ADEC’s ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2020-2022
Facing the Pandemic and Moving into Self-Management

Although we faced unprecedented and unexpected adversity, we continued to pivot and move forward. Here are some team highlights to remember.

2020-2021

- Delivered initial entirely virtual 2021 Annual Conference to accommodate travel restrictions
- Fund-raising initiative, *Light the Way* campaign, led by Bill Hoy
- Realized unprecedented conference sponsorship led by Andy McNeil
- Delivered 1st Annual Wolfe Report for a presidential update to membership on mid-year progress
- Hosted 1st Virtual Half-Day Workshop entitled *Life, Death, and Healing During Difficult Times* led by Melanie Wright: $10,000 profit
- Implemented public outreach 16-presentation series entitled *ADEC in Conversation: COVID 19* designed and moderated by Jill Harrington
- Presented *ADEC in Conversation on Racial Justice*, discussions by Tashel Bordere and Jennifer Matthews to address the unique lived experience of African American grief
- Delivered two virtual Services of Remembrance led by Galen Goben and others
- Initiated two virtual Membership Orientations led by Brenda Atkinson and Michelle Ramirez
- Membership voted to reinstate the Immediate Past President as a non-voting Board advisory presence for continuity of leadership succession
● Initiated Management Task Force to evaluate our management contract and continuation led by Worth Kilcrease

● Self-published the 3rd edition of the *Handbook of Thanatology* with 56 authors from 14 countries and 6 continents, utilizing the revised Body of Knowledge including non-death losses; adopted by our Credentialing Council as a reference for the 2023 certification examination; edited by Heather Servaty-Seib and Helen Chapple and brought to fruition by Worth Kilcrease and Rosemary Gravelle

● Collectively decided to host 1st hybrid annual conference with virtual professional development and post-conference specialty workshops but an in-person participation option with safety protocols in place; coordinated by Fay Green and a special conference task force

● Intentionally focused on diversity and inclusion activities including targeted abstract submissions underscoring these themes; hosted the return of the Diversity and Inclusion conference meeting facilitated by Tashel Bordere

● Initiated the Asian/Americas Zoom Bridge Networking Sessions led by Joy Berger, monthly zoom global sessions with members having attended from 8 countries, 4 continents, and 9 time zones

● Delivered virtual 2nd Half-Day Workshop entitled *ADEC Connections: Building Bridges Through Loss*, offering 3 international panel discussions and The Wolfe Report presidential update

● Launched *ADEC aCcredited Education (ACE)* to replace our previous preapproval program for professional development outlined by Melanie Wright and Andy Ho

● Hosted New Member Orientation Sessions led by Stephanie Matonek

● Initiated Committee Chairs monthly meetings to strengthen infrastructure communication/collaboration, assess needs, and increase accountability toward ADEC priorities

● Initiated the Legacy Project to celebrate our founding leaders and support future generations with ADEC’s historical context led by Phillip Garrett

● Reinstated focus on ADEC’s social media presence led by Nathalie-Roze Fischer and Laura Wheat

● Implemented thematic webinar series including Physicians Perspectives
on Palliative Care and End-of-Life moderated by Melanie Wright

- Streamlined digital certification applications and renewals led by Jolene Formaini

- Offered the Professional Learning Library composed of 25 presentations from the 2021 ADEC virtual conference available without charge to our members

- Audited our website as the precursor to future redesign, completed by Laura Wheat

- Deliberated and voted to make a progressive transition toward self-management as of July 31, 2022, led by Task Force Chair, Chris Hall

2021-2022

- Formally transitioned to self-management led by the Board of Directors: President, Andy Ho; Vice-President, Melanie Wright; Secretary, Fay Green; Immediate Past President, Peggy Whiting; Credentialing Council Chair, Jolene Formaini; Board Members at Large: Tashel Bordere, Darcy Harris, Michelle Ramirez, Jody Swan; Joy Berger, Interim Operations; the Van Petten Group Consulting Group

- Strengthened committee structures (80+ volunteers), communications, and collaborations with self-management data-driven information and decisions

- Improved ADEC’s website, donor opportunities, and registration processes for ADEC’s events and recertifications

- Board voted to donate 30 copies of our Handbook in response to a request by a European university for the purpose of teaching refugee-Ukranian master’s level therapists/counselors about death, dying and bereavement

- Surpassed all statistics since pre-COVID for credentialing applications, exams, and recertifications, with most cycles lasting for 3 years: 63 new CTs; 12 new FTs; 19 FTs from CTs; 20 reinstated CTs and FT; 194 CT/FT Recertifications (not counting our retired status certificants)

- Led multiple State of the Association Zoom meetings with different membership groups, facilitating information and dialogue about ADEC’s self-management processes

- Engaged in intensive conference preparations for 2023 Conference in Columbus, Ohio, with significant self-managed renegotiations of hotel contract terms/payments for conferences 2022 (St. Louis), 2023 (Columbus),
Received 140 Conference Abstract Submissions for our 2023 Conference

Implemented significant customer service improvements for all ADEC members and members, across all channels of communication

Began tracking ADEC’s volunteer hours, with over 2,300 volunteer hours for August – December 2022, translating to a labor cost savings of over $68,000

Launching new social media campaigns including the 2022 National Grief Awareness Day, the upcoming Membership Campaign, and the ADEC Member Support Grieving Communities campaign

Began Fund Development Task Force led by Jodi Swan to increase donor possibilities, to launch “Moving With Grief” campaign February 14 – April 1, 2023 led by Andy Ho, and to work on rebuilding reserves

Completed and terminated transition work with the Van Petten Group one month ahead of anticipated schedule

Implemented the 3rd Virtual Half-Day Conference, taught by Dr. William Worden, ADEC’s Expert Panelists, Presidential Wolfe Report by Andy Ho, and moderated by Rebecca Morse: 170+ participants from 4 continents, 8 countries, 4 Canadian provinces, and 38 USA states; exceeded fundraising goals by 85%

Completed ADEC’s nationwide search for new Executive Director and hired Joy Berger, whose official role began January 1, 2023