hospice and palliative care. She received her Master of Library & Information Science degree from Kent State University, Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Miami University of Ohio and is a Board Certified Geriatric Pharmacist and a Certified Dementia Practitioner.

Dr. Protus is a member of several hospice and pharmacy organizations and serves on the Ohio Pain Initiative Committee and Professional Development Committee of LeadingAge Ohio. She is chair of the Research Committee of the Society of Palliative Care Pharmacists. In addition, she teaches a course in pain management, palliative care, and geriatrics at The Ohio State University College of Pharmacy.

Dr. Protus has contributed as a lead editor for the Palliative Care Consultant, 4e and co-author for *Wound Care at the End of Life* and *Pediatric Palliative Care Consultant*. In addition, she is the editor of the *Hospilink™* abstracting newsletter.

**Jonathan Mullin, MD**

Dr. Jonathan Mullin completed his undergraduate education in Biology and Anthropology at Washington University in St. Louis, and medical school at Case Western Reserve University. He went on to complete his residency in Pediatrics at Johns Hopkins Hospital, and fellowships in Hospice and Palliative Medicine and Bioethics both at the Harvard Medical School. Prior to joining the pediatric Palliative Care Program at Washington University School of Medicine and St. Louis Children's Hospital, he worked in Pediatric Palliative Care at Boston Children's Hospital and Dana Farber Cancer Institute.

Dr. Mullin is the associate fellowship director for the Washington University Palliative Medicine Fellowship, and sits on the Ethics Committee at St. Louis Children's Hospital. His interests including clinical education in palliative care and bioethics, communication and decision-making in end-of-life care. He has presented at regional and national conferences, and has received awards for his clinical teaching.

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