



THE INSTITUTE FOR
PALLIATIVE MEDICINE

at San Diego Hospice

INTERNATIONAL PALLIATIVE CARE
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**New International Initiative Established
at San Diego's Institute for Palliative Medicine**

\$1.3 million grant helps IPM educate palliative medicine specialists worldwide

(SAN DIEGO) – The Institute for Palliative Medicine at San Diego Hospice (IPM) has received a \$1.3 million grant to establish a new International Palliative Care Leadership Development Initiative. This initiative is 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.” The Initiative team anticipates that the physicians who participate in the LDI will become the next generation of national, regional and global palliative care leaders. Participants have been selected from among known expert palliative care physicians in Africa, Central Asia, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Latin America and Southeast Asia.

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 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.

"We're so pleased to have the opportunity to share what we've learned with palliative care physicians worldwide," said Dr. Frank D. Ferris, Director of International Programs, "In a world where the needs of people with advanced illness often go unrecognized, the Leadership Development Initiative at the Institute for Palliative Medicine at San Diego Hospice provides a stellar example of what can be achieved through visionary partnerships."

"We are confident that by working together, our new Leadership Development Initiative will advance palliative care globally and improve the quality of life for millions worldwide experiencing life limiting illnesses," added Ferris.

Led by Dr. Ferris, IPM's International Programs help resource-limited nations build capacity and integrate palliative care into their healthcare systems. Since its inception in 2001, IPM has worked with 14 countries to build interdisciplinary teams of doctors, 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.

The Institute for Palliative Medicine

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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