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Professional Development Courses
Tuesday, April 9 and Wednesday, April 10, 8:30am - 5pm

**ESSENTIALS OF THANATOLOGY: DYING, DEATH AND BEREAVEMENT**
Onsite Location: 223

**Presenter(s):** Darcy Harris, RN, RSW, PhD, FT and Carrie Arnold, PhD

**Intended Audience:**
This course is intended for those in both counseling and education who wish to enhance their expertise in the field of thanatology. As such, this course will be helpful for professionals (nurses, physicians, psychologists, social workers, chaplains, funeral directors, police, EMTs, etc.) as well as individuals who are working as volunteers or support staff working with critically ill, dying or bereaved individuals.

**Course Description:**
This course gives an overview and summary of the field of thanatology based upon the Body of Knowledge Matrix published by ADEC. It explores the social, cultural, psychological, legal, ethical and spiritual issues raised by illness, dying, death and bereavement. All information is relevant to everyday life and most specifically to those practitioners providing death education, as well as those supporting the dying and bereaved. The course explores the meaning of death and examines personal attitudes and fears to understand the grieving process and basic grief support throughout the life span. The course will focus on learning techniques for applying theory and research to expand your knowledge and skills. Comprehensive and interdisciplinary, it presents the essential topics and core knowledge for death-related counseling and death education.

**INTERMEDIATE COURSE: GRIEF COUNSELING**
Onsite Location: 216

**Presenter(s):** Jane Bissler, PhD, LPCC-S, FT

**Intended Audience:**
This course is designed for all professionals who have at least two years of experience working with the bereaved and/or the dying.

**Course Description:**
This course examines key concepts related to the human response to loss and the facilitation of healthy bereavement, with a bilateral focus on working with individuals who have lost an important loved one as well as individuals who are dying. Death competence is emphasized as a prerequisite for effective clinical care of the bereaved and the dying.

Using the most current research and theory available in the field, you learn about models of grief experience, forces that contribute to risk and resilience in bereavement outcomes, and developmental, cultural, family, and other mediating factors in normal, uncomplicated bereavement and in the dying process. The use of ritual as a coping response to
facilitate mourning and development of creative therapeutic interventions receive special attention. Sound approaches to enhancing self-care and preventing burnout are provided. Videotaped examples of actual counseling sessions are included throughout the two-day course.

This highly interactive course gives you the opportunity to explore specific strategies and counseling tools to effectively support individuals, couples, families or groups coping with loss or facing an impending death. You will be given the opportunity to critically reflect with peers about the impact of grief and loss on your own professional work. A variety of teaching techniques are woven throughout the course to help you transfer the skills you learn in the course to your own work setting.

**ADVANCED COURSE: COMPLICATED BEREAVEMENT AND GRIEF THERAPY**

Onsite Location: 215

**Presenter(s):** Robert Neimeyer, PhD

**Intended Audience:**

Psychologists, social workers, marriage and family therapists, licensed professional counselors, nurses, physicians, pastoral counselors, or anyone with professional training seeking advanced skill development in bereavement intervention with challenging cases.

**Course Description:**

As contemporary models of bereavement have become more nuanced and empirically informed, so too have the practices available to counselors and therapists contending with complicated and prolonged grief in their clients. This two-day workshop offers in-depth training in several of these techniques, nesting them both within the therapy relationship and in the context of current theories focused on attachment, the dual processes of coping with loss and restoring life, and meaning reconstruction. Throughout, we ground principles and practices in contemporary research that provides flexible frameworks for intervention. Making extensive use of actual clinical videos as well as how-to instruction in the use of numerous therapeutic tools, we will discuss and practice several methods for helping clients integrate the reality of the loss into the ongoing story of their lives, while also reorganizing their continuing bond to their loved one.

**Specialty Workshops**

**Wednesday, April 10, 8:30am - 5pm**

**MEANING-CENTERED GRIEF THERAPY**

Onsite Location: 208

**Presenter(s):** Wendy Lichtenthal, PhD, FT
The loss of a loved one commonly challenges a griever’s sense of purpose, meaning, and identity as well as adaptive meaning-making processes. These challenges sometimes contribute to and are even indicative of prolonged grief reactions. Grief experts have therefore long-argued the value of focusing on “meaning” in therapeutic pursuits. This workshop will provide an overview of a manualized therapeutic approach, Meaning-Centered Grief Therapy (MCGT), and its core principles. Drawing on research of MCGT with bereaved parents, examples of exercises that may facilitate meaning-making processes and may enhance a sense of meaning will be described, with opportunities for experiential exercises and discussion of applications of MCGT.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Identify meaning-making challenges that grieving individuals commonly face
- Describe Meaning-Centered Grief Therapy and its core principles
- Discuss exercises that may facilitate meaning-making and enhance the griever’s sense of meaning

**References:**


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**Wednesday, April 10, 8:30am - 12pm**

**Death is NOT the End**

**Onsite Location:** 211

**Presenter(s):** Carl Becker PhD, DLitt

Social psychology and medical science are coming to understand what religions have taught for centuries: Death is not the end! This understanding should teach us how to live, die, and care for dying people. We can plan for a better death--more like the kind of death that we want. We can care for people who are dying better, giving them the kind of care that they want. We can grieve better for those who have died before us, supporting the trajectory of grief that each family
needs. This allows for a continuing connection with the deceased. People often ask (or wonder) “How can you stand to work with death, dying, and bereaved people all the time?” Everyone has their own answer, but the question presumes that death is somehow morbid and final. Our understanding of death as a spiritual transition gives strength and meaning to dying people and their caregivers, to the bereaved, families, and persons who work with the dying or bereaved. With this understanding, we can plan for death, care better for the dying, grieve better, and even prevent suicide. Death is not the end, but a stage that challenges us to live better now.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Participants will understand what recent findings and interpretations of near-death research mean for our understanding of death
- Participants will be able to apply the implications of near-death research to end-of-life planning, ranging from advanced directives to counseling and caregiving
- Participants will be able to apply the implications of near-death research to bereaved people in working with complicated grief and suicidal survivors

**References:**


**Wednesday, April 10, 1:30 - 5pm**

**Working with Multiple Losses**

Onsite Location: 211

**Presenter(s):** J William Worden, PhD, ABPP

When people experience multiple losses from death in a short period of time, they often experience what Kastenbaum calls “Bereavement Overload.” Grief may seem overwhelming, cause an individual to shut down or manifest itself in physical and psychological symptoms. “Bereavement Overload” may occur should an individual experience several losses in a short timeframe, or several losses may occur in one event, such as an auto accident. Strategies for helping individuals experiencing “bereavement overload” to jump-start the process in a way that feels safe and enables them to
better process their grief will be discussed. Ten cases from the presenter’s practice will illustrate the issues involved and appropriate treatment interventions.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- To identify the key issues stemming from multiple losses
- To understand how multiple losses may result in “Bereavement Overload”
- To learn strategies to help mourners process multiple losses without getting stuck, or if stuck, how to move forward towards the best adaptation to the losses

**REFERENCES:**

- not provided

Wednesday, April 10, 1:30 - 5pm

*African American Bereavement: Suffocated Grief & Survival*

Onsite Location: 224

**Presenter(s):** Tashel Bodere, PhD, CT

This interactive workshop will take participants on a powerful journey through the lived experiences of African American populations through loss, suffocated grief (Bordere, 2011, 2016), survival and resilience. We will explore historical and contemporary encounters with loss, and factors such as race-based trauma that further complicate mourning processes. Drawing from research and practice, we will examine patterns in cultural values (e.g., language, spirituality) and discuss the complexities of meaning-making, coping, and bereavement for African Americans (e.g., parenting) within social and political contexts. In a safe and supportive learning environment, participants will have opportunities to practice creative and effective approaches.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Describe patterns unique to loss and bereavement for African American families within developmental, historical, social, and political contexts employing ecological and social justice perspectives
- Examine factors that complicate grief and mourning processes as well as resiliency factors and survival strategies among African American populations
- Identify culturally conscientious approaches to supporting bereaved African American individuals and families
REFERENCES:


Keynote Session
Thursday, April 11, 8:00 - 9:40am

CREATING A RELATIONAL HOME FOR A SIX-YEAR-OLD CHOCTAW CANCER PATIENT

Onsite Location: Salon West

Presenter(s): Rockey Robbins, PhD

The speaker will present a narrative describing his treatment work with a six-year-old Choctaw boy who was in the process of dying. He will first put the story in the context of traditional Choctaw rituals and ideas as they relate to death and dying. The primary focus of the speech will deal with the transformations that occurred with both the young boy and the speaker. The transformative experiences will be discussed in a developmental context of growth from Becoming to Being; Realistic to Imaginative; and from Death to Love. To conclude, the speaker will relate the experience to his development as a therapist.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- To explore traditional Choctaw rituals and ideas as they relate to death and dying of a 6 year-old boy
- To discover the transformations that occurred with both the young boy and the speaker throughout the process of dying and death
- To emphasize the growth as a therapist resulting from the dying and death experience of the 6 year-old Choctaw boy
**Concurrent Session I**
Thursday, April 11, 10:45 - 11:15am

**Adolescent Parental Bereavement in the Caribbean — Grief and Loss**

*Onsite Location: 217*

**Presentation Type:** Research Report – 30 minutes  
**Category:** Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)  
**Presentation Level:** Advanced  
**Indicator:** Cultural/Socialization

**Presenter(s):** Margaret Yvonne Nakhid-Chatoor, EdD, RQTU

Current grief theories and its interpretations, constructed from data collected from North American populations of mostly white, middle-class groups, are not culturally relevant to the developing world such as in Caribbean societies. The results of a grounded theory study on adolescent parental bereavement conducted in Trinidad and Tobago and in New York, showed that grief is misunderstood by adults, and largely influenced by post-colonial mentalities. Instead of understanding the realities of the adolescent psyche, teenagers were penalized and their grief responses devalued. Educators continued traditions that were counterproductive to the socio-emotional well-being of students and their attachments within their families.

**Learning Objectives:**

- To gain an understanding of the meanings that adolescents attach to the bereavement process in order to provide more appropriate interventions within their social contexts
- To determine how adolescents make sense of their grieving experiences based on the cultural perspectives that they adopt
- To examine the binaries that exist between students and educators, such as conformity (valued) and non-conformity (a cause for punishment and exclusion of students from their 'right' to education)

**References:**


**Care Goals: Hospice Patient and Medical Student Perspectives**

*Onsite Location: 208*

**Presentation Type:** Research Report – 60 minutes  
**Category:** End of Life Decision Making
Physicians should be prepared to care for terminal patients and understand their needs. While existing literature shows a discrepancy between patient preferences and clinician perceptions, research had not been conducted with medical students. This study aimed to compare care goal preferences of hospice patients with perceptions of medical students. Medical students completed surveys on the perceived care goals of hospice patients as well as self-reported empathy. Hospice patients completed the same care goals survey. Significant differences emerged between patient and student care goal rankings despite medical school year or self-reported empathy. Potential reasons for these disparities will be discussed.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Summarize the pre-existing literature regarding care goals of individuals with terminal diagnoses and how these goals are currently addressed by physicians
- Identify the differences between hospice patient care goals and medical student perceptions
- Propose ways in which education regarding patient care goals can be improved

**References:**


**Celebrations of Life: Hits and Misses**

Onsite Location: 213

**Presentation Type:** Practice Report

**Category:** Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)

**Presentation Level:** Intermediate

**Indicator:** Contemporary Perspectives
Merging currently popular Celebration of Life model of an extended eulogy with Shamanistic understandings of ritual and symbol, the presenter will share their experience as a pastor and celebrant in organizing 4 types of celebrations that synthesize theories of grief, mourning and ritual with contemporary practice. This will move beyond a compendium of individual rituals and celebrations/services, comparing and contrasting each type with the others as a guide for their application. The presenter will share rubrics, event-planning forms, and necessary structures for each (developed in conjunction with Memorial Funeral Home, RI), as well as provide illustrations of both great successes and failures.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Discuss the theoretical basis for the role that ritual, symbolism, and personalized memorialization play in healthy grief and mourning
- Describe four types of Celebrations of Life, their increasing popularity, appropriate use, and limitations
- Design and implement a Celebration of Life that meets mourners needs for personalization and ritual

**REFERENCES:**


**DEATH DOULAS: MORE THAN A FAD?**

Onsite Location: 215

**Presentation Type:** Personal Story  
**Category:** Death Education  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory  
**Indicator:** Cultural/Socialization

**Presenter(s):** Alua Arthur, JD

Often called by different names, death doulas are increasing in popularity in recent years and are gaining national attention. But what do they do? Are they effective? Or is this just a fad? Death doulas are carving out a role in today's health care system, but more than just a presence at the bedside, their offerings could serve to heighten cultural awareness of and preparation for death. Their rapid increase in popularity suggests a strong desire for shift within current paradigms of end of life care. Can the death doula movement heed the call?
**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Distinguish between current death support and the need for evolving the role of death doulas
- Evaluate the necessity of death doulas in end of life care
- Analyze the rise in popularity of death doulas and the impact on culture as a whole

**REFERENCES:**


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**DYNAMIC RECIPROCITY OF DIGNITY IN PALLIATIVE END-OF-LIFE CARE**

Onsite Location: 204

**Presentation Type:** Bridging Research and Practice  
**Category:** Dying  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory  
**Indicator:** Resources and Research

**Presenter(s):** Ping Ying Choo, BSc, MA; Andy Hau Yan Ho, BA, PDGE, MSocSc, PhD, EdD; Geraldine Tan-Ho, MSocSc; Oindrila Dutta, MA, CT

Dignity is a value-laden concept with a wide range of interpretations, and understanding the variations can inform the delivery of dignified end-of-life care. Thematic Synthesis on existing literature revealed seven conceptual categories of dignity, spanning across individual, familial, and institutional dimensions, forming a new Dynamic Reciprocity of Dignity (DRD) model. The DRD model highlights the importance of adopting systemic lens to address dignity-related concerns at the end-of-life, while providing insights on how self-compassion can serve as the foundation of dignified care that buffers patients’ existential suffering and caregivers’ burnout. Recommendation for clinical practice and future research directions will be discussed.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Identify individual, familial and institutional factors constituting patients’ dignity
- Formulate dignified patient-family care plans using a systemic lens
- Recognize the usefulness of self-compassion as the basis of dignified care and ongoing support for patients, family caregivers and healthcare professionals

**REFERENCES:**
Loss of child is one of the most distressful life event. Sense of Coherence–Revised (SOC-R) and posttraumatic growth (PTG) can be understood as two metaheuristics that are closely linked to resilience and adaption to adversity. This study investigated the association between SOC-R and PTG, as well as the moderating role of value orientations, in a sample of 67 Chinese and Swiss parents who lost their child. Results showed that, cross-culturally, the value of conservation was negatively associated with PTG, and self-transcendence showed a significant moderation effect to enhance the positive relationship between SOC-R and PTG.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Add the knowledge on the relationship between sense of coherence and posttraumatic growth after the loss of child
- Understand the cultural effect in the posttraumatic growth in bereave parents
- Beneficial for the practices to foster the growth after the bereavement

**REFERENCES:**


**TERMINATION FOR FETAL ANOMALY: GRIEF, STIGMA & OPPRESSION**

Onsite Location: 211

*Presentation Type: Scholarly Paper*

*Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)*

*Presentation Level: Intermediate*

*Indicator: Contemporary Perspectives*

**Presenter(s):** Aimee M Vantine, MSW, LMSW; Kayla C Smith, MSW candidate; Lisbeth Harcourt, MSW, LMSW

Little research exists on the unique social injustices that occur when women decide to terminate pregnancies as the result of a severe or fatal diagnosis. In these cases, health care professionals assist patients in assessing the prognosis of fetal anomalies in order to come to a decision that feels most comfortable. This presentation intends to unpack the many social justice issues that are associated with a woman’s decision to terminate a pregnancy for fetal anomaly. Specifically, barriers to both reproductive and mental health care will be discussed, which exacerbate and complicate the grieving process for many women and their families.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

• Examine the unique social injustices that often accompany the decision to terminate a pregnancy due to fetal anomaly
• Analyze how geography and socioeconomic status (SES) are key factors in the decision-making process after a fetal anomaly has been detected
• Understand how stigma and shame compound the pain of pregnancy loss and identify barriers to both reproductive and mental health care

**REFERENCES:**

**THE TASKS OF GRIEVING AND TASKS OF COUNSELING**

Onsite Location: Salon W

*Presentation Type: Bridging Research and Practice*

*Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)*

*Presentation Level: Intermediate*

*Indicator: Professional Issues*

**Presenter(s):** J William Worden, PhD  
Dale Larson, PhD

In this session, William Worden will present his most recent thinking on the tasks of grieving as presented in his classic text, Grief Counseling and Grief Therapy, now in its 5th edition. Clinicians will have an opportunity to hear his reflections on the evolution and current state of the task model. During the discussion, Dale Larson will present relevant advances in clinical theory and practice, especially insights from person-centered and transtheoretical models, that can inform interventions within the task-based model. Participants will be asked to share the interventions they have found most facilitative in their work with bereaved persons.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Discuss client dynamics and content identified in Worden's task model
- Identify tasks for the grief counselor or therapist corresponding to the four tasks in Worden’s model
- Discuss examples of task-related interventions in clinical practice

**REFERENCES:**


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**Concurrent Session II**

Thursday, April 11, 1:00 - 2:00pm

*A CLINICAL DAY IN THE LIFE OF A GRIEF THERAPIST: FOUR CASE VIGNETTES*

Onsite Location: Salon W

*Presentation Type: Professional Case Presentation*

*Category: Assessment and Intervention*

*Presentation Level: Advanced*
Practicing grief therapists use many different aspects of their training/experience to treat a variety of death-related and bereavement-based clinical problems. Using the vehicle of case study, the presenter describes a series of four patient scenarios encountered in the course of a typical “day at the office” ranging from more straightforward “normal grief” to highly complicated situations. With Socratic questioning, attendees will be challenged to think through an accurate assessment of each case and to consider a personalized intervention experience for each patient which will be effective for him/her based on enduring concepts in the field and methods from empirically-validated therapies.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Describe the dual process model of grief as it applies to behavioral activation and reversal of avoidance in grief therapy
- Differentiate intuitive and instrumental patterns of grieving and their implications for recommendations to patients
- Identify three central transformative processes common in narrative-based and meaning-centered grief therapies

**REFERENCES:**


**AFRICAN AMERICAN FEMALE YOUTH AND GRIEF SUPPORT**

Onsite Location: 208

**Presentation Type: Research Report – 60 minutes**

**Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)**

**Presentation Level: Intermediate**

**Indicator: Cultural/Socialization**

**Presenter(s):** Tashel C Bordere, PhD; Mary Varga, PhD
This qualitative study examines African American young adult female perceptions of grief support extending beyond the familial context. Twenty informants participated in face-to-face interviews. Descriptive phenomenological theory and method guided the study. Findings indicate themes connected to and transcending cultural mistrust, including perceptions of personal vs. "other" loss status and conceptions of grief support on college campuses that have implications for the development and implementation of supportive services and resources for reaching African American female college students. Implications for research, education, and practice will be provided.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Explain the roles of contextual factors in grief, coping, and resilience among bereaved African American female students
- Describe pattern of loss and support seeking perceptions and behaviors for African American female young adults
- Identify culturally responsive approaches to support services for African American female college students

**REFERENCES:**


**ALIVE & ENLIVENING: PRESCRIPTIVE MEMORIES AND THE ART OF DREAMSCAPING**

Onsite Location: 213

*Presentation Type: Practice Report*
*Category: Assessment and Intervention*
*Presentation Level: Intermediate*
*Indicator: Family and Individual*

**Presenter(s):** Nancy S Gershman, MSW Candidate

Looking for a strengths-based, imaginal approach that is also co-creative and future-oriented? Dreamscaping in bereavement and end of life settings uses imaginal resourcing and re-scripting, a focus on felt memories and mental simulations, memory reconsolidation and photo-based art to shift the focus from “What do you miss?” to “What gives you joy?” In this immersive tour, Nancy Gershman (its developer) will show us how tracking and reimagining good or good-enough memories not only smokes out and addresses unexpressed/unmet needs, but given artistic form, can serve as a resource or impetus for re-engagement with the world.
LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Describe how the principles and process of dreamscaping can augment psychotherapy or art therapy with people at the end-of-life and the bereaved
- Assess memories for their potential to build a coherent rescript, or prescriptive memory, that can assist with adaptation to grief and loss
- Describe how a prescriptive memory can update a distressing memory with a brief reminder, positive interfering material, novel learning, a grounding focus and disconfirming or unexpected information

REFERENCES:


COMPLICATED GRIEF IN RURAL APPALACHIA: A FEMINIST APPROACH

Onsite Location: 211

Presentation Type: Scholarly Paper
Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Introductory
Indicator: Cultural/Socialization

Presenter(s): Nancy E Thacker, MS, NCC

Rural Appalachians are a unique cultural group with shared values that shape norms and expectations for grieving a loss. Complicated grief (CG) can develop when individuals are unable to reconcile grief within cultural expectations and norms. Thus, rural Appalachians are at risk for CG when their individual experiences conflict with common cultural values. Feminist theory can offer a culturally appropriate framework to address the etiology and manifestation of CG with this group. This presentation will review CG and rural Appalachian culture and provide a clinical application of feminist theory with rural Appalachians experiencing CG.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Understand rural Appalachian cultural norms and values and their impacts on expectations for grieving a death loss
• Recognize how conflicts between individual experiences and cultural expectations influence the manifestation of complicated grief
• Apply tenets of feminist theory to clinical practice with rural Appalachians experiencing CG

REFERENCES:


1:30 - 2:00pm

DYING YOUNG
Onsite Location: 217

Presentation Type: Research Report – 30 minutes
Category: Dying
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Indicator: Life Span

Presenter(s): Brianne L Overton, MA, MEd, FT, LPC, NCC ABD

Legacy and reminisce work are traditionally utilized as a therapeutic interventions with older adults entering into the final developmental stage of life. During this phase older adults ponder aspects of their legacy. What happens when young adults (20 - 34) are faced with their own mortality at a time when societal messages indicate that this is the time to live? How is this different or similar to the research with older adults? During this research report the presenter will share research findings of a qualitative study that explored legacy beliefs with young adults diagnosed with a terminal illness.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

• Increase awareness of needs expressed by young adults who are faced with their own mortality
• Understand how proactive psychoeducation can be a useful tool when allowing young adults to engage in sharing their life review by using Hunter & Rowles (2005) model of legacy beliefs
• Explore the therapeutic benefits that this proposed intervention has on young adults

REFERENCES:


1:00 - 1:30pm

**TEACHING ABOUT GRIEF IN SCHOOL: COMPLEXITIES AND NEW POSSIBILITIES**

Onsite Location: 217

*Presentation Type: Research Report – 30 minutes*

*Category: Death Education*

*Presentation Level: Introductory*

*Indicator: Resources and Research*

**Presenter(s):** Polyxeni Stylianou, PhD

The purpose of the present study was to explore the complexities and new possibilities emerging from teaching about and dealing with loss and grief in primary school based on children’s literature. A preliminary analysis of the results indicated that teachers’ profile and class context play a pivotal role in how teachers integrate death issues in education. However, it was also shown that external factors were also important aspects that created openings for new possibilities in teaching about and dealing with loss and grief in schools. Implications for Death Education and future research will be discussed.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Describe the lesson plans implemented, based on the children’s books “Goodbye Mousie”/Robie H. Harris, “No matter what”/Debi Gliori and “J’ai laissé mon âme au vent”/Roxane Marie Galliez
- Identify complexities and new possibilities when integrating loss and grief in primary school
- Recognize the implications for further research relevant to discussing death concepts with children

**REFERENCES:**


WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU: EXAMINING MILITARY LOSS AND GRIEF
Onsite Location: 215

Presentation Type: Personal Story  
Category: Traumatic Death  
Presentation Level: Introductory  
Indicator: Contemporary Perspectives

Presenter(s): Joanne Steen, MS, NCC

Military loss and grief are examined based on professional, collective, and personal experiences garnered over twenty-five years as a military instructor, author and Gold Star widow. The national perspective on military service since 9/11 is addressed, notably its effect on the levels of support given to surviving military families in terms of grief recognition, meaning making, or disenfranchisement of their loss. Factors common to military loss are summarized, including a traumatic casualty assistance process, classified information and limited details, tangible secondary losses, binding ties to the military and the national identity as the family of a fallen service member.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
- Recognize widespread perceptions on military deaths and the preparedness of military families for such losses
- Identify three compounding factors common to military loss that may hinder forward movement in grief
- Discuss how meaning making is influenced by the national conversation on military service

REFERENCES:
Working with Grief and Loss in the Cancer Experience

Onsite Location: 204/204

Presentation Type: Professional Case Presentation
Category: Dying
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Indicator: Family and Individual

Presenter(s): Michelle Hamilton Bronzo, MA, LPC, CT

Adjustment to a cancer diagnosis includes a multitude of physical, cognitive, emotional, and spiritual changes that are associated with distress. Those living with advanced disease have the difficult challenge of balancing engagement in life with facing fears of death. This case study presentation will depict the wide range of both experienced and anticipatory losses in a young adult living with metastatic colorectal cancer. We will discuss working from a thanatological perspective to address living with uncertainty and facing death, meaning making, suffering, quality of life, the installation of hope and leaving a lasting legacy.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe how a cancer diagnosis can bring about feelings of grief of loss
- Identify the physical, cognitive, emotional, and spiritual changes associated with preparatory grief and distress
- Demonstrate the use of the Dual Process Model in clinical practice situations with an oncology population

References:


Thursday, April 11, 2:00 - 3:00pm
A Bereaved Mother’s Journey in Meaning-Centered Grief Therapy

Onsite Location: Salon W

Presentation Type: Bridging Research and Practice
Category: Assessment and Intervention
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Indicator: Contemporary Perspectives

Presenter(s): Wendy G Lichtenthal, PhD; Justin Fogarty, BA; Kailey Roberts, PhD

Meaning-Centered Grief Therapy (MCGT), which is an adaptation of Meaning-Centered Psychotherapy incorporating meaning reconstruction, cognitive-behavioral and attachment theories, has been developed and tested in parents who have lost a child to cancer. This presentation will follow a case of a bereaved mother who participated in a pilot trial of MCGT, using video-recorded therapy sessions and highlighting various interventions used along her therapeutic journey. Strategies to manage avoidance, guilt and reengagement in valued activities will be highlighted. Symptom improvements and qualitative feedback about the intervention will be reviewed. Applications of MCGT in bereaved parents and other grieving populations will be discussed.

Learning Objectives:

• To describe the core principles of Meaning-Centered Grief Therapy
• To become familiar with specific strategies for managing avoidance and guilt
• To describe the types of symptom improvements commonly observed among individuals engaging in Meaning-Centered Grief Therapy

References:


Belsky’s Parenting Model: Examining Parenting after a Parent’s Death

Onsite Location: 211
As death rates of adults and the average age at which women first give birth are rising, it is more likely that families with young children will experience a parent’s death. This presentation summarizes Belsky’s (1984) process model of parenting to interpret how a parent’s death influences various areas of a surviving co-parent’s parental functioning by discussing three domains that account for individual differences in parental functioning, including forces within the parent, child, and the broader social context. After providing an overview of the model and current supporting research, the presenter will discuss future directions and implications.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Identify the domains of Belsky’s parenting model that are influenced by a parent’s death
- Recognize how a parent’s death influences parenting of the surviving parent
- Discuss implications related to presented research

**References:**


**Family Dignity Intervention (FDI) for Advancing Asia Palliative Care**

Onsite Location: 208
Family Dignity Intervention (FDI), which aims to elevate terminally-ill patients' and their family-caregivers' sense of dignity and spiritual wellbeing at end-of-life, was developed and tested via a two-arm Randomized Controlled Trial in Singapore. Preliminary analysis using baseline, post-intervention and one-week-follow-up data was conducted (N=54). Between-group analysis revealed significant increase in life meaning among FDI-patients compared to control-patients at one-week-follow-up. Within-group analysis also showed significant increase in hope, positive readiness, interconnectedness, and peace among FDI-patients and caregivers. Conversely, control-patients and caregivers experienced significant reduction in hope, temporality, spiritual and psychological wellbeing. Narratives of FDI experience and practice implications will be discussed.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Understand the dignity-related needs and concerns among Asian terminally-ill patients and their families
- Discuss the clinical and empirical foundation of Family Dignity Intervention for advancing holistic palliative care
- Utilize the practice implications derived from the RCT findings of Family Dignity Intervention in supporting Asian patients and families facing loss and mortality

**REFERENCES:**


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**FROM LOSS TO GROWTH: GRIEF FOLLOWING AN OPIOID OVERDOSE DEATH**

Onsite Location: 204/204

**Presentation Type:** Professional Case Presentation

**Category:** Traumatic Death
Gift of Life Donor Program coordinated the recovery of organs from 154 individuals who died from a drug overdose in 2017. Many of these families experience post traumatic growth following the death of their loved one. Attendees will learn about post traumatic growth and how donation adds a positive component to the grief process. This presentation will also focus on reducing the stigma around overdose death. Review of data and personal donor characteristics will highlight the human beings behind the numbers.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Learn practical communication and language technique when talking with families whose loved one has died following an opioid overdose
- Discuss case examples of donor families who have experienced post traumatic growth following the opioid death of their loved one
- Explore the way one OPO has worked towards reducing the stigma and highlight the human side of the opioid crisis

**REFERENCES:**


**2:30 - 3:00pm**

**GRIEF CONTENT INCLUSION IN ACCREDITED COUNSELOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

Onsite Location: 217

**Presentation Type:** Research Report – 30 minutes  
**Category:** Death Education  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory  
**Indicator:** Professional Issues

**Presenter(s):** Laura S Wheat, PhD, LPC, NCC; Jennifer J Matthews, PhD, LPC, NCC, ACS; Peggy P Whiting, EdD, LPCS, CT

This presentation details results from a national study of counselor educators regarding grief content in counseling programs. The national accrediting body detailing standards for the profession does not include any mention of thanatology or grief. Counselors lack systematic education regarding research-based best practices for intervening in grief. Previous research indicated that professional counselors assume competence in providing grief counseling despite
the lack of grief education. Presenters will share the results of the study, implications for both the profession of counseling and the field of thanatology, and for ADEC’s role in bridging this gap.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Describe the challenges faced by counselor educators regarding inclusion of grief content in their curriculum
- List three methods counselor educators use to infuse grief into other courses or teach standalone courses centered on grief
- Generate two possible roles ADEC may play in bridging the gap for professional counselors

**References:**


2:00 - 2:30pm

**Mortuary Science Student Knowledge About Cultural Diversity**

Onsite Location: 217

*Presentation Type: Research Report – 30 minutes*

*Category: Death Education*

*Presentation Level: Introductory*

*Indicator: Cultural/Socialization*

**Presenter(s):** Marc A Markell, PhD, CT; Kathryn A Markell, PhD

Few research studies have focused on the education of Mortuary Science students in general, and even fewer on the religious or cultural competence of these students. At the beginning of a diversity class, students were asked how much they believed they knew about various religions and cultures. They were also given a test to evaluate their knowledge. At the end of the course, the students were retested. This presentation will discuss the results of the pre-post test comparisons. The presentation will include a discussion of the need for cultural competency among future funeral directors.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Explore the importance of educating mortuary science students about cultural and religious diversity in death and dying rituals and expectations
• Summarize the level of knowledge about cultural and religious death and dying practices for incoming mortuary science students
• Analyze the success of classroom information and activities on improving student knowledge about cultural and religious death and dying practices

REFERENCES:


MY WOMB, NOW YOUR TOMB: LIFE, THROUGH THE ARTS, AFTER A MISCARRIAGE
Onsite Location: 215

Presentation Type: Personal Story
Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Introductory
Indicator: Family and Individual

Presenter(s): Rebekah Near, CAGS, LCAT

Despite the fact that there are more than 1 million fetal losses each year, women and men continue to grieve hidden. In our culture, we are deeply unskilled with this type of grief. Come learn how the arts transformed Rebekah, an expressive arts grief counselor, into coping with the challenges of everyday living after a miscarriage. Rebekah will share her grief process along with personal art to show how the arts can respond to loss and their importance in the field of Thanatology. Using the arts to dialogue with grief releases the vitality we need to carry on living.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

• Participants will identify at least 2 ways that expressive arts therapy is beneficial in working with dying and grieving individuals
• Participants will gain basic knowledge of Expressive Arts theory in the field of Thanatology
• Participants will be able to discuss 1 relevant case story in their current work settings (translate theory and experiential into practice)

REFERENCES:


**Techniques from an Attachment-Informed Approach to Adolescent Grief**

Onsite Location: 213

**Presentation Type:** Practice Report

**Category:** Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)

**Presentation Level:** Intermediate

**Indicator:** Contemporary Perspectives

**Presenter(s):** Pamela A Malone, PhD, LCSW-S, FT

The goals of attachment-informed adolescent grief therapy incorporate the important processes of empathic attunement, neural integration via the mirroring of neural connection, affect regulation, and constructing and maintaining continuing bonds with the deceased. Viewing adolescent loss and grief through the lens of attachment informs the therapeutic work to move toward re-regulation and a healthy adaptation to loss and grief. Effective attachment-informed approaches, techniques and interventions applied to grieving adolescents help to mitigate the long-term effects of adolescent loss and grief experiences. These approaches are individualized to each adolescent’s specific attachment style and take into consideration the therapist’s attachment style.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Participants will be able to identify ways grieving adolescents exhibit dysregulation and destabilization
- Participants will be able to utilize effective approaches to working with grieving adolescents from an attachment informed perspective
- Participants will learn about specific techniques and interventions to apply to grieving adolescents based on the adolescent’s specific attachment style

**References:**


Concurrent Session IV
Thursday, April 11, 4:00 - 5:30pm

#What I Carry, Children Tell Their Grief Stories in Words and Images
Onsite Location: 211

Presentation Type: Experiential Workshop
Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Indicator: Life Span

Presenter(s): Donna A Gaffney, DNSc, PMHCNS-BC, FAAN; Katherine (Katie) Hyde, PhD

This session will introduce participants to #What I Carry, a Literacy Through Photography program for bereaved children. LTP helps refine the language and skills of self-expression, specifically related to loss and grief. Attendees will discuss how children’s literature, poems, writing and photography facilitate grief literacy as well as the expression of healing and growth. Qualitative data and children’s work from the pilot program at a child bereavement center will be presented. Participants will explore several LTP projects: My self-portrait, ABCs of Healing and #What I Carry. Attendees are encouraged to bring smartphones with cameras!

Learning Objectives:

- State the significance of photography and writing as tools facilitating self-expression for bereaved children and teens
- Identify the elements of the Literacy Through Photography program and specific strategies for bereaved children and teens
- Discuss how bereaved children and teens use images and words to describe their loss and grief experiences as well as their strategies for healing

References:

**Art Therapy and Memory Reconsolidation Based Approaches to Grieving**

Onsite Location: 213

**Presentation Type:** Experiential Workshop  
**Category:** Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate  
**Indicator:** Contemporary Perspectives

**Presenter(s):** Noah Hass-Cohen, PsyD, ATR-BC; Sharon Strouse, MA, ATR-BC, LCPAT

This didactic, experiential workshop will first discuss the neuroscience of how memories are maintained and altered. Participants will then engage in brief expressive arts experientials which demonstrate the conditions of memory reconsolidation for working with bereaved people. Grieving involves the process of memory retrieval which goes through memory reconsolidation. During memory reconsolidation novel experiences such as art and meaning making may alter reactions to loss-based memories via the rewiring of episodic grief memories. Then paring and thus updating distressing memories with novel creativity likely leads to a permanent and lasting reduction in loss-related distress.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Explain at least three memory neuroscience concepts
- Describe three conditions for positive memory reconsolidation
- Apply at least two memory reconsolidation principles to their practice

**References:**


**Back to Bowen: Weaving Theory into Practice with Families and Loss**

Onsite Location: Salon W

**Presentation Type:** Experiential Workshop  
**Category:** Assessment and Intervention
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Indicator: Family and Individual

Presenter(s): Pamela A Grassau, PhD; Janice Nadeau, PhD; B Tammy Bartel, MA, RCC, CT; Kathleen R Gilbert, PhD; Chikako Ishii, MS; Daniela Silva, PhD student

Centrally woven throughout our international and interdisciplinary team has been the application and relevance of Bowen’s family system theory. In this workshop we will examine ways in which Bowen’s work has influenced how we conceptualize, assess and intervene with grieving families. Our team will share case examples from advanced illness through to bereavement, and participants will be encouraged to take time to reflect on how Bowen’s work informs their practice. Drawing on individual reflection, case-based learning and small group conversation, this workshop will highlight the dynamic process that informs family loss and grief.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify and describe Bowen’s family systems theory
- Demonstrate how Bowen’s family systems theory can inform grief and loss practices with families across sites and contexts
- Evaluate how and in what ways one’s own site of practice is informed by Bowen’s family system theory

References:


Fear and Uncertainty: Creative Strategies for Ambiguous Loss
Onsite Location: 217

Presentation Type: Experiential Workshop
Category: Non-death-related Loss
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Indicator: Contemporary Perspectives

Presenter(s): Claudia Coenen, CGC, FT, MTP
Not all grief stems from death. Divorce, break-up, miscarriage, addiction, mental illness, an unexpected gay partner or terminal diagnosis all trigger grief. Ambiguous, ongoing or unresolvable loss requires sensitivity and adjustment in counseling approaches. This workshop explores various creative tools to help clients process these complicated issues. Simple drawing, word ladders, and working with imagery and creative prompts via SoulCards and Karuna Cards will be used. Polyvagal theory through the lens of grief will show how somatic awareness can move the client towards more integrated and balanced responses. Participants will explore these tools and join in discussing their uses.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Discuss different types of non-death losses that generate grief and review the complicated issues that arise
- Explore various creative strategies that can be used in counseling ambiguous, on-going or unresolved loss
- View polyvagal theory through the lens of grief to help clients track grief reactions, enabling them to become unstuck and more comfortable with uncertainty and fear

**REFERENCES:**


**PATHWAYS TO RESILIENCE: SUPPORTING FAMILIES BEREAVED BY SUICIDE**

**Onsite Location:** 215

**Presentation Type:** Experiential Workshop

**Category:** Traumatic Death

**Presentation Level:** Intermediate

**Indicator:** Family and Individual

**Presenter(s):** Christine M Linnehan, MS, LCPC, BC-DMT, FT

The path of grief after suicide loss can be uniquely challenging and complicated for those left behind. The bereaved often feel shattered and at a loss as to how restore resilience and wellbeing. In this interactive session, participants will explore a restorative, trauma-informed approach to supporting children, teens and families as they navigate the rocky terrain of grief after suicide. The session will look at creative interventions and mind/body strategies that aim to help the bereaved cope with the interplay of trauma and grief reactions; process their stories of loss; and envision a path toward healing and hope.
LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Describe 4 ways that the distinctive nature of suicide impacts bereavement
- Demonstrate at least 2 mind/body strategies for decreasing trauma reactions and promoting self-regulation
- Cite an example of a restorative expressive arts intervention that can be used to help process narratives of suicide loss

REFERENCES:


RELEARNING HOW TO LIVE WITH THOSE WHO SURVIVE WITH YOU
Onsite Location: 208

Presentation Type: Experiential Workshop
Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Introductory
Indicator: Contemporary Perspectives

Presenter(s): Thomas Attig, PhD

This experiential workshop focuses on experiences of relearning how to live in relationships with those who survive with us when a loved one dies. Participants are asked to reflect on the person they believe was (or will be) the hardest for them to learn to live with in the aftermath of such a death. They will privately reflect and then join with a partner and ultimately the whole group in discussion about the challenges in reengaging with fellow survivors, meanings in relationships with them, memories and feelings aroused, options in reengagement, and ways others can help in meeting the challenges.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Identify and describe varieties of challenge and difficulty in relearning how to live with others in the aftermath of loss of a loved one
- Use the exercise on relearning life with fellow survivors in educational settings
- Use reflective and discussion techniques featured in the workshop in counseling contexts or self-examination

REFERENCES:
THE ROLE OF EMPATHY AND MINDFULNESS WHEN WORKING WITH TRAUMA
Onsite Location: 204

Presentation Type: Panel Discussion
Category: Traumatic Death
Presentation Level: Introductory
Indicator: Resources and Research

 Presenter(s): Rebecca S Morse, PhD; Maura McFadden; Heather Stang, MA, C-IAYT

This panel discussion seeks to discuss the role of both empathy, and mindfulness practice, as a protective factor against compassion fatigue in those who work with individuals who have experienced trauma, such as that due to sudden, or violent death. Working in thanatology requires a level of "trauma competence." The work in this discussion is designed to improve our trauma competence, through the understanding of the physiological and neurological response to trauma, and vicarious trauma, and how as professionals, we can use mindfulness practices not only with our clients, but to mitigate our own trauma, and increase resiliency.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Identify and discuss current practices in mindfulness and an embodied sense of self as it relates to grief and loss
- Identify and discuss current research on the neurological and physiological responses to trauma, and empathy
- Recognize the implications for empathy and mindfulness as a protective factor against compassion fatigue when working with traumatized individuals

REFERENCES:


Keynote Session
Friday, April 12, 8:00 - 9:40am

NON-DEATH LOSS AND GRIEF: CONTEXT AND CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS
Onsite Location: Salon West

Presenter(s): Darcy L Harris, RN, RSW, PhD, FT

While most of the theorizing and research related to grief has been associated with death-related losses, there are several studies that identify the presence of grief after losses that are non-death in origin, many of which are ongoing in nature. Significant non-death losses are sometimes referred to as living losses, because the loss (and accompanying grief) will be present in various ways for the rest of an individual’s life. In this session, we will explore recent research and literature related to grief that arises from non-death loss experiences, including the unique features and implications this form of grief. We will also discuss the applicability of current bereavement theories, providing an inclusive perspective for grief as the response to all types of losses, and not just those that occur as the result of death.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

• Identify how current research describes the role of grief after non-death loss experiences
• Apply several contemporary bereavement theories to grief in non-death loss scenarios
• Recognize the commonalities and differences in grief that occurs in both death-related and non-death losses

REFERENCES:

Concurrent Session V  
Friday, April 12, 10:45 - 11:45am

**ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES (ACEs) AND RISK OF COMPLICATED GRIEF**  
Onsite Location: Salon W

**Presentation Type:** Research Report – 60 minutes  
**Category:** Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory  
**Indicator:** Contemporary Perspectives

**Presenter(s):** Elizabeth Crunk, PhD; Laurie A Burke, PhD; Robert Neimeyer, PhD; Yoonsuh Moh, PhD

Exposure to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) is shown to have cascading effects on lifetime physical and psychological health, specifically increasing the risk of suicidality, heart disease, substance abuse, insecure attachment and early mortality. Although many individuals respond to loss resiliently, a subset of adults experience complicated grief (CG). The potential role of ACEs in the development of CG is unclear. Thus, this study examines the relation between ACEs and CG, and the role of constructive coping in mitigating grief distress in a large, diverse sample of bereaved adults. Study results and recommendations for clinicians and researchers will be discussed.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Identify adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and the risks they pose for increased physical and psychological distress in adulthood
- Recognize the potential relation between complicated grief (CG) and ACEs
- Incorporate into their research or clinical practice strategies to help at-risk bereaved clients cope with their grief more effectively

**REFERENCES:**

Evaluation of the Roberta’s House Homicide Survivors Advocacy Program (HSAP)

Onsite Location: 213

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Introductory
Indicator: Family and Individual

Presenter(s): Paulette Williams-Tillery; Doreen Toran, MHS; Simone Sawyer

Homicide of a loved one can be life altering and has an impact on the entire family. Programs that support survivors of homicide provide various resources for families but there are few programs that offer services that will address the needs of the entire family. In this interactive workshop, we will review a recent analysis of the Homicide Survivor Advocacy Program located in Baltimore City that has provided insight into the needs of survivors and implications for programs that are designed to meet the needs of an ever increasing population of survivors of homicide.

Learning Objectives:

- Discuss recent findings from the evaluation of the Homicide Survivor Advocacy Program regarding the impact of home-visiting programs on adult survivors of homicide and the bonds developed between the Homicide Survivor Advocate and survivor
- Explain the implications of these findings from our understanding on how survivors of homicide cope with the loss of a loved due to homicide
- Describe the different aspects of Roberta’s House Homicide Survivor Advocacy Program that were beneficial to homicide survivors

References:

HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT: VETERINARIAN DEPRESSION AND SUICIDAL IDEATION

Onsite Location: 217

Presentation Type: Research Report – 30 minutes
Category: Assessment and Intervention
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Indicator: Professional Issues

Presenter(s): Katherine Olaya Compitus, MSEd, MSW, MA

Despite a suicide rate at more than double that of other health professionals, there is little awareness of depression and suicidality within the veterinary field. This presentation addresses potential causes of the high rate of depression and suicidal ideation among veterinarians, including feeling disenchanted with aspects of the career (it’s not all about saving animals), potential isolation, a forced comfort with life-ending treatments and access to lethal drugs. Recommendations are made to assess veterinarians that are at high risk and possible interventions to reduce the number of suicides in this population.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- To understand the potential causes of suicidal ideation in veterinary professionals
- To evaluate veterinary professionals that are at high risk for depression and suicidal ideation
- To develop and implement interventions for veterinary professionals that are at high risk of suicide

REFERENCES:


IF YOU CAN’T BEAT ‘EM, JOIN ‘EM: THANATOLOGISTS AND WIKIPEDIA®

Onsite Location: 211

Presentation Type: Scholarly Paper
Category: Death Education
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Indicator: Professional Issues

Presenter(s): William G Hoy, DMin, FT
For the nearly 20 years of its existence, the online encyclopedia, Wikipedia® has been viewed with suspicion—and even derision—by content experts in many fields. Clinicians, university professors, and program leaders have good reason to question the accuracy of materials that students, patients and clients access which can lead to misunderstandings of bereavement processes based on outdated and unproven theories as well as misinformation about death in the community at large. As a clinical scholar in thanatology, this session will offer ideas on how to contribute constructively as a volunteer Wikipedia editor to improve community understanding of our field.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Describe ways Wikipedia and other online encyclopedias can be both beneficial and harmful for thanatology
- Explain the Wikipedia editing processes and thanatologists’ potential roles
- Utilize a simple plan for identifying problem areas to write and edit within one’s area of expertise

**References:**


**Mommies (& Daddies) on a Mission: Advocacy Following Loss**

Onsite Location: 215

*Presentation Type: Personal Story*

*Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)*

*Presentation Level: Intermediate*

*Indicator: Family and Individual*

**Presenter(s):** Michelle A Ramirez, MS, FT

This is the personal account of a bereavement professional who has supported grieving parents for over a decade and witnessed the profound impact advocacy has in the lives of some bereaved parents. This presentation yields valuable insight to those supporting grieving parents. It highlights the transformational journey of parents who used advocacy to heal. The presentation distinguishes between the grief experience of parents and other grievers but also highlights how advocacy, with healthy boundaries, can provide healing benefit to parents. The presentation will yield examples of advocacy efforts that would help grief professionals better support, engage and empower grieving parents.
**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Recognize that a parent’s grief experience may be significantly more intense than other grief experiences
- Cite examples of advocacy efforts that provided meaning and healing to grieving parents
- Identify benefits and potential risks of advocacy in the grieving journey of parents

**REFERENCES:**


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**RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY: AFRICAN-AMERICANS AND END OF LIFE DECISIONS**

Onsite Location: 208

**Presentation Type:** Research Report – 60 minutes  
**Category:** End of Life Decision Making  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate  
**Indicator:** Religious/Spiritual

**Presenter(s):** Rita Milburn-Dobson, RNC, MDiv, DMin, FT

African-Americans under utilize hospice/palliative care. Quantitative studies that address this issue indicate religion/spirituality as a barrier. This qualitative study of ten participants utilized conversational interviews, exploring the phenomenon. The focus was on whether religion/spirituality hindered or helped in the decision-making process in end of life care. It was discovered that religion, specifically the community of faith hindered their decision, and spirituality helped the decision. The participants want the healthcare community to become aware the role of spirituality for African-Americans and offered ways to collaborate with healthcare professionals while encouraging healthcare professionals to remain authentic to medicine and their own beliefs.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Explain a culturally appropriate approach to end-of-life care for African American adults
- State two strategies that can be utilized to bridge the gap between healthcare and African-American faith communities; promoting trust
- Discuss healthcare barriers that providers encounter with African American adults

**REFERENCES:**

11:15 - 11:45am
**SUICIDAL THOUGHTS IN CANCER PATIENTS: DEPRESSION AND ANXIETY?**
Onsite Location: 217

*Presentation Type: Research Report – 30 minutes*  
*Category: Assessment and Intervention*  
*Presentation Level: Intermediate*  
*Indicator: Life Span*

**Presenter(s):** Mary K Hughes, RN, MS, CNS, CT; Richard de la Garza II, PhD

It is not unusual for patients to exhibit depression and/or anxiety when diagnosed with cancer. When they have suicidal ideation, the clinician assesses for depression, but not necessarily anxiety. The current study was designed to evaluate the extent to which suicidal thoughts predict overall anxiety and/or depression scores in cancer patients. The data indicate that ~18% of all patients seen in the psychiatric oncology clinic endorse some level of suicidal thoughts and that these individuals exhibit significantly greater levels of anxiety and depression (2-fold increase) as a function of increasing levels of suicidality.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

• The attendee will be able to describe the incidence of anxiety in cancer patients who endorse suicide ideation
• The attendee will be able to list the rate of suicide ideation in cancer patients
• The attendee will be able to describe the level of distress of cancer patients who endorse suicide ideation

**REFERENCES:**

• Recklitis, Christopher; Zou, Eric; Ziverner Eric; Hu, Jim; Kantoff, Phillip, Suicide ideation in prostate cancer survivors: Understanding the role of physical and psychosocial health outcomes, Cancer: Nov 1, 2014: 3393-3400.
• Sonna, Livia; Stuart, Amanda; Pasco, Julie; Kotowica Mark; Berk, Michael; Girardi, Paolo; Williams, Lana. Suicidal ideation and physical illness: Does the link lie with depression? Journal of affective disorders. 2014, 152-154. 422-426.

**Supporting Sexuality and Intimacy Among Bereaved Couples**

Onsite Location: 204

Presentation Type: Practice Report
Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Indicator: Family and Individual

Presenter(s): Carrie Arnold, PhD, MEd, RSW, CCC, FT

Strategies and Skills for Professionals: Supporting Sexuality and Intimacy Needs Among Bereaved Couples will involve a presentation of conceptual and theoretical perspectives on sexuality and intimacy within the grief process. Current research along with relevant case studies will illustrate the various non-death losses that occur after the death of a child, and the often under-acknowledged losses that occur for individuals receiving fertility support. Participants will engage in dialogue and acquire skills for discussing issues related to grief and sexuality for bereaved couples. Additionally, information will be presented in a manner that acknowledges the continuum of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Learning Objectives:

• Gain insight into this underacknowledged area of inquiry of sexuality and loss by addressing contemporary issues and current research
• Increase participants’ skill level in addressing the lived realities of sexuality and intimacy for couples grieving the death of a child or experiencing loss amidst fertility treatments
• Identify existing skills that are used when discussing bereavement and explore how to apply them when discussing sexuality and intimacy needs for couples

References:

Concurrent Session VI
Friday, April 12, 1:00 – 2:00pm

1:00 - 1:30pm

**COMMUNICATING AT END-OF-LIFE IN AUSTRALIA: A THEMATIC ANALYSIS**

Onsite Location: 217

*Presentation Type:* Research Report – 30 minutes  
*Category:* End of Life Decision Making  
*Presentation Level:* Introductory  
*Indicator:* Professional Issues

**Presenter(s):** Steven A Trankle, BA, PhD (MAPS)

End-of-life conversations are often delayed or avoided by clinicians due to personal and system factors. This impacts quality of care and quality end-of-life. The researchers identified persisting challenges and unique facilitators to initiating discussions at end-of-life. They further identified suggested strategies and areas for future research that may enhance end-of-life communication. The research respondents provided us with rich insights from their personal experiences in the Australian health system. This session will report the current situation in end-of-life communications with patients and their families, and between health care practitioners, in Australian health care settings.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Recognize persisting barriers to effective end-of-life communication
- Identify factors facilitating end-of-life communication
- Understand specific communication strategies and how they should be targeted

**REFERENCES:**

Parasocial relationships between celebrity musicians and fans are equally meaningful to social relationships. Social networking services allow fans to share their grief following the death of a musician. This study explores the bereavement following the loss of a musician, the griever’s coping and the role of social media in bereavement. Nine participants who lost a celebrity musician were interviewed. Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) was employed and commons themes include continuing the parasocial relationship, disenfranchised grief, enfranchisement of grief, grieving on your terms, the role of social media and the online community. Implications for clinical practice and further research are discussed.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Analyze the bereavement experiences and coping of fans that have lost a celebrity musician
- Evaluate the role of social media in the enfranchisement of grief due to the death of celebrity musicians
- Apply implications for research and clinical practice with bereaved fans of celebrity musicians

**References:**

As grief professionals, we often look for ways to support children in their grief; however, one often overlooked area of support is explaining the funeral process and including the child in funeral planning. When serving a family with children, it is imperative to be prepared with the right tools and approach to know how to best support a grieving child. This session will explore children’s normal grief reactions to loss and what children need to work through their grief. You will discover ways to involve children in the memorialization of a loved one and help prepare them for the funeral service.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Define children's normal reaction to loss, and the age appropriate ways to explain death
- Identify ways to involve children in the memorialization of a loved one and help prepare them for the funeral service
- Utilize useful tools and resources available to grief professionals on the topic of youth at funerals, including handouts and videos developed by the Youth and Funerals Task Force

**References:**

- Funeral Service Foundation. (2018). Youth & Funerals: Understanding the important role funerals and memorialization play in the lives of youth. Brookfield, WI.
Caring for others at end-of-life and in bereavement takes a toll on professionals in the field of thanatology. Over time these can have long-term consequences. Presenters will share examples in their own community where the increase in complicated deaths has affected the professionals who are trying to help. They will describe strategies they have used to modify the impact of stress and compassion fatigue when supporting those who support the bereaved. This session will help participants become more self-aware of their own stress level, identify early warning signs of compassion fatigue and address strategies for stress management and compassion satisfaction.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Identify early warning signs of unmanaged stress, burnout, and compassion fatigue
- Explain the difference between compassion fatigue and burnout
- List three ways to support those in the community who experience cumulative grief from their attempts to meet the needs of those grieving the overdose death of a loved one

**References:**

- Stamm. B. (2016). The secondary effects of helping others: A comprehensive bibliography of 2,017 scholarly publications using the terms compassion fatigue, compassion satisfaction, secondary traumatic stress, vicarious traumatization, vicarious transforma

**Systems Approaches to Bereavement Care for Companies & Organizations**

**Onsite Location:** 204

**Presentation Type:** Bridging Research and Practice

**Category:** Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)

**Presentation Level:** Intermediate

**Indicator:** Institutional/Societal

**Presenter(s):** Brad DeFord, PhD, MDiv

Combining Murray Bowen’s family systems theory and Edwin Friedman’s family process theory with William Bridges change/transition model arrives at a proposal for altering organizational bereavement leave policies, on the one hand, and a refreshed view of individual and family mourning, on the other. The combination of these systems perspectives improves our understanding of the impacts of loss and chronic illness upon employees’ experience in their work.
environment, thus how those employees might be better managed. This systems triad would be especially useful for hospice teams and palliative care organizations, for whom mourning deaths is a chronic aspect of their work.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Differentiate among three different systems perspectives; and
- Assess their applicability and usefulness for establishing bereavement leave policies for companies and organizations
- Recognize their particular and aggregate applicability to personal and familial mourning

REFERENCES:


1:30 - 2:00pm

THE ROLE OF BELIEF IN DYING

Onsite Location: 217

Presentation Type: Research Report – 30 minutes
Category: Dying
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Indicator: Religious/Spiritual

Presenter(s): Panagiotis Pentaris, PhD, PGCE, CMedPsych, MSW, BSc

This paper argues that hospice and palliative professionals’ perspectives about how belief connects with one’s experience of dying further inform the way in which spiritual and religious related needs of service users are approached. Using in-depth interviewing, the paper suggests that hospice and palliative professionals view non-religious patients as more ignorant of their dying, while more religious individuals are perceived as fully aware of their experience, and more prepared to face the challenges associated with it. The paper argues that such perceptions unconsciously inform professional practice, which may lead to unfair treatment of patients based on their level of belief.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Recognize the tension between secular and religious debates in end of life care
- Identify the need for the development of a more inclusive response to religion, belief and spiritual identities
Discuss how hospice and palliative care professionals respond to non-religious and religious patients respectively, as far as religious and/or spiritual needs go.

REFERENCES:


WHAT DO YOUR TEXTBOOKS SAY ABOUT KÜBLER-ROSS & THE FIVE STAGES MODEL?

Onsite Location: 211

Presentation Type: Scholarly Paper
Category: Death Education
Presentation Level: Introductory
Indicator: Historical Perspectives

Presenter(s): Charles A Corr, PhD

This presentation tests the endurance of the pioneering work of Elisabeth Kübler-Ross and of her "five stages" model through a sampling of recent textbooks in various academic disciplines and professional fields. Does the "five stages" model appear in the textbooks described here? Does it appear without modification? Is this model applied solely to understandings of coping with dying or also to understandings of coping with loss, grief, and bereavement? Does this model come under criticism in some or all of these textbooks? Is it important solely for its historical value or as a sound guide to contemporary education and practice?

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Achieve an enhanced appreciation of the pioneering work of Dr. Elisabeth Kübler-Ross as presented in On Death and Dying and her other publications
- Recognize how the "five stages" model appears in a broad sampling of textbooks in various academic disciplines and professional fields
- Appreciate the saliency of criticisms of the "five stages" model, while also recognizing the value of its underlying philosophical principles

REFERENCES:

• Corr, C. A. (1993). Coping with dying: Lessons that we should and should not learn from the work of Elisabeth Kübler-Ross, Death Studies, 17, 69-83.

**WHEN A PATIENT IS DYING: SUPPORTING THEIR CHILDREN AND FAMILY**

*Onsite Location: Salon W*

**Presentation Type:** Practice Report  
**Category:** Dying  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate  
**Indicator:** Professional Issues

**Presenter(s):** Donna Schuurman, EdD

Geared to professionals in hospice or hospital settings, this workshop includes a 20-minute professionally produced video on providing quality care for children and families when a family member has an advanced serious illness. The presenter will share "10 things families want you to know about their needs," based on feedback from participants in an open-ended bi-monthly support group for families coping with the terminal illness of a family member.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

• Describe 10 needs of children and families who have a family member diagnosed with a terminal illness
• Explain the challenges (and suggested solutions) faced by medical professionals in delivering difficult news to patients and families when no more may be done to save a patient's life
• Apply the experience of a bi-monthly support group for families coping with a terminally ill member to the hospital or hospice setting

**REFERENCES:**

CULTIVATING OUR CAPACITY FOR COMPASSION

Onsite Location: 215

Presentation Type: Experiential Workshop
Category: Dying
Presentation Level: Introductory
Indicator: Professional Issues

Presenter(s): Ann Allegre, MD

Working with the dying can lead us to feel depleted emotionally and spiritually. We all have a natural capacity for compassion, and we can increase that capacity through practice. Doing so builds resilience and helps us to connect with others, bringing meaning to our work and reducing the risk of burnout. This workshop will clarify the differences between empathy and compassion, review research on the positive impact of practicing compassion, and give attendees a tool to increase their own compassion, utilizing a traditional practice of compassion.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Understand the difference between empathy and compassion
- Learn a tool to build capacity for compassion and increase resilience
- Define three habits that interfere with being fully present and compassionate

REFERENCES:


OUR WORK, OURSELVES — REFLECTING ON OUR OWN LOSSES AS THANATOLOGISTS

Onsite Location: 204

Presentation Type: Panel Discussion
Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Indicator: Professional Issues
As thanatologists, we study, write, teach and help with the dying and bereavement of other people. But what about our own losses? How have our life experiences with death, dying and bereavement influenced our work? Have they led us into the field? Have they changed how we do the work? Have they changed how we view our own mortality? These important but rarely discussed issues (even within ADEC) will be the focus of this presentation. Three thanatologists will describe the role of personal loses in shaping their work in thanatology. Audience questions, comments and sharing will be welcome.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Understand the role of personal losses for professionals in thanatology
- Consider the various motivations for working in the field of thanatology
- Reflect on our own reasons for doing this work

**REFERENCES:**

can be balanced to more effectively sense safety and engage in self-regulation that can promote growth through the bereavement process and facilitate renewed engagement and love of life.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Describe ways the polyvagal system drives internal self-regulation in bereavement
- Define ways the polyvagal system (the ventral vagus, the sympathetic nervous system, and the dorsal vagus) interact and facilitate or disrupt social engagement in bereavement
- Utilize three tools to enhance self-regulation and more accurate neuroception and prosody

**References:**


**Restorative Retelling Using Creativity & Imagination**

Onsite Location: 213

**Presentation Type:** Experiential Workshop  
**Category:** Death Education  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate  
**Indicator:** Contemporary Perspectives

**Presenter(s):** Sharon Strouse, MA, ATR-BC, LCPAT; Rebekah Near, CAGS, LCAT

This didactic, experiential workshop on “restorative retelling,” introduces a variety of transformative creative therapies techniques, effective in the treatment of traumatic loss and complicated grief. Non-verbal creative processes will find form in the Constructivist Theory of Meaning Making, sense making and benefit findings, guided by grief narratives and “self distancing” writing. “Restorative Retelling,” essential to Rynearson and Shear’s Models are highlighted by art making that provide structure and coherence to dualistic, disabling experiences of loss. Stories are deconstructed and reconstructed in this art based experiential with ample opportunity for theoretical discussions and their application to therapeutic work with complicated clients.

**Learning Objectives:**
To discuss art based theoretical foundations that support the use of creative and expressive interventions with the bereaved
To understand art based “Restorative Retelling” through the lens of the Constructivist Theory of meaning making, sense making and benefit finding
To examine specific art therapy techniques well suited to facilitate “Restorative Retelling,” essential to Rynearson’s and Shear’s grief and bereavement models

References:


Talking About Death: Engaging in Conversations With Children/Teens

Onsite Location: 217

Presentation Type: Experiential Workshop
Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Indicator: Family and Individual

Presenter(s): Margaret A Grebin, MS, LMFT, FT

Conversations with children/teens surrounding the death of a loved one can be difficult for adult caregivers, especially when these adults are grieving themselves and have not been educated on avenues for communicating effectively with children/teens. When the death has been sudden and/or traumatic (homicide/suicide), communication can be more difficult. This workshop will present information on aspects of death and grief terminology, child developmental stages with corresponding emotions and behaviors that may be exhibited in each stage. Videos addressing aspects of child/teen grief will be used. Two experiential activities will demonstrate ways to facilitate child/teen/adult communication, and helpful resources provided.

Learning Objectives:

- Discuss the developmental stages of children in their ability to comprehend the meaning of death as their understanding evolves through the developmental stages
- Discuss the behaviors and difficult emotions children/teens may exhibit after the after the death of a loved one, providing suggestions on how to help them
• Activity demonstrated that facilitates child/teen/adult grieving process, and provide video clips demonstrating helpful interaction with bereaved children/teens

REFERENCES:


TEACHING THAT MATTERS: THE GOALS OF DEATH EDUCATION CIRCA 2019
Onsite Location: Salon W

Presentation Type: Panel Discussion
Category: Death Education
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Indicator: Professional Issues

Presenter(s): Illene Noppe Cupit, PhD; Robert A Neimeyer, PhD; Darcy Harris, PhD; David E Balk, PhD; Mary Alice Varga, PhD; Carrie Arnold, PhD

This year’s Teaching that Matters Symposium (TMS) revisits the goals and objectives of death education as originally outlined by Dan Leviton in the 1970’s. The symposium will begin with a historical overview as outlined by Leviton and updated by Hannalore Wass in 2004. A panel of death educators with a myriad of educational experiences will then examine the goals of thanatology in a changing landscape that encompasses critical thinking, the influence of the Internet and social media, and the creation of a Thanatology major. The symposium will conclude with comments by Dr. Neimeyer and discussion with symposium attendees.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

• Appreciate some of the early considerations of effective death education as articulated by several of the early founders of death education in the United States
• Integrate the goals and objectives of death education within more contemporary pedagogical approaches and current issues in thanatology
• Consider some of the common goals of death education at the undergraduate and graduate level as well as issues that may be unique to their own educational setting

REFERENCES:


WORKING WITH THE DREAMS OF THE BEREAVED
Onsite Location: 211

Presentation Type: Experiential Workshop
Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Indicator: Family and Individual

Presenter(s): Lorraine Mangione, PhD

The loss of someone important in life can initiate a journey with many psychological ramifications. This workshop comes from a more psychodynamic, relational and attachment framework, with a view of working with dreams as "treading lightly," and utilizes some of the author’s research on daughters grieving their dads and clinical work on groups for women beyond midlife. We will look at how dreams at the time of the death and afterwards contribute to the grieving process and invite participants to work with dream vignettes of grieving individuals.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

• Articulate an integrated approach to loss that includes concepts from psychodynamic, attachment, and existential perspectives and sets the stage for working with dreams
• Identify some of the ways in which dreams can be part of grieving
• Articulate a couple of ways in which dreams can be talked about with the grieving person

REFERENCES:

Concurrent Session VIII
Friday, April 12, 4:45 - 6:15pm

**BE THE EXTRA SUPPORT YOUR FAMILIES NEED, AND GET MEDIA ATTENTION, TOO!**

Onsite Location: 211

**Presentation Type:** Experiential Workshop  
**Category:** Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate  
**Indicator:** Professional Issues

**Presenter(s):** Allison Gilbert, BA

For decades, researchers have embraced the concept of continuing bonds -- that maintaining relationships with the deceased is critical for healing. This experiential workshop provides hands-on activities for keeping memories of loved ones alive. The session includes an overview of the theories related to continuing bonds and an exploration of the seminal work of J. William Worden, Therese Rando and Robert Neimeyer who have all written about the importance of remembering loved ones. This session includes an in-depth discussion on the most effective strategies for generating media interest in your organization's local, community-based commemorative work and activities.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Define and explain three preeminent theories behind remembering as an essential tool for healing
- Provide an experiential "Show & Tell" of imaginative, empowering strategies for keeping the memory of loved ones alive
- Feature concrete strategies for creating meaningful Memory-Making events that will generate media attention for hospices, grief support groups, funeral homes, and other organizations

**REFERENCES:**

Topics of death and dying have long existed in psychosocial research. However, only a small portion of the research being conducted is from the perspective of the dying individual. This may be because of several factors, including concerns regarding ethics and appropriateness and barriers throughout the research process. This session aims to substantiate that research with the dying can be appropriate and ethical, review the barriers that may hinder the research process from conceptualization to data collection, and disseminate learned best practices from research experience to overcome these barriers.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Recognize that research with the dying population can be both appropriate and ethical
- Identify barriers of conducting research with the dying as they appear throughout the research process
- Apply learned best practices for managing barriers to research in end-of-life populations

**References:**

Grieving the loss of a client to suicide is complex. Studies show that the loss of a client to suicide can have career-changing impacts (Tillman, 2014). Clinicians often experience a “twin bereavement” (Plakun & Tillman, 2005), and must face the loss on both a personal and professional level. The purpose of this interactive workshop is to provide participants with suicide-specific information, and tools for navigating suicide loss. This presentation will actively involve participants in a small group process intended to guide them through discussions about their own grief processes related to the loss of a client to a suicide death.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Identify three personal coping skills for traumatic loss
- Identify two barriers to seeking help with traumatic loss (internal or external)
- Write their plan for seeking help their grief following a traumatic loss

**REFERENCES:**


**Practice That Matters 2019: Achieving a Good Death**

_Onsite Location: Salon W_

**Presentation Type:** Panel Discussion  
**Category:** Dying  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate  
**Indicator:** Professional Issues

**Presenter(s):** David Balk, PhD; Stephen Connor, PhD; Louis Gamino, PhD; William Hoy, DMin

The Institute of Medicine has endeavored for over two decades to make achieving a good death a norm of medical practice. Gaps still needing attention include the sparse attention given to end-of-life care and virtual neglect of death and dying in medical school curricula. The presenters will give, respectively, an overview of research findings about contemporary end-of-life experiences, efforts world-wide to provide quality palliative care training of medical students to deal with individuals and family members facing the end-of-life, and the role of psychologists and social workers when with individuals and family members in an end-of-life circumstance.
LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Evaluate research information about ways most people in the 21st century die and efforts to promote a good death
- Describe efforts to educate physicians and medical students to be confident and comfortable in end-of-life situations
- Analyze information on the role(s) of psychologists and social workers with persons facing end-of-life situations

REFERENCES:


UNPACKING THE TREASURE CHEST: CREATIVE ARTS TO HELP GRIEVING CHILDREN

Onsite Location: 217

Presentation Type: Experiential Workshop
Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Indicator: Professional Issues

Presenter(s): Maria Georgopoulos, LMHC, FT

Children's imagination and creativity helps them navigate their grief journey. As professionals we can support them through our use of the creative arts in our practice. This interactive workshop is designed to provide participants with different creative arts activities that can be used with grieving children. Participants will learn how to present the activities and how to help children make meaning of their grief through these activities. This workshop is appropriate for professionals working with grieving children in both individual and group settings who would like to expand their repertoire of expressive arts activities as well as their facilitation skills.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Describe five different creative arts activities that can be used with grieving children
- Use different facilitation approaches to engage children in creative arts activities
- Identify ways to help children process their grief through their artwork
YOGA FOR GRIEF RELIEF - A SOMATIC PSYCHOLOGY INTERVENTION

Onsite Location: 215

Presentation Type: Experiential Workshop
Category: Assessment and Intervention
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Indicator: Contemporary Perspectives

Presenter(s): Antonio Sausys, MA, IGT, C-IAYT, CM

Yoga for Grief Relief is a somatic psychotherapeutic protocol using Yoga to address the physical, mental and spiritual symptoms of grief towards the re-identification process. Because we identify ourselves through the persons and things we are attached to; when we lose them, we lose part of who we are, thus re-identification is needed. The underlying insight in somatic psychotherapy is that we enact self-feeling, identity, and connection with others through bodily means. Yoga offers detailed theoretical information and effective practical tools to address the deep body mind implications of attachment, what makes it particularly suitable to aid the grieving process.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Identify the benefits of using a somatic approach to grief counseling
- Explain the theoretical bases for using Yoga as a valid somatic psychotherapeutic protocol
- Practice some of the tools included in the program

REFERENCES:

AN EXPLORATION OF THE BEREAVEMENT PROCESSES AFTER HOMICIDE

Onsite Location: 211

Presentation Type: Scholarly Paper
Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Indicator: Resources and Research

Presenter(s): Patricia Bamwine, PhD

A total of 31 interviews were completed with young men who have lost a friend or family member to murder. Three primary themes emerged to describe their grief processes: (1) normalizing homicide through shared narratives of loss, (2) self-preservation through isolation, and (3) leveraging community to heal. The findings shed light on how the murder and loss of friends and family may influence future orientation, identity development and the emotional development of Black adolescent males. Greater focus on this population is needed to create both trauma-informed and culturally relevant interventions for young men of color.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Describe the bereavement processes of young Black men who have lost a friend or family member to homicide
- Describe the contextual factors that impact grief
- Identify ways in which practitioners can better support co-victims of homicide

REFERENCES:

Inspired by the 2017 keynote presentation Grief and Loss in Uganda by Okello Kelo Sam, students embarked on a study/service tour for three weeks. The group visited several project sites, a UNHCR Refugee Settlement, and Hope North, a technical/secondary school for war affected youth. Students learned about death, funeral and mourning practices among the Buganda and Acholi ethnic groups. Buganda and Acholi philosophies informed their exploration of cross-cultural practices, including caring for the dying, and the deceased. This presentation will offer anecdotes of faculty and students, and the connections they made between personal experiences, contemporary grief theory, and best practices.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Identify three aspects of Bugandan or Acholi cultural elements of dying, death or burial
- Cite two examples of the importance of experiential learning in death education
- List two examples of how contemporary bereavement theory was illustrated and represented in the Ugandan cultural context

**REFERENCES:**

In addition to changing how society copes with grief, digital and social media have created opportunities to achieve digital immortality. This introductory-level presentation will familiarize participants with terms related to “digital death” and compare data from the Digital Death Survey (UK) with data gathered by students in a death and dying class in the US. Attitudes and behaviors related to planning for one’s digital legacy will be explored. Tools available to assist with digital estate planning among patients and families dealing with life-threatening or terminal illness will be described. Implications for death education and future research will be presented.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Define the concepts of digital death, digital immortality, and digital legacy
- Summarize attitudes and behaviors related to digital assets and digital legacies documented through empirical research
- Utilize a social and digital media assessment and a social media will template in their work with individuals and families dealing with impending death and grief

**References:**

- Pollock, J., & Calvard, T. (2016). Death and grief online: The opportunities and challenges of incorporating digital legacies into palliative care in hospice settings. Supportive & Palliative Care, 6(0), A88.

**Palliative Care for the Marginalized: Prison-Based Peer Care Model**

Onsite Location: 208

**Presentation Type:** Research Report – 60 minutes

**Category:** Dying

**Presentation Level:** Introductory

**Indicator:** Ethical/Legal

**Presenter(s):** Rachel M Depner, MS; Pei C Grant, PhD; Kathryn Levy, MSW

A growing number of facilities train healthy inmates to provide end-of-life care to fellow inmates. This talk reports on research findings from a project evaluating a prison-based end-of-life peer care program from the perspective of the inmate caregivers and contributes significantly to the growing support for the peer care model. The findings suggest that the program may adapt the community palliative care model to better fit the correctional environment. Additionally, perceived benefits beyond providing end-of-life care to a group of marginalized individuals include: secondary benefits to the inmate-caregivers, correctional medical staff, the correctional system, and society as a whole.
LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Describe barriers to end-of-life care and unique needs for aging incarcerated
- Demonstrate knowledge about prison-based peer care programs within the context of hospice and palliative care
- Differentiate primary and secondary perceived benefits of end-of-life prison-based peer care program

REFERENCES:


9:00 - 9:30am

PILOTING A BEREAVEMENT RISK SCREENING TOOL

Onsite Location: 217

Presentation Type: Research Report – 30 minutes
Category: Assessment and Intervention
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Indicator: Resources and Research

Presenter(s): Kailey Roberts, PhD; Greta Jankauskaite, MA; Wendy Lichtenthal, PhD

While there have been repeated calls for continuity of care throughout the cancer experience, methods for systematically identifying and triaging family members most in need of bereavement support are lacking. This presentation will describe findings from a pilot study examining the psychometric properties of the Bereavement Risk Inventory and Screening Questionnaire (BRISQ), a self-report screening tool developed with input from bereavement experts and family members of patients with cancer. Psychometric properties of the BRISQ will be summarize and implications for use will be discussed.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- To obtain knowledge in advancements in bereavement risk screening
- To identify key risk factors associated with bereaved individuals who may need psychosocial intervention
- To name potential differences to be aware of in screening cancer caregivers before and after a loss

REFERENCES:
Since Kubler-Ross: Models of Grief and Their Clinical Implications

Presentation Type: Practice Report
Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Introductory
Indicator: Family and Individual

Presenter(s): Howard R Winokuer, PhD

Since Kubler-Ross' seminal work in 1969, there have been many models of grief that have been developed. Understanding the work of theorists such as Stroebe, Neimeyer, Martin & Doka, Parkes, Worden and Rubin and is critical to the knowledge base of any individual who sees themselves as a grief counselor. This session will provide an opportunity for participants to learn about a number of different grief models as well as practical ways to use these models in working with their clients.

Learning Objectives:

- Utilize Stroebe's Dual Process Model in working with their clients
- Differentiate between task models of grief and stage models of grief
- Understand Doka & Martin's work regarding gender differences and how men and women grieve

References:

Little research explored the relationship between circumstances of occurrence of rumination and bereavement outcomes. A cross-sectional online survey was conducted among 711 Chinese bereaved adults. Ruminating the most often during daytime, when facing upsetting situations, and when exposed to situational reminders were risk factors for psychological distress. Meanwhile, ruminating the most frequently when free and facing significant events were protective factors of psychological distress. Moreover, ruminating the most during festivals, and when facing upsetting situations and significant events were predictors of posttraumatic growth. These findings highlighted the previously ignored significant role of circumstances of occurrence of rumination in loss adjustment.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Identify circumstances under which bereaved people usually ruminate on the deceased and the loss
- Recognize distinct roles of different circumstances of occurrence in relation to psychological distress and posttraumatic growth
- Demonstrate the practical implications of identifying adaptive and maladaptive situational patterns of rumination in bereavement

**References:**


Concurrent Session X
Saturday, April 13, 9:45 - 10:45am

**Asian Experience of Child Loss to Chronic Life-Threatening Illness**

Onsite Location: 208

*Presentation Type:* Research Report – 60 minutes  
*Category:* Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)  
*Presentation Level:* Introductory  
*Indicator:* Resources and Research

**Presenter(s):** Oindrila Dutta, MA, CT; Geraldine Tan-Ho, MSocSc; Ping Ying Choo, MA; Poh Heng Chong, MBBS, MMed, PG Dip, FAMS; Carolyn Ng, PsyD, FT; Sashikumar Ganapathy, MBBS; Andy, Hau Yan Ho, BA, PDGE, MSocSc, PhD, EdD

Over 6.6 million children (globally) and 245 children (in Singapore) died in 2016 primarily due to chronic illnesses. To understand the trajectory of Asian parental bereavement experience, meaning-and-strength-focused interviews were conducted with 25 Singaporean parental units who lost their child to chronic life-threatening illness. Grounded theory analysis revealed 7 themes and 25 sub-themes that were organized into a Trauma-to-Transformation Model, which describes the milestones forming the parental bereavement trajectory, the rituals parents adopt to confront challenges, and impact of the health-and-social-care ecosystem on parents’ lived experiences. Findings are discussed with recommendations for improving parental bereavement support services for Asian populations.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Summarize the milestones that form the parental bereavement trajectory and the rituals parents adopt to confront their challenges
- Compare and distinguish western and Asian aspects of the parental bereavement trajectory
- Select culturally-sensitive and needs-appropriate clinical interventions for grieving parents of children with CLTI

**REFERENCES:**

**Death Denial as a Refusal of Meaning: Shifting the Burden to Nurses**

Onsite Location: 211

*Presentation Type:* Scholarly Paper  
*Category:* Dying  
*Presentation Level:* Intermediate  
*Indicator:* Cultural/Socialization

**Presenter(s):** Helen Stanton Chapple, PhD, RN, MA, MSN, CT

Medical and other technologies shaped by US culture are influencing traditional death denial and putting pressure on ICU nurses. To the public, relying on advanced interventions in case of calamity seems preferable to the emotional labor of contemplating finitude. Yet technology’s very use and nature encourages misrecognition of its dire implications. Nurses are in the crosshairs. They are existentially overprepared for patient death due to its frequency. Simultaneously they bear the burden of society’s disbelief in any limits to its future. When their coping resources are depleted, nurses often seek more endurable work away from the bedside.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Define emotional labor and trace its relevance to death denial  
- List one social meaning that medical technology offers  
- Describe a significant tension in ICU nursing related to patients who are seriously ill and might be dying

**References:**


**Preparedness to Counsel the Bereaved: Results from the Field**

Onsite Location: 204

*Presentation Type:* Bridging Research and Practice
Although grief is a shared experience that many will encounter and likely process numerous times throughout their lives, some choose to seek services from a professional counselor when their grief becomes problematic or disruptive to their daily functioning. This presentation will cover the experiences of professional counselors who have engaged with clients grieving a death of a loved. The findings from this research study will give insight into counselor preparedness and how educators can enhance current training models. Professionals from all disciplines are welcomed as engaging with grieving individuals is not isolated to one specific field.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Recognize common training and professional experiences that prepare professional counselors to provide grief counseling
- Understand supervisory and training needs to prepare grief counselors
- Identify methods to integrate best practices of grief counseling into death education and training

**REFERENCES:**


**Reweaving Grief: Transformative Bereavement Intervention**

**Onsite Location:** Salon W

**Presentation Type:** Practice Report

**Category:** Assessment and Intervention

**Presentation Level:** Intermediate

**Indicator:** Resources and Research

**Presenter(s):** Amy Y M Chow, PhD, FT, RSW
Bereaved persons struggle over the handling of belongings of the deceased. On the one hand, they feel drawn to the belongings. On the other hand, they would like to avoid the reminders. This struggle complicates the normal grieving process. A creative bereavement intervention called “Reweaving Grief”, which transforms the painful emotions and thoughts related to the deceased, is designed. The intervention is of six D steps: discuss, decide, design, dismantle, displace and direct. It has been pilot-tested with 13 bereaved persons. This presentation will outline the theories, the model, the intervention steps and the findings of the evaluation.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Describe the theories underlying reweaving grief intervention
- Translate bereavement theories into handling the belongings of the bereaved person
- Apply the reweaving grief techniques for bereaved persons

**References:**


9:45 - 10:15am

**Supporting Bereaved University Students Using Photo Narrative**

Onsite Location: 217

*Presentation Type: Research Report – 30 minutes*

*Category: Assessment and Intervention*

*Presentation Level: Intermediate*

*Indicator: Life Span*

**Presenter(s):** Carrie Arnold, PhD

This research report will present findings from a doctoral study that examined the following questions: Does photographic narrative influence the ways in which bereaved university students engage in meaning reconstruction and if so, how? Is photographic narrative associated with aspects of meaning reconstruction, (i.e., sense-making, benefit finding, or identity change)? If associations are found, in what ways does visual-based narrative inquiry influence the grieving process of university students? These research questions were explored at a Canadian university. The empirical data regarding bereaved college students are largely based on research conducted on American campuses. There is minimal empirical data (qualitative or quantitative) regarding the experiences of bereaved students in Canadian postsecondary institutions. Given that there is nominal research from university campuses in other countries, there is a need for a more global perspective, moreover, many college campuses are not providing adequate bereavement support (Cupit & Servaty-Seib, 2013). Up to 30% of university students have experienced the loss of a family member or friend and are within one year of bereavement (Balk, 2011). Up to 40% may be within two years of grieving a death-
related loss (Currier, Holland, Coleman, & Neimeyer, 2006). For students, this can result in social isolation, academic withdrawal (Balk, 2011; Servaty-Seib & Hamilton, 2006; Servaty-Seib & Taub, 2010) or possibly, opportunities for growth and reorganization (Bonanno, 2008). Thematic analysis of narrative and photographic data resulted in sense-making being identified as the construal with the most support for all participants. Benefit-finding and identity change were identified in a few participants’ interviews. How undergraduate students engaged in meaning reconstruction supported existing literature with respect to grief as it relates to continuing bonds, end of life, loss, relationships, and wellness. All students reported that participating in the photo narrative study was beneficial in understanding their grief experience.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Obtain an understanding of the use of qualitative methodology, specifically visual-based narrative inquiry, and its possible association with aspects of meaning reconstruction (i.e., sense-making, benefit finding, and identity change).
- Increase participants’ awareness of the unique needs of bereaved college students, with a specific emphasis on ways of coping that are easy to implement yet effective.
- Provide an overview of the research findings, the implications for supporting college students, and implications for future research.

**References:**


**The Mindful Hospice: Caring for Our Patients, Our Families, Ourselves**

Onsite Location: 215

*Presentation Type: Practice Report*

*Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)*

*Presentation Level: Introductory*

*Indicator: Religious/Spiritual*

*Presenter(s):* Heather Stang, MA, C-IAYT; Molly Hicks, MMT, MT-BC

Mindfulness has gained more distinction and use within the hospice setting over the past several years, especially as research demonstrates its many benefits for physical and emotional health. During this workshop you will learn how mindfulness can help patients, families and staff cope with the anxiety, stress, and existential crisis that can arise when facing end of life issues and grief itself. From coping with the physical and emotional symptoms of dying and grief, to reconstructing meaning in a shattered world, and even helping practitioners reconnect with themselves and others, mindfulness is a powerful tool in any hospice setting.
LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Define mindfulness and review relevant mindfulness literature
- Cite examples of mindfulness interventions that are suitable for hospice professionals, patients and families
- Discuss contraindications and trauma-sensitive applications of mindfulness as well as alternative methods of relaxation

REFERENCES:


UTILIZING ART TO EXPLORE POSTTRAUMATIC GROWTH WITH BEREAVED YOUTH

Onsite Location: 213

Presentation Type: Practice Report
Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Indicator: Family and Individual

Presenter(s): Pamela Gabbay, EdD, FT; Lynn Snyder, LPC, ATR-BC, FT

The concept of Posttraumatic Growth was first introduced by Tedeschi and Calhoun in 1995. Their research explored how personal transformation can emerge from struggling with traumatic events. Posttraumatic Growth has been studied extensively in adults coping with illness and bereavement, however, the construct has not been studied as extensively in children. This workshop will demonstrate how children experience growth as a result of working through their grief. We will discuss how expressive arts activities can allow youth the opportunity to explore their experiences of growth. Examples of artwork and activities will be provided along with ample time for discussion.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Discuss the construct of Posttraumatic Growth and be able to identify the five domains of Posttraumatic Growth
- Employ age appropriate verbiage in order to simplify a complex construct (Posttraumatic Growth) when working with bereaved children and adolescents
Cite examples of art-based activities to offer children and adolescents, which can assist with exploration of Posttraumatic Growth

REFERENCES:


Concurrent Session XI
Saturday, April 13, 11:15am - 12:15pm

“This Ain’t Your Grandmother’s Eulogy!” EULOGIES MATTER!
Onsite Location: 211

**Presentation Type:** Scholarly Paper  
**Category:** Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate  
**Indicator:** Contemporary Perspectives

**Presenter(s):** Harold Ivan Smith, DMIN, FT

For millennia, humans have felt a need to eulogize, to assign meaning and express appreciation for a particular lived life. Eulogists today join a long procession of individuals who, in Theroux’s assessment, “hold a lantern above the loss.” Worden (2009) theorized that the funeral, if done well, can be useful “in the healthy resolution of grief.” The presenter, who eulogizes many individuals as a funeral celebrant, proposes a “good” eulogy—based on Worden’s “tasks” of bereavement can be “useful” in the healthy integration of grief through a clinician’s use of “re-eulogizing”—by revisiting eulogies and creating new ones.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Trace the historic tradition of eulogy
- Discuss contemporary factors that challenge and shape eulogies
- Examine ways a “re-eulogy” can enhance grief integration
REFERENCES:


11:15 – 11:45 a.m.

**A SUPPORT GROUP INTERVENTION FOR WIDOWED PARENTS**

Onsite Location: 217

*Presentation Type: Practice Report*

*Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)*

*Presentation Level: Intermediate*

*Indicator: Resources and Research*

**Presenter(s):** Justin Yopp, PhD

Widowed parents – mothers and fathers who have lost spouses or partners and are raising children at home – face unique bereavement challenges. Although research is sparse, the data suggest that widowed parents are at heightened risk for deleterious psychosocial outcomes. While grieving their own loss, they must meet increased child care demands, help their children grieve, and adjust to often overwhelming responsibilities at home. In addition to fulfilling their role as an “only parent,” widowed parents may feel isolated from their peers. Spousal loss is rare at relatively young ages and threatens to disrupt developmental milestones of adulthood. For these reasons, there is a need for support programs specifically tailored for widowed parents. At our institution, we have developed a support group intervention to fill this void. We run separate groups for mothers and fathers; each group generally has between 7-10 members at a time. The content of group meetings center around four broad challenges: 1) grieving the loss of a spouse, 2) helping children grieve, 3) adapting to increased household demands, and 4) “moving forward” in reimagining life in the wake of tragedy. Over the years, we have refined our approach and now employ a model that streamlines new member enrollment, encourages a mutually beneficial veteran-new parent dynamic, and allows for a structured “off ramp” for members to leave the group. Stroebe and Schut’s Dual Process for Coping with Bereavement model serves at the theoretical underpinning of our intervention, which we teach to parents and use to guide group discussions. Our intervention can be readily adopted – and adapted – by bereavement professionals to serve widowed parents in their local areas. In fact, the explicit hope is that this presentation will inform and inspire others to serve this long-overlooked subset of the grieving population.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Identify reasons why widowed parents may need a specifically-tailored intervention.
- Describe the model for the support group intervention for widowed parents that is detailed in the presentation.
- Plan to employ interventions with widowed parents in clinical practice.
A TRAJECTORY OF BEREAVEMENT SERVICES IN PEDIATRIC PALLIATIVE CARE

Onsite Location: 204

Presentation Type: Practice Report
Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Introductory
Indicator: Family and Individual

Presenter(s): Barb Juett, MSW, RSW; Madelena Arnone, MSW, RSW

At Roger Neilson House, it is recognized that the grief of losing a child is a lifelong experience; therefore it is our philosophy to accompany families along their grief journey. Our model of intervention, for both our individual and group support, is based upon Alan Wolfelt’s concept of ‘companioning vs treating’ (Wolfelt, 2003). The content of this presentation will focus on our specific bereavement programs supporting parents who lose older children (under 19), perinatal loss, grandparents and siblings. This presentation will also refer to the counselling support offered to families before the death of their child.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Have an understanding of the grief and loss issues of parents both prior to, and following, the death of their child
- Have increased knowledge of the development and implementation of grief support groups for specific populations (parent, grandparent and siblings)
- Be able to describe the theoretical intervention model of companioning as it relates to a pediatric palliative care setting

REFERENCES:

Every community inevitably faces tragedy and trauma, whether from violence, accident, terrorism or other types of sudden death, with long-lasting impact for many within that city or community. Three compelling cases of tragic community loss will be presented, along with “lessons learned” and recommended “do’s and don’ts” for helping professionals and agencies who wish to serve and support their communities at these critical junctures. This interactive presentation will include time for questions and helpful, collaborative discussion, with the ultimate goal of aiding participants in becoming more effectively informed, prepared, and sought-after emotional “first responders” when tragedy strikes a community.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Define "community traumatic deaths" and recognize their distinction from other types of loss
- Explain how an organization/agency effectively prepares to provide support for community traumatic deaths
- Understand, through the sharing and discussion of case examples, lessons learned--i.e., "do's and don'ts"--of how to support the community in response to traumatic deaths

**References:**
Managing Grief in the Workplace

Onsite Location: 215

Presentation Type: Personal Story
Category: Assessment and Intervention
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Indicator: Family and Individual

Presenter(s): Lynda Cheldelin Fell, PEC

Managing Grief in the Workplace offers 15 functional strategies designed to create and strengthen a sustainable culture of support in today’s workplace. When employees are impacted by personal loss and grief, employers pay a high price through absenteeism, lower productivity, increased staff turnover, higher medical claims, reduced on-the-job safety and more. When adopted and employed through HR policies and procedures, the best practice strategies address both the acute aftermath and when the vulnerable employee transitions back to work with a dual focus on employee well-being while reducing corporate costs traditionally associated with bereaved employees.

Learning Objectives:

• Upon completion of this presentation, learners will be able to identify 15 best practice HR response strategies for managing employee grief
• Upon completion of this presentation, learners will be able to create corporate bereavement policies and procedures that reflect best practices
• Upon completion of this presentation, learners will be able to lead external briefing and internal debriefing addressing an employee’s loss

References:

• Cheldelin Fell, Lynda (2018, Sept.) Grief Diaries: Surviving Loss by Cancer. Ferndale, WA. AlyBlue Media, LLC.

Prenatal Babies and Bereaved Parents

Onsite Location: Salon W

Presentation Type: Bridging Research and Practice
Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Indicator: Family and Individual

Presenter(s): Joann M O’Leary, PhD, MPH, MS
That children experience grief at an early age is not new. Less understood is feelings of grief begin prenatally for a baby carried in a grieving mothers womb. This session presents information grounded in the continued bond/attachment based theories to support parental feelings of grief and attachment during their pregnancy following loss. Guidance to support an unborn baby carried in the womb of a grieving mother will be discussed. Research and clinical practice with bereaved families during pregnancy, raising children after perinatal loss, and adults who were the child born after loss suggest attachment intervention should begin during pregnancy.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Describe what we know about how stress can affect the unborn child
- Identify research data that suggests parents conflicting grief feelings for a deceased baby can impact attachment to an unborn baby
- Apply research to clinical work with parents pregnant after loss to communicate feelings of grief for a deceased baby while attaching to their subsequent baby

**REFERENCES:**


11:45am - 12:15pm

**THE PROMINENT ROLE OF LONELINESS IN BEREAVEMENT-RELATED DEPRESSION**

Onsite Location: 217

**Presentation Type:** Research Report – 30 minutes

**Category:** Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)

**Presentation Level:** Introductory

**Indicator:** Contemporary Perspectives

**Presenter(s):** Chuqian Chen, MA, PhD candidate; Amy Yin Man Chow, PHD, RSW, FT

In spite of substantial discussions in differentiating grief and depression, bereavement-related depression is generally not distinguished from other depression and there is a gap in an intensive analysis of its nature. A secondary data latent class analysis (LCA) identified three patterns in Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale (CES-D-10) item scores among the Chinese elderlies: non-depression, fear-prominent depression, and loneliness-prominent depression. While the loneliness-prominent and the fear-prominent depression patterns do not differ in duration or functional
impairments, the former is more prevalent among the widowed participants. Future grief care should pay more attention to dealing with loneliness.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Recognize the prominent role of symptom loneliness in bereavement-related depression
- Recognize the similarities and differences between bereavement-related depression and depression following other significant life events
- Recognize the importance of paying more attention to dealing with loneliness in future grief care

**References:**


**Whole Person Approach to EOL Discussion: What is Most Important to You?**

Onsite Location: 213

**Presentation Type:** Professional Case Presentation  
**Category:** End of Life Decision Making  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory  
**Indicator:** Family and Individual

**Presenter(s):** Aki Morita, PsyD

In current practice, EOL conversations focus primarily on identifying medical goals of care rather than addressing the needs of a whole person. This case demonstrates a series of EOL discussion between a hospice patient and three adult sons that touched on medical and non-medical needs of the patient. While she wished to be resuscitated due to her own grief from sudden family deaths predated her and her unspoken desire to protect her children from the same despair, having a meaningful EOL conversations not only reduced her fear but brought family together to say good bye.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Understand the importance of EOL conversations.
- Understand the nature of the non-medical goals to improve QOL and the quality of EOL care
- This case study describes such efforts to be implemented in a meaningful way in a real clinical setting

**References:**


**Concurrent Session XII**

Saturday, April 13, 1:30 - 2:30pm

**BRIDGING THE CHASM: MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE TERMINALLY ILL HOMELESS**

Onsite Location: 213

**Presentation Type:** Practice Report  
**Category:** End of Life Decision Making  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate  
**Indicator:** Institutional/Societal

**Presenter(s):** Mark David de St. Aubin, LCSW, FT; Matilda Lindgren, Certified Death Doula

Many barriers exist which impede terminally ill homeless from receiving supportive end-of-life care. The INN Between, Utah's first hospice for homeless, operates in downtown Salt Lake City and provides residential hospice care for this challenging population. This program's success is largely due to its ability to address these barriers and find creative ways to provide the supportive end-of-life care this population deserves. This presentation will identify the needs of this medically fragile homeless population, and share this program's innovative approaches. Successes and failures will be discussed, and also new approaches being developed to meet the changing needs of this population.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Identify barriers (both internal and environmental) which impede homeless individuals with life-limiting illness from receiving quality end-of-life care
- Explore approaches which have been found effective in one urban program in meeting the end-of-life needs of this challenging population
- Learn from the successes and failures of this program as these may apply to participants' settings of practice

**REFERENCES:**

Counseling Parents Affected by Fetal Anomaly: A Unique Form of Grief

Onsite Location: 208

Presentation Type: Professional Case Presentation
Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Indicator: Family and Individual

Presenter(s): Erica Goldblatt Hyatt, DSW, MSW, MBE; Julie Bindeman, PsyD

This presentation will discuss the unique grief of patients that have terminated a pregnancy due to fetal anomaly (TOPFA). While acknowledged in qualitative research, this group has historically remained under-served by clinical providers and in practice-based research due to a number of reasons, but are increasingly seeking outpatient therapy. We will first an introduction to the population, prevalence, and significance of the problem, followed by an in-depth discussion of the key factors clinicians must be aware of prior to and throughout working with TOPFA patients. A clinical case example will be utilized throughout the presentation to illustrate concepts.

Learning Objectives:

• Gain a cohesive understanding of the unique presentation of patients who present to therapy following termination of pregnancy due to fetal anomaly and reasons why they have been historically underserved
• Appreciate the multiple presentations and factors influencing grief in patients who have terminated a pregnancy for fetal anomaly
• Explore how to apply key theory-based therapeutic interventions to support meaning making in a sample case study of a patient who terminated a pregnancy for fetal anomaly

References:


**Ethical Consideration in Post Mortem Care**

Onsite Location: 211

**Presentation Type:** Professional Case Presentation  
**Category:** Death Education  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate  
**Indicator:** Ethical/Legal

**Presenter(s):** Lisbeth Harcourt, LMSW; Aimee Vantine, LMSW

Ethical questions are frequently considered in medical cases when patients are approaching end of life, but ethical considerations are significant in the post mortem period as well. Even in death it is among the goals of the care team to follow the wishes of the patient and family for final visits and disposition arrangements. This presentation will provide examples of post mortem cases when ethical questions were raised regarding the post mortem care and disposition. Principles regarding autonomy, justice, beneficence and non-maleficence will be addressed in the clinical case examples.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Obtain basic understanding and utilization of core bioethical concepts and social justice issues surrounding death
- Demonstrate connections between bioethical principles in post mortem care and decision making through the use of case examples
- Identify change opportunities to promote best practice and improve standard of care for decedents and bereaved individuals

**References:**

The Unspoken Reality: Dying from Hospice Psychosocial Professionals

Onsite Location: Salon W

**Presentation Type:** Professional Case Presentation  
**Category:** Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory  
**Indicator:** Cultural/Socialization

**Presenter(s):** Rochelle S Clarke, PhD, LMFT, MSHR; Joshua Hernandez, MA

Hospice bereavement coordinators often journey with patients and their loved ones as they walk through life’s most difficult path, death. This transitional relationship touches the lives of both the patient and their psychosocial clinician. The lessons learned manifest psychological, socially and spiritually in the lives of the bereavement coordinator. This presentation will bring psychosocial professionals together from different ethnic groups working with the same organization to speak about the resources they have found useful. By creating transparency, bereavement coordinators realize the importance of being curious and the need for more literature to discuss coping skills for the clinician.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Increased awareness of the psychosocial impact working with narratives of grief and loss can have on their therapeutic practice
- Understand how to process narratives with clients who may have a different ethnic background in the context of the client’s perception of their impending death and the bereaved
- Learn how to create and apply self-care measures during sessions and within their daily lives

**References:**


Transforming Early Loss into Plans to Support Grieving Students

Onsite Location: 215

**Presentation Type:** Personal Story  
**Category:** Death Education  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate
This presentation will focus on practical ways to help educators work with grieving students through the example of the presenter’s personal experience of losing a brother during childhood. This story will illustrate how children grieve and suggest ways to provide support. This personal experience has led to the formation of a nonprofit that serves schools; activities and advice on initiating similar services will be discussed. The presentation will also utilize related personal perspectives, including the coping with loss of an adult sibling, to suggest ways to turn the “lemons” of loss into “lemonade” that can help children with their grief.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- describe how grief can affect children at different developmental stages
- Identify times in which children may need specific types of support in their grief
- Develop and implement ways to provide needed support to grieving young people

**REFERENCES:**


**USING GRIEF DREAMS CREATIVELY IN BEREAVEMENT COUNSELING**

Onsite Location: 217

**Presentation Type:** Scholarly Paper  
**Category:** Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate  
**Indicator:** Professional Issues

**Presenter(s):** Diane Murphy, BSW, AMHSW

This presentation explores the phenomena of grief dreams. It examines their place as part of the normal and expected grief response and their use in creative grief counselling. As counsellors we need to recognise barriers that prevent us
from using grief dreams. Being courageous within the boundaries of the professional relationship and creatively using the client’s rich and meaningful dream material can validate their emotional journey and thereby enhance the recovery and adaptation to a new world post loss.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Better recognize grief dreams as normal bereavement phenomena
- Use grief dreams in the therapeutic alliance to understand client meaning structures and representations
- Identify the barriers we have as grief counselors so that we may use grief dreams creatively

**REFERENCES:**


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**Concurrent Session XIII**

Saturday, April 13, 2:45 - 3:45pm

**A TALE OF GRIEF AND GRATITUDE FROM TWO GENERATIONS OF CANCER SURVIVORS**

Onsite Location: 215

*Presentation Type: Personal Story*

*Category: Non-death-related Loss*

*Presentation Level: Intermediate*

*Indicator: Family and Individual*

**Presenter(s):** Nicole Alston, MSW; Nia Simpkins

It has been documented that among cancer survivors, hearing the words “all clear” does not mean “all well.” Further, survivors are confronted with numerous challenges in the aftermath of treatment: depression, anxiety, PTSD, cognitive impairment, hearing loss and many other quality of life issues. These challenges are juxtaposed with the general expectation that survivors should be happy to have fought cancer and won. This unique experiential presentation is an exploration of the lived experiences of two generations of African Americans, a breast cancer survivor and a neuroblastoma survivor, almost ten years after being treated at the same time.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**
• Explore unique aspects of quality of life challenges among cancer survivors, particularly survivors of color
• Recognize the parallel between symptoms of complicated grief and the journey of cancer survivorship
• Discuss strategies that practitioners may use to support individuals and families

REFERENCES:

• Adolescent and young adult cancer survivors’ memory and future thinking processes place them at risk for poor mental health Ursula M. Sansom-Daly Claire E. Wakefield Eden G. Robertson Brittany C. McGill Helen L. Wilson Richard A.

DARK TOURISM SITES AS A SPACE FOR YOUTH TO TALK ABOUT DEATH AND LOSS
Onsite Location: 208

Presentation Type: Research Report – 60 minutes
Category: Death Education
Presentation Level: Introductory
Indicator: Resources and Research

Presenter(s): Andrea R Croom, PhD

Dark tourism sites, destinations focused on death and suffering, offer unique informal learning opportunities for young visitors to explore death and dying outside the context of personal losses. Yet, visiting these sites can be a jarring experience for youth as they are brought face-to-face with large-scale death. Moreover, they may arrive unprepared and emotionally vulnerable for graphic tour narratives and exhibits. This presentation summarizes qualitative research on young visitors’ experiences at dark tourism sites. Then it suggests how death educators could be an invaluable resource in promoting conversations about death, dying and memorializing at these sites.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

• Identify dark tourism sites and how they offer opportunities for death education outside of personal loss experiences
• Describe the unique needs and experiences of children and adolescent visitors at dark tourism sites
• Formulate ways that members of the ADEC community could facilitate education and discussion among families and school groups visiting dark tourism sites

References:


3:15 - 3:45pm

GONE but NOT FORGOTTEN: MEMORIALIZING THE SELF and LOST LOVED ONES

Onsite Location: 217

Presentation Type: Research Report – 30 minutes
Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Introductory
Indicator: Life Span

Presenter(s): Emily L Mroz, MS

Memorializing can help grieving individuals sustain meaningful connections. The study investigates how young adults memorialize, and how they want to be remembered. Participants completed the Memorializing Checklist and provided a self-defining memory narrative representing how they would like to be remembered. Exploratory factor analysis of the Memorializing Checklist resulted in four factors representing preferences for remembering a lost loved one. Narratives were content-coded for Event Type and Identity Strivings. Young adults most commonly want to be recalled as having been nurturing and compassionate. This research highlights memorializing preferences that can be applied in death education and counseling settings.

Learning Objectives:

• Characterize distinct categories of preferences for memorializing that span a range of memorializing behaviors
• Identify common self-attributes and types of events that young adults prefer to be remembered by
• Describe the life-phase specific development of preferences, including memorializing preferences, that occurs around young adulthood

References:

GRIEF THROUGH AN IMMIGRANT LENS: THE DUALITY OF SECONDARY LOSSES

Onsite Location: 213

**Presentation Type:** Scholarly Paper
**Category:** Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate
**Indicator:** Cultural/Socialization

**Presenter(s):** Rashida Sanchez, MA, FT

When a death occurs, whether here or in their homeland, immigrants are confronted with negotiating cultural death practices, family rituals, and how to honor their loved ones. In this lecture, Bereavement Counselor Rashida Sanchez, MA, FT explores the ways in which contemporary immigrants address the realities that arise, here and at home, from the death of a loved one.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Discuss the theoretical concept of secondary losses in grief
- Identify common secondary losses that arise for contemporary immigrants in the United States
- Discuss the factors impacting the immigrant secondary loss experience and the many ways meaning is transformed and new meaning created

**REFERENCES:**


HONORING CULTURAL & FAMILY VALUES THROUGHOUT END-OF-LIFE DECISIONS

Onsite Location: Salon W

**Presentation Type:** Professional Case Presentation
**Category:** End of Life Decision Making
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate
**Indicator:** Cultural/Socialization
As the world becomes smaller, the challenge of honoring a family’s culture and traditions throughout the end-of-life process, funeral service, and burial may become more difficult and convoluted. The result of ignoring a family’s culture and traditions may cause undue trauma, anxiety, and emotional distress to the family and hinder communication with providers. The presentation will discuss how a Korean family who is Buddhist were unknowingly led into a Presbyterian funeral service, for their 1-year-old daughter, by the social worker. We will discuss ways in which cultural diversity can be intertwined with end-of-life decisions and final services.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Recognize areas within the family structure to access and define cultural needs and family traditions.
- Define personal beliefs that influence end-of-life decisions.
- Improve communication skills to better meet the needs of families and individuals served.

REFERENCES:


RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL COPING MECHANISMS OF BEREAVED SIKHS

Onsite Location: 204

Presentation Type: Professional Case Presentation

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)

Presentation Level: Introductory

Indicator: Religious/Spiritual

Presenter(s): Raman Kaur Mohabir, MSED, LMHC, NCC, FT; Muninder Kaur Ahluwalia, PhD

Grief is greatly impacted by an individual’s spiritual, religious and cultural beliefs. An understanding of the beliefs of individuals who belong to minority religions, such as Sikhism, may shed light on the role that religion plays throughout the bereavement experience. However, there is a gap in research regarding this matter. Therefore, the purpose of this presentation is to aid in filling this identifiable gap. The presenters discuss their own personal grief narratives as case studies, provide an understanding of the Sikh bereavement process, common Sikh religious and cultural coping mechanisms, and implications for working with individuals from the Sikh community.
LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Gain a general understanding of religious and cultural factors of the Sikh bereavement experience
- Gain an awareness and knowledge of areas of strength and common coping mechanisms for bereaved Sikhs
- Demonstrate an understanding of the implications for clinicians, funeral directors, chaplains, and hospice professionals working with individuals from the Sikh community in the U.S

REFERENCES:


2:45 - 3:15pm

SYMPTOMS AND SIGNIFICANCE: PROLONGED GRIEF AND THE QUEST FOR MEANING
Onsite Location: 217

Presentation Type: Research Report – 30 minutes
Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Indicator: Resources and Research

Presenter(s): Evgenia (Jane) Milman, MA, PhD; Robert Neimeyer, PhD

The Persistent Complex Bereavement Inventory (PCBI) is the first measure that identifies distinct clusters of Prolonged Grief Disorder (PGD) symptoms. As a result, the PCBI can be used both as a diagnostic tool and as a guide for profiling a grieving client’s PGD symptomatology. Previous research has suggested that the struggle to re-construct meaning following bereavement is associated with the development of PGD. This study examines which subcategories of meaning are associated with specific clusters of PGD symptoms. The presentation will illustrate how PCBI subscales can be employed clinically in a manner that informs the course of meaning-oriented grief therapy.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Differentiate among distinct clusters of Prolonged Grief Disorder symptoms
- Describe how the Persistent Complex Bereavement Inventory can be employed in a clinical setting
- Identify theme of meaning making that are associated with specific clusters of Prolonged Grief symptomatology

REFERENCES:
THE FINAL BREATH: REFLECTIONS ON SPIRITUALITY WITHIN THE END OF LIFE
Onsite Location: 211

Presentation Type: Professional Case Presentation
Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Indicator: Religious/Spiritual

Presenter(s): Jennifer K A Johnson, MEd, MA, LPC; David Mosher, BA

Professionals working in the field of death, dying, and bereavement are asked to embrace the intricacies and ambiguities surrounding how people seek meaning within the context of death and dying. This presentation explores love and death as they meet, and intertwine. The heartfelt experience of a bereaved husband who married his wife-to-be just hours before she died brings forward the way that the power of love can birth meaning, resilience, strength, grace and dignity in a way that reaches beyond the last breath.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Recognize how spirituality impacts meaning making within the context of death and dying
- Interpret the voices of those who are dying and those who walk with them in a manner that increasingly recognizes and enriches human dignity
- Explore the ways a bereaved husband's story illuminates the role of love within the context of death, dying and bereavement

REFERENCES:

Keynote Session
Saturday, April 13, 4:25 - 5:25pm

"OH, I COULD NEVER DO WHAT YOU DO!!" QUILTING STORIES OF TRAGEDY, GRIEF AND RESILIENCY
Onsite Location: Salon, located on 2nd Floor

Presenter(s): Harold Ivan Smith, DMin, FT

Individuals in our field frequently hear some variation of, “How do you do that for a living?” Some conclude that we are uniquely abled to navigate the world’s emotional backwater. Few “get” that the secret is hearing and honoring stories.

A death-phobic culture emphasizes facts and details; newspaper and online obituaries and eulogists string facts: date of birth, date of death, graduations, marriage(s) and parenting details, memberships, employment, hobbies. Strung details rarely capture the deceased’s particular-ness and, consequently, the bereaver’s particular-ness.

Bereavers need to rediscover active storytelling. Everyone’s story, at whatever stage of development, needs generous hospitality because through storytelling, bereavers often find hope, insight and encouragement. Grievers need to hear: Your story counts!

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

• Describe ways contemporary culture expresses discomfort with dying and death
• Explore the role of “antecedent losses” in shaping personal narratives
• Model storytelling techniques

REFERENCES:

**DIFFICULTIES IN PROVIDING PALLIATIVE CARE IN RURAL INDIA**

Onsite Location: Poster Board A

**Category:** Non-death-related Loss  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory  
**Indicator:** Family and Individual

**Presenter(s):** Aditya Manna, BSC

As in any developing countries state of West Bengal in India has a huge burden of cancer patients in advanced stage coming from rural area where awareness regarding the usefulness of palliative care in rather poor. There is a wide gap of trained manpower in this filled in rural areas of India. Dedicated groups from rural area itself need encouragement and proper training, so that difficult symptoms can be managed locally along with necessary social and psychological support to these patients.

**REFERENCES:**

- DR. S. K. SARKAR
- DR. L. K. KHANRA
- DR. A. N. SEN

**SUICIDAL IDEATION AMONG FIRST-YEAR COLLEGE STUDENTS**

Onsite Location: Poster Board B

**Category:** Assessment and Intervention  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory  
**Indicator:** Life Span

**Presenter(s):** Parrish Williams, MA; Heather Servaty-Seib, PhD; Andrew Brown, MS Ed

First-year college students (N = 668) at a midwestern university completed an online survey, including instruments assessing Joiner’s interpersonal factors of thwarted belongingness, perceived burdensomeness and acquired capability. Hierarchical multiple regression analyses revealed that perceived burdensomeness and acquired capability were significant predictors of SI, and not belongingness. This study indicates burdensomeness may be a more salient variable than previously examined in the literature, which may be a result of cohort effects as Generation Z begins to attend higher education. Future research is needed to better understand the potentially changing nature of first-year students’ risk of SI.
DEATH NOTIFICATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Onsite Location: Poster Board C

Category: Death Education
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Indicator: Professional Issues

Presenter(s): Brianne L Overton, MA, MEd, FT, LPC, NCC, ABD

The purpose of this study is to explore the potential effects social media has on the death notification process of a significant death. Social media outlets allow connections to be made and sustained throughout the world. These outlets serve as ways to quickly distribute information. How does death notification received via social media differ from receiving death notification via more traditional methods of death notification? The poster will identify research findings of a quantitative study that explored the different ways in which death notification is received and how the grief process is potentially impacted by the method of death notification.

REFERENCES:

CONTINUING BONDS, MEANING, AND NORMATIVE VS. COMPLICATED GRIEF

Onsite Location: Poster Board D

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Indicator: Family and Individual

Presenter(s): Chye Hong Liew, MSEd; Heather L Servaty-Seib, PhD

This study examined whether components of continuing bonds (CB) and meaning reconstruction (MR) were associated differently with normative versus complicated grief. Survey data from 80 college students were analyzed using hierarchical multiple regressions. Findings indicated that CB and MR contributed significantly but differentially to normative and complicated grief. Internal CB contributed positively to normative grief, whereas Peace with The Loss (a component of MR) contributed negatively to normative grief. In contrast, internal CB, external CB, and Emptiness/meaninglessness (a component of MR) were all positive contributors to complicated grief. The poster will offer empirical and clinical implications of these findings.

REFERENCES:


“WHAT A WAY TO GO!” DEATH BY MOLASSES

Onsite Location: Poster Board E

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Introductory
Indicator: Historical Perspectives

Presenter(s): Harold Ivan Smith, DMin
2019 marks the 100th anniversary of a bizarre Boston disaster. A 58 foot tank stored 2.5 million gallons of molasses. On January 19, 1919, as workers enjoyed lunch outdoors in unseasonable 43 degrees, the tank exploded. Molasses and twisted metal engulfed workers, cars, trucks, horses, buildings. Victims sank into molasses. Firemen and police struggled to pull out victims and clear their air passages. Twenty-one people died; 150 were seriously injured. How could “molasses” be so destructive? Engineering investigations found Purity Distilling/United States Industrial Alcohol had rushed construction. Through five years of litigation, owners claimed anarchists had blown-up the tank.

REFERENCES:


DEATH EDUCATION PROGRAM BY DEVELOPMENTAL STAGE

Onsite Location: Poster Board F

Category: Death Education
Presentation Level: Introductory
Indicator: Resources and Research

Presenter(s): Na Young Lee, MA; Jiyoung Lyu, PhD

The purpose of this study was to systematically review the effectiveness of death education programs at each developmental stage. Using 30 Korean academic peer-reviewed journals published between 2004 and 2016, a meta-analysis was conducted. In terms of developmental stages, 3 from childhood, 8 from adolescence, 10 from adulthood, and 9 from older adulthood studies were reviewed. The results suggest that understanding target characteristics can promote high-quality death education programs at each developmental stage, which should be expanded in family, community and education field.

REFERENCES:

Death anxiety is traditionally assessed with empirically validated self-report surveys, but innovative cognitive methodologies that purport to measure death anxiety via implicit tasks have produced results that imply incongruence with some conventional functions of the construct. Understanding the differences and implications of each methodology is important in informing best practices among clinicians. The present study observed implicit and explicit death anxiety in a within-subjects design via a death Stroop task, survey measures, and a keystroke-logged writing task. While the death Stroop produced a unique effect, survey measures of death anxiety were better validated by other measures in the study.

REFERENCES:


RURAL PERINATAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The purpose of this research was to ascertain the availability and depth of services of bereavement care for mothers who live rurally, having experienced early losses including pregnancy, stillbirth, neonatal and young children who were born with fetal anomalies or neonatal disease that resulted in death. The sample originated from a population of mothers who lived in rural East Central Minnesota. Participants were interviewed for one hour. All data was coded-
confidential. Common themes, incidence of resources, or lack of resources were noted. Results of this study indicate the need for further study on rural outreach for perinatal loss.

**References:**


**Suicide in South Korea: Evidence from Social Network Analysis**

Onsite Location: Poster Board I

**Category:** Traumatic Death  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory  
**Indicator:** Resources and Research

**Presenter(s):** Jung-eun Lee, MA; Jiyoung Lyu, PhD

There are not only pathological causes but also various social causes behind suicidal behavior. News articles are good sources as a way to find out the causes of social problem. Therefore this study focused on analyzing suicide presented in Korean media reports, and examine how well the government suicide prevention policies reflected such social phenomena. The Social Network Analysis is an efficient methodology in understanding suicide as social phenomena and helps establishing social policies for suicide prevention.

**References:**

The grief therapy program was developed based on the dual process theory (Stroebe & Schut, 1999) to help mourning and growth of middle-aged women who have experienced bereavement, and the purpose of this study was to test the effect of the grief therapy program on bereavement stress, depression, and post-adversity growth. The statistical significance was also verified in the timing effect and comparison between the treatment group and the control group, and the interaction effect according to the group and the timing was also significant.

REFERENCES:


TALKING TO KIDS ABOUT DEATH: DYING, DEATH AND LOSS @PHOEBETHESLOTH
Onsite Location: Poster Board K

Category: Death Education
Presentation Level: Introductory
Indicator: Institutional/Societal

Presenter(s): Keri-Lyn Durant, MA, PhD (student); Phoebe the Sloth, School of Life
This poster highlights the work that my puppet, Phoebe, and I currently do in hospital and palliative care, and sets the scene for our upcoming study in elementary school classrooms in a northwestern Ontario town. As death education is a public health issue (Kellehear, 2015), we offer an interdisciplinary approach; children are voicing questions and concerns about dying, death, and loss and deserve to be heard (Kortes-Miller, 2018, 2014; Lee, 2004). Affording children a more pro-active approach has the potential to bring both awareness and understanding of these difficult issues, equipping them with coping strategies to face inevitable life events.

REFERENCES:


BUILDING A “NO ONE DIES ALONE” PROGRAM AT A LARGE SUBURBAN HOSPITAL
Onsite Location: Poster Board L
Category: Dying
Presentation Level: Introductory
Indicator: Professional Issues

Presenter(s): Kevin Hickey, MA

This poster reviews a recent project of building and implementing a “No One Dies Alone” (NODA) volunteer vigil program at a large suburban hospital in Metro Detroit. This poster highlights relevant strategic partnerships and personnel key to bringing the program to fruition as well as share specific resources that were utilized to manage the program and support its volunteers. Techniques and strategies for volunteer recruitment, training, and retention are also shared. This poster will serve as a valuable ‘blueprint’ for other institutions by sharing specific processes, resources, and insights that are central to building and sustaining a robust NODA program.

REFERENCES:


**BIBLIOThERAPY AS AN APPROACH TO TALK ABOUT DEATH WITH CHILDREN**

*Onsite Location: Poster Board M*

*Category: Death Education*

*Presentation Level: Introductory*

*Indicator: Resources and Research*

**Presenter(s):** Lucelia Elizabeth Paiva, PhD

Death is considered a taboo because it is a theme implying pain and suffering. However, it must be addressed even with children, so that they can deal with it, as well as with the several losses they suffer throughout their lives. There are a lot of children’s books on death, and they can be an excellent resource to approach death in a language appropriate to children. Bibliotherapy can help children to deal with challenging situations, such as familiar problems, diseases, hospitalization and death.

**REFERENCES:**


**CREATION OF A GRANDPARENT BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP**

*Onsite Location: Poster Board N*

*Category: Assessment and Intervention*

*Presentation Level: Introductory*

*Indicator: Family and Individual*
The research literature highlights the important grief needs of grieving grandparents, indicating that grandparent grief is comprised of three parts: the grief for their grandchild, the grief for their own child and the grief they themselves experience. After reviewing the resources available to grieving grandparents in Ottawa, Canada, and finding that few exist, Roger Neilson House created a Grandparent Bereavement Support Group. The goal of the group is to provide a safe therapeutic space for grandparents to explore their grief and meet other grieving grandparents in order to reduce the isolation they may feel while grieving their loss.

References:


Poster Presentations II

Friday, April 12

Positive Growth Following a Loss Experience: A Cross-Sectional Study

Onsite Location: Poster Board A

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)

Presentation Level: Intermediate

Indicator: Resources and Research

Presenter(s): Daniel Sheridan, PhD

The purpose of this empirical study is to examine self-reported positive growth and its relationship to grief symptoms, social support, and continuing bonds following a death. To date, much empirical research examining grief following a loss has focused on negative symptoms, such as feelings of sadness, hopelessness and loneliness. Within recent years, however, death education has begun to focus on positive growth symptoms that could develop following a death. Drawing from a socioeconomically and culturally diverse population of grief support-group attendees within South Florida, over 150 participants completed a brief self-report survey assessing the aforementioned variables of interest.

References:


Death and Grief in Child Care Centers
Onsite Location: Poster Board B

Category: Assessment and Intervention
Presentation Level: Introductory
Indicator: Professional Issues

Presenter(s): Debi Lieuwen, BAS; Illene Noppe Cupit, PhD

This study focused on what support is being offered in child care when a death occurs. Fifteen directors of child care centers in the upper Midwest were interviewed to learn what types of death occurred, if families used the centers as a source of support and information, and the type of resources that directors had available to aid them in this process. Qualitative analyses of the responses uncovered several themes pertaining to the types of death that occurred, what was done (if anything) by the director and staff in this situation, and the expressed needs of the directors going forward.

References:
• Bo’s Place Bereavement Center Offering Free Grief. https://www.bosplace.org/en.

The Challenges and Rewards of an Applied Thanatology Research Project
Onsite Location: Poster Board C

Category: Assessment and Intervention
Presentation Level: Introductory
Indicator: Resources and Research

Presenter(s): Elizabeth E MacDougall, PhD; Dana LaForce, BA candidate; Stephanie Kesner, BA
Bridging the gap between research and practice is not a straightforward endeavor, which we quickly discovered after proposing a project to validate an existing death/dying attitudes scale in a hospice sample. Our hospice clinical directors advised that many of the scale items either were inappropriate or potentially excessively burdensome for their patients. We created a new scale using feedback from over 100 hospice professionals across the country, and we are now prepared for data collection. For those interested in applied thanatology research, we recommend inviting clinical professionals to assist in the project design. Flexibility, patience and humility are also helpful.

REFERENCES:


LOSS MEMORIES ACROSS THE LIFESPAN: COMMUNION, GROWTH, AND RUMINATION

Onsite Location: Poster Board D

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Indicator: Life Span

Presenter(s): Emily L Mroz, MS

After losing a loved one individuals may ruminate, but may also grow psychologically and feel closer to others. Older adults appear to recall death or serious illness memories more often than young adults when prompted to recall highly challenging memories. When comparing death-illness, other-challenging, and neutral memories, however, older and younger adults alike report more growth and communion in death-illness than other challenging memories, but do not ruminate more about death-illness events. Findings indicate the benefits of remembering the loss or serious illness of a loved one, and refute stereotypes that rumination is reserved for death or for older adults.

REFERENCES:

PREPARING COUNSELING CENTER THERAPISTS FOR GRIEF COUNSELING

Onsite Location: Poster Board E

Category: Death Education
Presentation Level: Introductory
Indicator: Professional Issues

Presenter(s): Greta Jankauskaite, MA; Karen O'Brien, PhD

The university counseling center often is the primary resource for bereaved college students, yet there is limited research examining university counseling center psychologists’ knowledge of and preparation for providing grief counseling. The current study will present data on a sample of 150 practicing university counseling therapists including their demographic information, clinical and professional background, previous exposure to and training in grief counseling, self-identified grief counseling knowledge, as well as attitudes towards the necessity of ongoing training in grief counseling. The importance of improved education and training to provide grief counseling will be discussed.

REFERENCES:


KNOWING THE CHILDREN’S LITERATURE ABOUT DEATH AND BEREAVEMENT

Onsite Location: Poster Board F

Category: Death Education
Presentation Level: Introductory
Indicator: Life Span

Presenter(s): Isabella N Silva, Doutorado Candidato; Regina Szylit, PhD; Maiara R Santos, PhD; Natália N Sá, Doctoral Candidade
Objectives: to know the children's literature available in Brazilian public libraries that addresses the topic of death and bereavement, analyzing and discussing the possibilities of its use in communication between adults and children. Method: this descriptive-exploratory qualitative study carried out a literary search from the public collection, using the categorical content analysis technique. Results: although there is use of symbols for indirect representation of the theme of death and bereavement, it is transmitted mainly as part of the life cycle. Conclusion: reading can be used as a resource for a clearer and more effective communication about death and its questions.

REFERENCES:


**Spousal Bereavement, Complicated Grief and Death Anxiety in Elderly**

Onsite Location: Poster Board G

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Introductory
Indicator: Resources and Research

Presenter(s): Kyung Hee Kim, MA; Jiyoung Lyu, PhD

Spousal bereavement is one of the big life events among older adults, and how they deal with their grief would have an impact on their death anxiety. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to empirically verify the effects of spousal bereavement and complicated grief level on death anxiety of the elderly. The study result suggests that the most risky factor for death anxiety is complicated grief rather than the bereavement. Anxiety and fear of death can emerge when people cannot acknowledge the bereavement. Thus, intervention programs should be provided to increase adaptability to the bereavement.

REFERENCES:

Therapeutic Alliance in Telemental Health Grief Interventions
Onsite Location: Poster Board H

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Indicator: Resources and Research

Presenter(s): Justin Fogarty, BA; Kailey Roberts, PhD; Wendy Lichtenthal, PhD

This study will examine therapeutic alliance in a pilot randomized controlled trial comparing Meaning-Centered Grief Therapy (MCGT) to supportive psychotherapy (SP) in bereaved parents. Both MCGT and SP were delivered through videoconferencing. Alliance was rated at sessions 2, 5, 8, and 16 in the 16-session treatments. Meaning, prolonged grief, and depression were rated pre- and post-intervention. The study will compare therapeutic alliance in both treatment approaches. The relationship between early alliance ratings and treatment effects will also be compared. Implications for optimizing therapeutic alliance in different grief intervention approaches and when using telemental health will be discussed.

References:


Framing Effect and Mortality Salience on Decision Making
Onsite Location: Poster Board I
Dying

Presentation Level: Intermediate

Indicator: Life Span

Presenter(s): Kelly L Schuller, PhD

There is a gap in the literature concerning the impact of mortality salience and framing on decisions. The current quantitative study examines the activation of personal mortality, stranger mortality, on the gain versus loss-framed options using the class Asian Disease problem (Tversky & Kaheman, 1979). Research has indicated that the activation of mortality salience may be mediated by meaning of life. Results from undergraduate students indicate an interaction of mortality salience and framing effect. Results support a potential mediation effect of meaning of life and are discussed in relation to Terror Management Theory (TMT; Greenberg, Pyszczynski, & Solomon, 1986).

References:


Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)

Presentation Level: Introductory

Indicator: Institutional/Societal

Presenter(s): Lynette E Randall, BSW

Young adults are in a vulnerable time between adolescence and adulthood. The loss of a loved one can be traumatic and jarring. Different commemorative activities can be practiced to help aid and assist young adults in their grief. This poster presents the results of a study examining the influence of traditional and nontraditional commemorative practices within bereaved young adults who have experienced a loss in the last ten years. These influences are self-reported by a convenient sampling of young adults. The results of this research could aid the clinical grieving process by demonstrating the importance of diverse commemorative networks.

References:


**SUICIDE LOSS SURVIVORS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE COMMUNITY: AN EVALUATION**

Onsite Location: Poster Board K

*Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)*

*Presentation Level: Introductory*

*Indicator: Cultural/Socialization*

**Presenter(s):** Mark B Schwietz, MA

Accident-related deaths, largely fueled by substance overdose deaths, are the fastest growing cause of death in the U.S. Suicide encompasses nearly 2% of total deaths and people who abuse alcohol and drugs are one reason why that is so. Over 40,000 men and women die from chronic liver disease and cirrhosis every year, the 12th leading cause of death in America, a good percentage of these have history of alcohol use and abuse. Despite these incriminating facts there appears to be little available information about this bereaved population and the resources available to assist this subset of suicide loss survivors.

**REFERENCES:**


**MEASURING TRAUMA IN CAMPUS-WIDE MENTAL HEALTH SCREENINGS**

Onsite Location: Poster Board L

*Category: Assessment and Intervention*

*Presentation Level: Intermediate*

*Indicator: Resources and Research*
Presenter(s): Mary V Shelton, PhD; John M Dossett, PhD

At an historically Black university (HBCU), the Counseling Center, Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement, and department of psychology partnered to offer students and community members the opportunity to take anonymous online screenings for PTSD and other disorders. Over 400 students took one or more screening tests. This presentation reports the prevalence of positive (consistent) screening results for PTSD and identifies the items most frequently endorsed by participants with positive results. In addition, it compares the DSM-5 diagnostic criteria for PTSD with the items on two widely used online screening tests, and it discusses the impact of involving students in mental health awareness and outreach activities.

References:


Simulating the Sensory Sanctuary
Onsite Location: Poster Board M

Category: End of Life Decision Making
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Indicator: Family and Individual

Presenter(s): Megan L Willy, MFA in progress; Daye Hwang, MFA in progress

Especially when we are dying, suffering extends from our physical bodies into the spaces of our hearts and minds. While existing services provide relief through discursive methods, we believe that sensory experiences have the power to bring us comfort through neural networks that reach our deepest, unconsciously held memories. Meaningful sensory tweaks can expand the capacity of a space for emotional and physical peace for people at the end of life. We facilitate an intimate, creative process that allow people to design their own spaces of sensorial peace at the end.
HIV AND POSTTRAUMATIC GROWTH

Onsite Location: Poster Board N

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Introductory
Indicator: Cultural/Socialization

Presenter(s): William Oren Cox, PhD

The purpose of this study is to explore the experiences of people coming to terms with HIV diagnosis and come to a greater understanding of the trajectory of adjustment and beyond. This study is a narrative analysis of the lived experiences of individuals diagnosed with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Interviewees were invited to reflect on their experiences with and beliefs about HIV prior to diagnosis, their personal experience of receiving a diagnosis, and their social, emotional, and spiritual experiences following diagnosis. Interviews were transcribed and common units of text, aligned with each of the interview queries, were identified and coded.

References:

Students frequently report that their needs are not being met by school personnel. This research compared interview data from college students who had experienced a loss during their childhood with self-report survey data from school personnel from SE Pennsylvania. The results indicate a discrepancy between the students’ beliefs that educators can help them cope and the educators’ feelings of competence in this helping. This lack of confidence by grievers can lead to reluctance in seeking help, while overconfidence by teachers and counselors may hinder appropriate support. This presentation will present our findings in order to shed light on this incongruity.

REFERENCES: