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Professional Development Courses
Tuesday, April 24 and Wednesday, April 25, 2018
8:30 – 5pm ET

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**Essentials of Thanatology: Dying, Death, and Bereavement**

**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 resources, especially enhancing your multicultural sensitivities and professional skills. Comprehensive and interdisciplinary, it presents the essential topics and core knowledge for death-related counseling and death education.

**Required Text**

The latest edition of the following text is required:
About Your Instructors

Darcy L. Harris, PhD, RSW, FT, is an Associate Professor and the Thanatology Coordinator in the Department of Interdisciplinary Programs at King’s University College at Western University in London, Ontario, Canada, where she also maintains a private clinical practice specializing in issues related to change, loss, and transition. She developed the undergraduate degree program in Thanatology at King’s University College, and she serves as an adjunct faculty member in the Faculty of Graduate Studies at Western University. She has served on the board of directors of the Association for Death Education and Counseling and is a current member of the International Work Group on Death, Dying, and Bereavement. She currently serves on the board of directors for St. Joseph’s Health Care in London, Ontario and has served as the series editor for the Death, Value, and Meaning Series with Baywood Publishing Company in New York. She has written many articles and book chapters, including Counting our Losses: Reflecting on Change, Loss, and Transition in Everyday Life (2010, Routledge), Grief and Bereavement in Contemporary Society: Bridging Research and Practice (2011, Routledge), Principles and Practice of Grief Counseling (2nd edition, 2016, Springer), and the Handbook of Social Justice in Loss and Grief: Exploring Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (2016, Routledge).

Andy Ho, PhD, EdD, FT, is Assistant Professor of Psychology in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. He received his Doctor of Philosophy in Thanatology from the University of Hong Kong in 2013, and his Doctor of Education in Lifelong Learning from the University of Nottingham in 2016. He is an elected member of the prestigious International Work Group on Death Dying and Bereavement, a Fellow in Thanatology, a Marriage and Family Therapist, and a Mindfulness Practitioner. Andy specializes in the research and teaching of dignified and compassionate end of life care, life and death education, psychosocial gerontology, holistic therapy and community empowerment. Based on this body of work, he has produced many acclaimed public health campaigns and short film documentaries, authored over 50 books, chapters, and articles in prominent academic and professional journals, as well as presented over 100 keynotes, invited, and conference presentations across the globe. Andy’s social and scholarly contributions have been recognized with distinction by the Association of Death Education and Counseling, the International Palliative Care Network, the International Academy of the Visual Arts, the Hong Kong Hospital Authority, and the Hong Kong International Cancer Congress.
Tuesday, April 24 and Wednesday, April 25, 2018
8:30 – 5pm ET

Intermediate Course: Grief Counseling

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.

About Your Instructor

Jane Vair Bissler, PhD, LPCC-S, FT, is a clinical counselor, teacher, writer and speaker specializing in grief and bereavement. Over the past 30 years, she has counseled hundreds of grieving individuals, couples, families and groups through Counseling for Wellness in Kent, OH. Dr. Bissler taught at Kent State University for seventeen years in the Master’s and Ph.D. clinical counseling programs. She has co-written three books on grief and one about clients having loving connections with their deceased loved ones. For the past 28 years, she has written a weekly grief question and answer newspaper column and has keynoted and spoken at numerous international, national, state and local conferences.
Advanced Course: Complicated Bereavement and Grief Therapy

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.

Required Readings

About Your Instructor
Robert A. Neimeyer, Ph.D., is a Professor of Psychology, University of Memphis, where he also maintains an active clinical practice. Neimeyer has published 30 books, including Techniques of Grief Therapy: Creative Practices for Counseling the Bereaved, and serves as Editor of the journal Death Studies. The author of nearly 500 articles and book chapters and a frequent workshop presenter, he is currently working to advance a more adequate theory of grieving as a meaning-making process.

Credit picture to http://www.robertneimeyerd.com/home/html
Contemporary Neuroscience and Attachment Theory: Implications for an Attachment Informed Approach to Grief Therapy

Phyllis Kosminsky, PhD, LCSW
John R (Jack) Jordan, PhD

In this clinically oriented workshop, we will review recent research and theory in neuroscience that has direct implications for understanding the bereaved, particularly the phenomenon of “complicated grief”. We will do likewise with contemporary research and theory in the field of attachment studies. We will then discuss the emerging view of therapy as a process of right brain to right brain communication, and the central importance of the therapeutic relationship in work with the bereaved. We will outline the principles of this approach and illustrate these principles with clinical vignettes and video presentation. Throughout the day, there will be ample opportunity for discussion of the concepts and their application to actual therapeutic work with bereaved clients.

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

Learning Objectives
1. Discuss recent findings regarding the impact of early attachment experiences on attachment style and on the development of affect regulatory capacity.
2. Explain the implications of these findings for our understanding of variations in how people respond and adapt to significant loss.
3. Describe the principles of an attachment informed approach to grief therapy and the clinical skills that the presenters regard as the core elements of an effective therapeutic relationship with bereaved clients.

References
Wednesday, April 25, 2018 – Full Day Workshop
8:30am – 5pm ET

Catching Your Breath in Grief:
Lessons for the Bereaved, Thinkers, and Caregivers

THOMAS ATTIG, PHD

This workshop embeds the presenter’s well-known thinking on grieving as relearning the world in further reflections on learning how to live, learning to carry sorrow, engaging with life’s mysteries, and grieving as soulful and spiritual. It leads participants through reflections and dialogue on grief in general, the presenter’s grieving following the death of his life-long friend, and participants’ own grieving experiences. Along the way, it discusses descriptive and interpretative limitations of theories about loss of assumptive world, emotion, meaning-making, dual-processing, intuitive vs. instrumental grieving, disenfranchisement, attachment (vs. love), remembering, and needs for wisdom vs. science in grieving, theory-building, and counseling.

Category: Loss, Grief and Mourning
Indicator: Contemporary Perspective
Presentation Level: Advanced

Learning Objectives
1. Offer understanding of how we learn to live from birth to death through engagement of ego, soul, and spirit in controlling what can be controlled and problem-solving: weaving cares and loves into unique daily life patterns; reweaving life patterns into unique life histories as we change, grow, and overcome adversity and suffering; and dancing with mysteries inherent in living.
2. Offer understandings of a) grief reactions (brokenness and sorrows that come over the bereaved when a loved one dies) and of b) grieving responses (the active engagement with loss and grief reactions and reengagement in life transformed by loss) as processes of relearning the world, learning to carry sorrow, and learning to love in separation.
3. Offer understanding, guidance, and support in the labors involved in learning how to live and love meaningfully again in the aftermath of loss.

References

www.aedic.org
#ADEC2018
Wednesday, April 25, 2018 – Half Day Workshop  
8:30am – 12pm ET

**Nuts and Bolts of Setting Up and Maintaining Bereavement Support Groups in Urban and Rural Settings**

**BEN WOLFE, MED, LICSW, FT**

This interactive workshop is designed to teach participants not only how to develop, set up and maintain adult bereavement support groups, but more importantly, explore the challenges which occur while facilitating a group. Participants will learn how to develop and organize grief support groups, necessary facilitation skills, and appreciate group process. The significant amount of time will be spent learning how to interact with group attendees who may fit the “creepy factor,” “dominators,” etc. categories. This workshop is appropriate for professionals or laypersons with limited or extensive group facilitative experience working within hospitals, hospices, religious institutions, agencies, community groups or organizations.

**Category:** Loss, Grief and Mourning  
**Indicator:** Professional Issues  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate

**Learning Objectives**

1. Describe steps necessary to develop and maintain either “open” or “closed” adult bereavement support groups.
2. Describe group facilitator roles and responsibilities.
3. List and describe facilitative approaches when challenging situations occur within a bereavement support group.

**References**

How To Survive Such Horror and Splendor?

ROB ZUCKER, MA, LCSW, FT

Double Eye
By Jalal-ud-Din Rumi (translated by Andrew Harvey)

You've given me your terrible Double Eye
That sees all things as empty and as You.
You scathe all flesh to bone, flame bone to Light
How could I survive such horror, and splendor?

How do busy death educators and counselors manage the extraordinary challenge of remaining open-hearted, vulnerable and professional while working to establish appropriately intimate relationships with those who suffer? In a safe and engaging format, this workshop offers a model for writing and sharing that promotes professional and personal growth.

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

Learning Objectives
1. Consider their unique personal challenges as they encounter clients/patients/students experiencing deep suffering.
2. Reflect on both the “horror” and splendor” associated with their work.
3. Discuss how they manage balancing intimacy with professionalism.

References
Beyond Burnout—Finding Balance, Transforming Stress

DALE G LARSON, PHD

Burnout, moral distress, and compassion fatigue are well-documented risks we encounter in our work with people facing grief, loss, and trauma. That’s the bad news. The good news is that we can—and often do—wrest personal and professional growth from this challenging and deeply rewarding work. In this interactive workshop you will learn strategies and practice techniques for managing and transforming stress, enhancing meaning, and increasing your clinical effectiveness. Topics include helper secrets and social support; exquisite empathy and the helper’s pit; mindfulness in clinical practice; cognitive-affective stress management techniques; self-compassion; growth through adversity; and eudaimonia and great moments in helping.

Category: Loss, Grief and Mourning
Indicator: Professional Issues
Presentation Level: Intermediate

Learning Objectives

1. List the key features and causes of burnout, compassion fatigue and moral distress and self-assess on these dimensions.
2. Identify strategies for strengthening resilience and stress-related personal and professional growth.
3. Identify techniques for maintaining emotional balance and empathic attunement in counseling for grief and trauma.

References

Creating Inclusion and Well-Being for Grieving Children in Today’s World

LINDA GOLDMAN, MS, LCPC, FT

Working with children and grief in contemporary society is a monumental task, considering the groundswell of disasters, mass killings, disease, poverty, etc. that acts as an overlay for everyday grief and loss events in a young person’s life. This course develops an understanding of a child’s journey through grief and traumatic events, and offers participant’s practical concepts and tools to help these youngsters become resilient. Participant learning focuses on children’s grief and loss issues and techniques for working with these issues: with special consideration for complex issues (ex. suicide, homicide, terrorism, violence, disasters). Resources, theory, and practical case studies will be presented and discussed.

Category:  Loss, Grief and Mourning
Indicator:  Family and Individual
Presentation Level:  Intermediate

Learning Objectives
1. Participants will be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of common signs of grief in children and issues that may complicate grief.
2. Participants will demonstrate ability to use appropriate vocabulary when working with children’s grief, loss, and issues surrounding traumatic events issues.
3. Participants will demonstrate knowledge of age appropriate resources for children specific to grief and fostering resiliency.
4. Participants will be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of useful techniques when working with children experiencing grief, loss, and issues involving traumatic events.

References
Community-Based Research on Interventions for Bereaved and Traumatized Children

ALISON A. SALLOUM, PHD, LCSW
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL & COMMUNITY SCIENCES

Evidence-based practices (EBP) that have been tested in real-world settings with bereaved and traumatized children remain limited. There are challenges to conducting research with children and their families in community-based settings, and once interventions are empirically-supported clinicians are faced with bridging research and practice. Dr. Salloum will discuss the lessons learned from developing the Grief and Trauma Intervention (GTI) for Children, an EBP for bereaved and traumatized children that was tested in an urban community setting. The theoretical foundation of GTI for Children will be discussed as well as practical applications in community-based settings.

Learning Objectives
1. Identify challenges faced by researchers and clinicians who are engaged in developing evidence-based interventions for bereaved and traumatized children.
2. Explore how cognitive behavioral methods and narrative practices can be integrated to address grief and trauma.
3. Explain the use of the systematic process of draw, discuss, write and witness in the grief and trauma intervention (GTI) for children.

Keynote Biography

Alison Salloum, PhD, LCSW, is an Associate Professor at the University of South Florida, School of Social Work and has a joint appointment in the Department of Pediatrics. Dr. Salloum’s research focuses on service delivery methods to address treatment barriers for children and their families; childhood trauma, loss, and anxiety; and implementation of trauma-related evidence-based treatments. Dr. Salloum is the author of Group work with adolescents after violent death: A manual for practitioners, Reactions to trauma and grief: A workbook for children, and more recently Grief and trauma in children: An evidence-based treatment manual.
Concurrent Session I
Thursday, April 26, 2018
10:45 - 11:45am

Bridging Research and Practice
RESEARCH THAT MATTER 2018: COLLEGE STUDENT BEREAVEMENT

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Introductory
Presenter(s): David Balk, PhD; Illene Cupit, PhD; Heather Servaty-Seib, PhD; Mary Alice Varga, PhD; Mark de St. Aubin, MSW

Panelists in this Research That Matters symposium will examine various realities about college student bereavement. Illene Cupit will report results of a College Student Bereavement Survey of 900+ students; Heather Servaty-Seib will speak about the suggestions for universities offered by bereaved students; Mary Alice Varga will present research from projects to establish valid and reliable measures of attachment and holistic effects with bereaved college students; Mark de St. Aubin will present the college student bereavement intervention he has designed with students and will discuss some of the accomplishments they have achieved on his campus.

Learning Objectives
1. Examine current research findings on the experiences of bereaved college students.
2. Review campus obstacles to assisting bereaved college students.
3. Evaluate how to make campus environments responsive to needs of bereaved college students.

References
Thursday, April 26, 2018
10:45 - 11:45am

Personal Story
**Culturally Inclusive Strategies for Care: A Latino Examination**

**Category:** Death Education  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate  
**Presenter(s):** Ana Bendaña, MST, RN, CHPN; Deborah Gonzalez, MSW, CT

The purpose of this presentation is to examine core values of the Latino culture and end-of-life perspectives to improve communications and care delivered to this segment of the population. Core cultural and religious values among Latinos will be contemplated to identify and address potential barriers encountered during communications, education, and the delivery of healthcare services. The presenters are both Latinas, fully bilingual and multicultural. They hope to provide the audience with a richer perspective of the Latino culture, specifically concerning the end of life. Recommending thus, tools necessary to improve culturally competent care and communications.

**Learning Objectives**
1. Identify and address potential barriers to effective communication and delivery of care.
2. Apply knowledge acquired when caring for Latino patients by keeping in mind cultural values and beliefs.
3. Design and support culturally effective plans of care and meaningful communications at the end of life.

**References**
Thursday, April 26, 2018  
10:45 - 11:45am

Scholarly Paper  
**IMPLICATIONS OF END OF LIFE DECISIONS AFTER A LETHAL FETAL DIAGNOSIS**

**Category:** End of Life Decision Making  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory  
**Presenter(s):** Tammy Court, MS

When a lethal fetal diagnosis leads to end-of-life decisions, parents are challenged by the difficult decisions they must make. Options of perinatal palliative care and selective termination presently exist, with both options triggering societal judgment which may impact the grief trajectory of the parents and family. The presentation will examine the life-changing situation parents are presented regarding decision-making and will address the life-long psychological effects parents may experience.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Differentiate and compare end-of-life options available to parents given a lethal fetal diagnosis.
2. Recognize how each decision can impact the grief trajectory of the parents and family given a lethal fetal diagnosis.
3. Apply the knowledge garnered to better formulate non-judgmental, unbiased attitudes toward end-of-life decisions parents choose to make when given a lethal fetal diagnosis.

**References**

The Inventory of Youth Adaptation to Loss (IYAL) was developed to understand the feelings and social supports experienced by bereaved youth to develop an evidence-base for bereavement interventions. The sample included 400 youth, permitting robust psychometric testing of the IYAL. To evaluate the reliability of the IYAL, the sample framework was national in scope, encompassed a range of different types of youth bereavement programs, and purposively sought diversity in the sample. Exploratory factor analysis identified five factors with distinct sub-scales indicating that the IYAL is a valid and reliable assessment instrument.

Learning Objectives

1. Understand the challenges and limitations of developing a standardized or empirically based instrument to measure how a child feels, communicates, is supported by, or connects with others.
2. Identify the domains that make up the Inventory of Youth Adaptation to Loss.
3. Evaluate the findings of the validity and reliability of the Inventory of Youth Adaptation to Loss.

References

Thursday, April 26, 2018
10:45 - 11:15am
Research Report – 30 minutes

DEATH OF A SAME-SEX PARTNER AND ITS IMPACT ON SUBSEQUENT RELATIONSHIPS

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Presenter(s): Lefteris Patlamazoglou, PhD Candidate

This research explored a significant gap in the literature on the bereavement experiences of same-sex-attracted individuals who have lost a partner to non-HIV-related causes and its impact on subsequent relationships. A longitudinal mixed methods design was employed and fourteen participants completed in-depth interviews and the Grief and Meaning Reconstruction Inventory. Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis was used to analyse the qualitative data. Prevalent themes included the impact of legal and institutional discrimination, disenfranchised grief, continuing bonds, comparisons with the deceased partner, protectiveness of the new partner and the relationship, unexpected gains, and new communication patterns. Implications for research and practice are discussed.

Learning Objectives
1. Utilize implications for research and clinical practice with bereaved same-sex partners.
2. Discuss the bereavement experiences of gay and lesbian individuals who have lost a same-sex partner.
3. Identify the impact of disenfranchised grief on the subsequent relationships of same-sex individuals who have lost a partner non-HIV-related causes.

References
Thursday, April 26, 2018
10:45 - 11:45am

Professional Case Presentation

**AMBIGUOUS LOSS AT THE INTERSECTION OF RELIGION AND SEXUALITY**

**Category:** Non-death-related Loss  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory  
**Presenter(s):** Nancy Thacker, MS, NCC; Jillian Blueford, MA, NCC

The LGBTQ+ population encounter unique forms of ambiguous loss as they develop and integrate their queer identity into their holistic understanding of self. Negotiation of other identities, particularly a religious/spiritual (R/S) identity, can create complex loss experiences and subsequent unexpected grief. Using a case study example from the presenters’ professional experiences as counselors, this presentation will explore the ambiguous loss experiences of R/S LGBTQ+ individuals and impacts on integrating identity through a social constructivist lens. Implications for practitioners will also be discussed.

**Learning Objectives**
1. Understand ambiguous loss in the religious/spiritual (R/S) LGBTQ+ population.
2. Consider the intersection of religion/spirituality and sexuality and its impacts on LGBTQ+ individuals’ loss experiences and grieving processes.
3. Develop practice strategies to facilitate R/S LGBTQ+ individuals’ grieving processes as they negotiate their identities.

**References**
Thursday, April 26, 2018
10:45 - 11:45am

Research Report – 60 minutes

STAFF IMPACT ON PARENTS' GRIEF AFTER THEIR CHILDREN DIE OF CANCER

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Introductory
Presenter(s): Carlos Torres, PhD; Lindsay Blazin, MD; Justin Baker, PhD; Robert Neimeyer, PhD

In this presentation, we will discuss findings pertaining to a mixed-methods study that examined the extent parents’ interactions with their deceased child’s pediatric oncology care team related to their subsequent grief symptoms and how those interactions associated with their grief. We will review data collected from 30 bereaved parents who completed grief symptom and meaning making surveys and semi-structured interviews. From a meaning reconstruction framework, we will explain how staff interactions support parents in making sense of their child’s death, continuing to bonding with their child, and finding new purpose in their life.

Learning Objectives
1. Describe parental grief from a meaning reconstruction perspective.
2. Identify challenges associated with parental grief when the child dies of pediatric cancer.
3. Cite examples of how staff support parents in making sense of their child’s death, continuing bonds with their deceased child, and finding new purpose in their lives.

References
The theory of medical ethics addresses cases from the standpoint of four principles: autonomy, beneficence, nonmaleficence, justice. We present a case of a tobacco-addicted 39 year old woman with end stage renal disease and nonadherence to treatment who presented to her final hospitalization in respiratory failure. When she refused dialysis after being denied smoking privileges, she swiftly decompensated and soon required involvement of surrogates. In this interactive and discussion-focused presentation, we explore clinical issues through the lens of competing ethical principles. We specifically highlight the ethical challenges that can arise in end of life when an individual’s capacity is impaired.

Learning Objectives

1. Identify the four medical ethical principles.
2. Formulate dichotomies of ethical principles in specific case scenarios.
3. Illustrate ethical challenges in end of life decisions.

References

Thursday, April 26, 2018
10:45 - 11:45am

Research Report – 30 minutes

TRAINING MEDICAL STUDENTS FOR END-OF-LIFE CARE

Category: Death Education
Presentation Level: Introductory
Presenter(s): Teresa Vincent, MPA; Holly Johnson, BS

This study looked at the effectiveness of medical students undergoing end-of-life (EoL) doula training to learn how to provide holistic comfort for dying patients. In general, medical school curricula have not kept pace with opportunities to provide holistic EoL care. One barrier is a dearth of death competency training for medical students. This study addressed one option for clinicians to conquer their own fears and learn a humanistic approach to EoL care so they may truly understand and meet the needs of dying individuals.

Learning Objectives

1. Discuss the impact of death competency as a barrier for medical students, and physicians, to overcome to be comfortable addressing issues around EoL care.
2. Describe an EoL doula training model which is offered to medical students as a means to strengthen death competency and provide educational enhancement and service learning to students.
3. Assess the effectiveness of training in addressing death competency as a barrier for future care discussions and EoL practices.

References

Thursday, April 26, 2018  
10:45 - 11:45am

Practice Report  
**Counseling Families with Life Threatening Illness**

**Category:** Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory  
**Presenter(s):** Howard Winokuer, PhD

In this comprehensive session, Dr. Winokuer will provide participants with a road map that anyone working with an individual or family member who has a someone diagnosed with a life-threatening illness would benefit greatly from. In Counseling Families with Life-Threatening Illness, Dr. Winokuer will not only provides an important foundation the counselor who is working with the families where a family member is experiencing a life-threatening illness, but he will also help the counselor understand the different phases the family experiences.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Participants will be able to identify the seven sensitivities necessary to be an effective counselor.
2. Participants will be able to discuss the different phases the family experiences.
3. Participants will understand the cognitive, emotional, behavioral and spiritual responses of the family who has a family member with a life-threatening illness.

**References**

Concurrent Session II
Thursday, April 26, 2018
1:00 - 2:00pm

Practice Report

**HOW COMMUNITY TRAGEDIES IMPACT GRIEF**

*Category*: Traumatic Death  
*Presentation Level*: Intermediate  
*Presenter(s)*: Patti Anewalt, PhD

Community tragedies over the last twenty years have shaped our society’s understanding of grief, loss and mourning. Conversely, as our understanding has changed, so too has our response – individually, organizationally, and nationally. Drawing from her experiences and considering recent national disasters Dr. Anewalt will talk about the unique aspects of grief when community tragedies occur.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Explain how community tragedies have shifted the view of grief in North American culture.  
2. Describe the phases of crisis response and how they influence grief reactions and interventions.  
3. Identify components for addressing traumatic bereavement.

**References**

Thursday, April 26, 2018
1:00 - 2:00pm

Bridging Research and Practice

RESEARCH THAT MATTERS 2018: SUICIDE BEREAVEMENT

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Presenter(s): David Balk, PhD; John Jordan, PhD; Ann Mitchell, PhD; Melinda Moore, PhD

This panel discussion will look at important clinical issues in suicide bereavement. Jack Jordan will summarize the burgeoning literature on the deleterious bereavement effects of suicide, and argue that suicide postvention must form part of all suicide prevention efforts. Melinda Moore will examine the potential for post-traumatic growth among the bereaved following suicide. Ann Mitchell will present evidence that exposure to, and bereavement from, suicide can have both detrimental as well as constructive effects on those left to cope with a suicide death. Emphasis will be on practical suggestions on how to help those bereaved by suicide.

Learning Objectives
1. To identify components of suicide prevention and postvention.
2. To examine both the deleterious effects and positive growth in suicide bereavement.
3. To cite examples of practical suggestions on how therapists, caregivers, and families can help those bereaved by suicide.

References
This study is a phenomenological investigation that takes a cultural contextual and developmental look at the lived experiences and perceptions of loss and coping among African American female college students. Twenty informants participated in face-to-face interviews. Descriptive phenomenological theory and method guided the study. Findings indicate themes of grief in a life world complicated by struggles with invisibility, stigma and the “burden of proof” around individual and collective loss and race-based trauma, and cultural expectations of “pushing through” that have important implications for support of bereaved African American female college students. Implications for researchers, practitioners, and educators will be provided.

Learning Objectives

1. Describe patterns in the death loss and coping experiences of African American female college students utilizing developmental and social justice theoretical frameworks.
2. Explain the roles of contextual factors (socio and geo-political contexts) in grief, coping, and resilience among bereaved African American female college students in predominantly white university settings.
3. Identify strategies for culturally responsive research and practice with African American females as they matriculate through college.

References

Thursday, April 26, 2018
1:00 - 2:00pm

Bridging Research and Practice

**GOD’S MODEL OF GRIEVING**

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

**Presentation Level:** Introductory

**Presenter(s):** Sharon Fox, BS

Introduction of Matthew’s description of what happened when Jesus died and how that matches the secular models used today. This is a blueprint of grief which lead to God’s promise of joy and contentment. Presentation on the Wounded Soul and the Fabric of Life concepts Highlighting steps to build the bridge to contentment.

**Learning Objectives**

1. To present a biblical model of grieving which overlays the secular pattern descriptions of grief.
2. To present the theory of the wounded Soul and the Fabric of life and how to mend and recovery from the loss.
3. To present topic discussions on the undeserved griever to include the embryo adoption or termination and those who have had miscarriages.

**References**

1. Biblical reference - not date specific. (NA)
2. Biblical reference - not date specific (NA)
3. Biblical referenced - not date specific (NA)
Thursday, April 26, 2018
1:00 - 2:00pm

Personal Story

**DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS: THE AFTERMATH OF SIBLING LOSS**

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

**Presentation Level:** Intermediate

**Presenter(s):** Mary Jane Gandour, PhD; Molly Gandour, MFA candidate

A mother/daughter team (Clinical Psychologist/Emmy-winning Filmmaker) uses clips from the daughter’s documentary film Peanut Gallery and excerpts from the mother’s memoir Heart Work to illustrate difficult conversations sixteen years after Molly’s older sister and only sibling Aimee died of leukemia. Themes in these exchanges will be identified. Skills that helped sustain the family through six weeks of therapeutic work together so many years later will be identified. The possible effect of family coping strategies during Aimee’s illness (e.g. compartmentalization and normalization) on the grief process will be explored. Audience input and observations are an important part of this presentation.

**Learning Objectives**

1. List three techniques that are potentially helpful during difficult conversations about family grief.
2. Cite examples of the unique features of sibling grief.
3. Formulate ideas about how family coping strategies during a protracted illness might affect the family’s grief process after an ill sibling’s death.

**References**

Thursday, April 26, 2018
1:00 - 2:00pm

Research Report – 60 minutes

**EXPLORING CHILDHOOD SIBLING BEREAVEMENT THROUGH ARTS-BASED METHODS**

**Category:** Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate
**Presenter(s):** Tiffany Hill, MA

Researchers and practitioners are increasingly recognizing the need to improve the understanding of the lived experiences of children and young people who have experienced the death of a sibling. Although the use of creative expressions in therapeutic interventions has become foundational for children and bereavement, qualitative research in this field does not appear to mirror best practices used in therapeutic contexts. This session will discuss (1) a participatory action research approach to sibling bereavement in childhood; (2) the arts-based methods used to explore the lived experiences in this context; (3) and the ethics of navigating research with children.

**Learning Objectives**
1. Describe a participatory action research approach to childhood bereavement.
2. Utilize arts-based methods to explore lived experiences.
3. Navigate the ethics of research with children.

**References**
Thursday, April 26, 2018
1:00 - 2:00pm

Professional Case Presentation

**RECONSTRUCTING THE CONTINUING BOND: MEANING MAKING IN GRIEF THERAPY**

Category: Assessment and Intervention
Presentation Level: Advanced
Presenter(s): Robert Neimeyer, PhD; An Hooghe, PhD

Much has been written over the last 20 years about the importance of the continuing bond with the deceased in bereavement adaptation, but remarkably little attention has focused on just how therapists and clients might work on restoring and revising this bond of attachment when grief becomes prolonged, painful, and preoccupying. In this session we will closely examine the psychotherapy process as it unfolds across a single pivotal session of grief therapy with a woman who, in midlife, has sought therapy for an old but anguishing grief over the loss of her mother, who died more than 20 years before. Working closely with client metaphors, imagery and emotion, the therapist (RAN) works with her to contact, symbolize, and ultimately externalize the grief she has carried heavily for decades, and to begin the revolutionary work of disentangling it from memories of her mother, which have been “captured in a box of sadness” for more than half a lifetime. Punctuating viewing of the session with therapist commentary and a description of a surprising follow-up session, the presenters hope to open a dialogue with the audience that closes the gap between theory and practice, and illustrates creative practices to foster the reconstruction of meaning and attachment in the presence of complicated grief.

**Learning Objectives**
1. Describe the role of the continuing bond in adaptation to bereavement.
2. Use analogical listening to access and explore a felt sense of grief.
3. Engage in metaphorical reconstruction of client meanings associated with the loss.

**References**
Thursday, April 26, 2018
1:00 - 2:00pm

Practice Report

WHAT KIND OF CUPCAKE ARE YOU? USING CREATIVE INTERVENTIONS FOR GRIEF

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Introductory
Presenter(s): Timothy Schoonover, MS; Mary Boboweic, BA

Creative interventions have been shown to be an effective strategy to foster emotional processing in grief work (Finn, 2003). This presentation will showcase two creative interventions utilized in a university-based grief counseling group, including using cupcakes as a metaphor to assist clients in identifying feelings related to grief.

Learning Objectives

1. Participants will gain an understanding of the process and benefits of a university-based grief counseling group.
2. Participants will learn the benefits of utilizing creative interventions in a grief counseling group.
3. Participants will learn a unique, creative intervention based on utilizing cupcakes as a metaphor to identify and express feelings related to grief.

References

Thursday, April 26, 2018
1:00 - 2:00pm

Scholarly Paper

**EXAMINING THEORIES OF LOSS FOR LIVE DISCHARGE FROM HOSPICE**

**Category:** Non-death-related Loss  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate  
**Presenter(s):** Stephanie Wladkowski, PhD; Cara Wallace, PhD; Allison Gibson, PhD

Individuals with chronic illness may be discharged alive from hospice if their condition stabilizes. A live discharge in some ways is a unique experience for each hospice patient, caregiver, and interdisciplinary team. The interdisciplinary hospice team plays a pivotal role in supporting patients and caregivers by maintaining a sense of hope through the final stages of a disease. It is important for practitioners to be aware of current termination practices necessary to manage appropriate attachments. This presentation reviews the application of theories to assist hospice professionals with identifying appropriate and meaningful interventions during a live discharge from hospice care.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Participants will be able to describe the unique characteristics of a live discharge from hospice for patients and caregivers.
2. Participants will be able to discuss components of the theories: Attachment, Symbolic Interaction, and Ambiguous Loss in consideration of a live discharge from hospice care.
3. Participants will be able to describe practice approaches to support the ambiguous losses of a live discharge from hospice care.

**References**

Concurrent Session III  
Thursday, April 26, 2018  
2:15 - 3:15pm

Bridging Research and Practice  
**DIGNITY CARE: A WAY TO BRIDGE GAPS BETWEEN DEATH & DYING**  
**Category:** Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate  
**Presenter(s):** Timothy Copeland, BA, MS

Dignity conserving care can be a bridge spanning gaps between the dying, death, survivors, and their care. The model of dignity conservative care can facilitate coordination between the medical, funeral, and family systems and positively influence trajectories of mourning, bereavement, and grief. It provides a family a feeling of control, meaning to the death, and a start to the adjustments to grief. There presently have been few efforts to coordinate this triangular relationship; doing so may make the transition from a caregiver to survivor less complicated.

**Learning Objectives**
1. Discuss the triangular relationship between patients/families, medical caregivers, and funeral services.  
2. Describe the principles of dignity conserving care with individuals and families at end of life and how medical and funeral service professionals can work cooperative through applying these principles.  
3. Discuss how to adapt dignity conserving care to specific settings as well as across care systems, and recognize it is the family system each one is ultimately assisting.

**References**
Thursday, April 26, 2018
2:15 - 2:45pm

Research Report – 30 minutes

THE EFFECTS OF CHILDHOOD TRAUMATIC LOSS ON COLLEGE STUDENTS

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Introductory
Presenter(s): Susan Lawrence, M Ed

Although adults may not consider grief to be traumatic, our research has indicated this otherwise with children. Our research asked college students who experienced a death during their childhood to rate the experience on a scale indicating level of perceived trauma. A large number of the students considered the death to be highly traumatic regardless of the nature of the relationship to the deceased or the manner in which the person died. The level of trauma was found to be correlated with several other factors of importance in adulthood. These findings have implications for those who work with grieving children.

Learning Objectives
1. Recognize that the perception of grief and trauma may be different in adults and children.
2. Describe some potential long-term effects of loss and bereavement during childhood.
3. Explain the importance for adults to recognize the potential for grief to be traumatic for children in order to provide support.

References
BEREAVEMENT LEAVE POLICY: COLLEGE STUDENTS’ FEEDBACK

Category: Assessment and Intervention
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Presenter(s): Chye Hong Liew, MSEd; Heather Servaty-Seib, PhD

This study examined grieving college students’ (N = 49) experiences with the Grief Absence Policy for Students (GAPS) at a large Midwestern university. Participants’ mean satisfaction with the GAPS was 3.14 on a 4-point scale. Content analysis of the open-ended responses indicated 4 primary themes including (a) Grief Facilitation, (b) GAPS Content, Rules, and Specification, (c) GAPS Process and Implementation, and (d) Need for Training and Ongoing Support. Each primary theme contained two to five subthemes. All themes and subthemes will be discussed and direct quotes from participants will be used to fully illustrate the nature of each theme.

Learning Objectives
1. Describe common elements of a bereavement leave policy for college students.
2. List the beneficial aspects of a bereavement leave policy—as indicated by students who used such a policy.
3. Explain the suggestions for improvement for bereavement leave policies offered by study participants.

References
The Tri-Dimensional Competency Model of Supervision focuses on three specific competency dimensions critical to the supervision of hospice and palliative care social workers. These include Administrative/Professional, Clinical, Self-Informed/Personal competency dimensions. Supervisors are informed and guided by the model to focus not only on the basic dimensions but also on the areas of intersection between these dimensions, and then bring them to the attention of the social worker. This is where critical teaching and learning occurs during supervision. Social workers, especially recent graduates, faced with issues related to death and dying present for supervision with a variety of needs and concerns.

Learning Objectives
1. Identify the three competency dimensions and their areas of intersection.
2. Explore the supervisor’s multiple roles of teacher/mentor/consultant/gatekeeper dependent on the developmental needs of each social worker.
3. Utilize activities in supervision to stimulate learning in hospice and palliative care social workers.

References
Thursday, April 26, 2018
2:15 - 3:15pm

Scholarly Paper

**IT TAKES A VILLAGE: THE NONPROFESSIONAL MENTAL HEALTH WORKER MOVEMENT**

**Category:** Traumatic Death  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate  
**Presenter(s):** Janet McCord, PhD; Michael Kral, PhD; Rebecca Morse, PhD

Edwin S. Shneidman was a scholar/practitioner whose approach to suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention was critical to our current understanding of suicidology. His work was grounded in a social justice perspective and he went on to design a US national agenda of suicide prevention, and created the first international professional association dedicated to the study and prevention of suicide. These initiatives became a movement utilizing volunteer, peer intervention for the suicidal, and peer support for the bereaved. This presentation will review the literature on this nonprofessional mental health and grief support movement, across history and around the world.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Participants will be able to discuss the contributions of Shneidman to the nonprofessional mental health and grief support movement.
2. Participants will be able to identify key social justice factors in Shneidman’s work and that of the nonprofessional mental health and grief support movement.
3. Participants will be able to discuss how the nonprofessional mental health and grief support movement are grounded in socially responsible action for a better world, around the world.

**References**

Thursday, April 26, 2018
2:15 - 3:15pm

Personal Story

THE INSIDERS VIEW: ONLINE SUPPORT IN A BEREAVED MOTHER’S ONLY GROUP

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Presenter(s): Janice Meisenhelder, DNSc

Bereaved parents are increasingly looking for support in social media, such as Facebook. This presenter shares her observations and experiences participating in several of these closed online groups for mothers who have lost a child. Online group discussion will be contrasted to face-to-face discussions in a traditional small support bereavement group. This session will discuss observations of common online themes as well as differences in cultures between several such closed groups. Content includes both positive and negative aspects of group participation as shared by group participants and observed by the presenter, as well as supported by the literature.

Learning Objectives
1. Identify four common themes in Facebook posts in a bereaved mothers’ group.
2. Discuss differences in online culture between closed groups and causes for such differences.
3. Explain both the benefits and disadvantages of online bereavement support groups.

References
Thursday, April 26, 2018
2:15 - 3:15pm

Practice Report

**CHANGING VIEWS ON CEMETERIES: BUILDING UNDERSTANDING ONLINE**

*Category:* Death Education  
*Presentation Level:* Intermediate  
*Presenter(s):* Jane Moore, EdD, FT; Lydia Smith

The definition of a cemetery is simple – a place where bodies are buried; a graveyard. In today’s world, a cemetery can be so much more than that. Too often students in thanatology courses have a narrow view of cemetery. In the Death in Pop Culture class, we seek to expand that view of cemetery, embracing the cemetery as a space of organization and pattern, community, architecture, work/maintenance and art/creation. With the research done by Watson Fellow, Lydia Smith, we have created a module for students to learn about the diverse views of cemeteries internationally.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Recognize the changing nature of cemeteries in the modern world.
2. Discuss ways to challenge western traditional views of cemeteries in an online thanatology class.
3. Compare North American views of cemeteries to international approaches to cemetery space and organization.

**References**

Thursday, April 26, 2018  
2:15 - 3:15pm  

Research Report – 60 minutes  
FAMILY STRENGTHS AND BEREAVED CHILDREN’S RESILIENCE ACROSS TWO YEARS  
Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)  
Presentation Level: Intermediate  
Presenter(s): Rhonda Richardson, PhD; Pamela Ferguson, MA; Susan Maxymiv, MA

Using data from a sample of 942 children and adolescents (ages 6-17) who attended a bereavement camp, this presentation will describe positive youth development and family well-being over a two year time span. A strengths-based orientation will be used to explore the potential for children’s resilience in spite of the experience of loss using measures of positive youth development and grief progress. Cohesion and adaptability will be examined as dimensions of the family system as an arena within which bereaved children and adolescents adapt over time.

Learning Objectives
1. Define positive youth development, grief progress, and family adaptability and cohesion as indicators of resilience in bereaved children and families.  
2. Describe the longitudinal course of bereaved children’s and families’ resilience.  
3. Analyze the relationship between family functioning and resilience in bereaved children and adolescents.

References
Thursday, April 26, 2018
2:15 - 3:15pm

Professional Case Presentation
**MINDFULNESS & GRIEF: REENGAGING WITH LIFE AFTER LOSS**

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

**Presentation Level:** Intermediate

**Presenter(s):** Heather Stang, MA, C-IAYT

Dipping a toe back into life’s icy waters after a major loss can feel daunting. Mindfulness-based practices, including meditation, yoga and guided journaling prompts, can provide a framework to help bereaved people cultivate posttraumatic growth and even improve physical and emotional health beyond pre-loss states. Case studies from online and in person Mediation for Grief Groups will be examined to illustrate how these practices can transform difficult emotions in the moment, and impact lifestyle choices and mental habits long-term, empowering people who are bereaved to choose how to reengage with life after loss in a meaningful way.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Explain how mindfulness practices, including present moment awareness and compassion, can be used to relieve physical and emotional suffering.
2. Outline specific meditation, yoga, and guided journaling techniques that enhance the ability to connect with the body's wisdom.
3. Review case studies that illustrate how the practice of mindfulness meditation and yoga contributes to meaning making and posttraumatic growth.

**References**

Thursday, April 26, 2018
2:15 - 3:15pm

Research Report – 30 minutes

**PARENT-CHILD COMMUNICATION FOLLOWING THE LOSS OF A PARENT TO CANCER**

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

**Presentation Level:** Introductory

**Presenter(s):** Megan Weber, MS

In order to explore parent-child communication in parentally bereaved families, parents and children from five families were interviewed. Inductive content analysis showed that the death of a parent may affect parent-child communication differently for parents and children. Parents struggled with a lack of time or energy for prioritizing communication and adjusting to their identity as a single parent. Children attempted to avoid negative thoughts and feelings while reminiscing about their deceased parent. Earlier research as well as clinical implications and future research will be discussed.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Identify four key areas of parent-child communication which may be affected by the family's loss.
2. Explain how previous research supports the findings of this study.
3. Evaluate the importance of these findings for clinical practice or future research with bereaved families.

**References**

Concurrent Session IV
Thursday, April 26, 2018
4:15 - 5:45pm

Experiential Workshop

SITTING WITH SUFFERING: A VIDEO TRAINING APPROACH

Category: Death Education
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Presenter(s): Mark de St. Aubin, MSW

Our Handbook of Thanatology contains the essential body of knowledge for our work, but this knowledge alone cannot teach the competencies necessary to enable a counselor to work effectively with a suffering human being. This session explores a video training approach used by one counseling program as a method of helping students develop these competencies by identifying patterns of ‘how they dance’ with their suffering client during a therapeutic counseling session and receiving feedback on these patterns with their client. Participants will take part in a demonstrated training session, and will discuss its application within their own institutions.

Learning Objectives

1. Identify common interactional patterns between a grief counselor and the bereaved client (‘How we dance’ in therapy).
2. Practice one model of training which increases a counselor’s ability to 'sit with the suffering' of a client through the use of video presentation and peer feedback.
3. Apply this teaching method for clinical skill development to their counseling training program within their own institution.

References

Thursday, April 26, 2018
4:15 - 5:45pm

Experiential Workshop
**THRIVE WITH HUMOR**

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

**Presentation Level:** Introductory

**Presenter(s):** Peg DeBaise, MA; Chelsea DeBaise

Scientific research has proven laughter’s benefits to one’s physical and emotional well-being, especially for the bereaved. This presentation demonstrates the importance of incorporating humor into our practices. Participants will gain an understanding of the positive effects of humor on the grieving process and how to know when to use humor with our grieving clients. They will also learn how humor prevents professional burnout. Attendees will be able to apply the techniques of improvisation as a therapeutic tool—improving their active listening and empathy skills. And they’ll get a chance to see live improvisational comedy, reaping the benefits of laughter!

**Learning Objectives**

1. Identify the physiological benefits of laughter and learn the positive effects of humor on the grieving process.
2. Utilize improvisation in one’s practice as a way to be fully present with clients.
3. Cite examples of how to use humor as a way to prevent professional burnout.

**References**

Thursday, April 26, 2018  
4:15 - 5:45pm

Experiential Workshop  
**THE POWER OF FILM: NARRATIVES OF LOSS AND HEALING**

**Category:** Death Education  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory  
**Presenter(s):** Donna Gaffney, DNSc

Rebirth is the award-winning documentary that follows the nine-year journeys of New Yorkers whose lives were forever changed after 9/11. These stories go beyond the terrorist attacks; they portray a more universal journey, the human experience of loss and grief. Educational tools and strategies complement the film in a number of settings and different audiences, including students and teachers from middle school to graduate school, still other programs engage communities and veterans peer support groups. This session will allow participants to preview excerpts of the films and explore their use and teaching tools in educational or clinical settings.

**Learning Objectives**
1. Identify themes and concepts in the nine films and their application in a variety of settings.
2. State the significance of video and film as educational tools for a variety of audiences, including students, practitioners and individuals who provide grief support.
3. Describe how pre and post-film discussions can bring learners into a present and direct experience.

**References**
Thursday, April 26, 2018
4:15 - 5:45pm

Panel Discussion

**FAMILY GRIEF FROM AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE**

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

**Presentation Level:** Intermediate

**Presenter(s):** Kathleen Gilbert, PhD; Lauren Breen, PhD; Janice Nadeau, PhD; Daniela Reis e Silva, MCP; Regina Szylit, PhD; Debra Wiegand, PhD

This panel discusses grief theory, research, practice, and education in the context of the family. We concentrate on family systems theory and tie these to existing grief theories. Challenges in conducting research on bereaved families and important questions regarding study design and implementation are addressed. With practice, family-centered care is a key foundational consideration in many settings. We then argue for the inclusion of family-focused content in grief education. We represents five countries, four continents, and a range of academic and professional orientations, both clinical and scholarly. We draw on these diverse perspectives as well as personal experiences and observations.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Describe the value of incorporating the family context as a means of thinking beyond tindividual perspective.
2. Identify the value and challenges of studying whole families vs. family representatives when studying grief in the family context.
3. Discuss how family-centered care where the family is the unit of care (as opposed to individual-focused care) serves as a key foundational consideration in many clinical settings.

**References**

Thursday, April 26, 2018  
4:15 - 5:45pm

Panel Discussion  
WAYS OF THINKING IN PEOPLE WITH COMPLICATED GRIEF

Category: Assessment and Intervention  
Presentation Level: Intermediate  
Presenter(s): Bonnie Gorscak, PhD; Natalia Skritskaya, PhD; Valerie Richards, PhD; Nancy Turret, LCSW

Ways of thinking can exacerbate the pain of grief and interfere with acceptance of the reality of the death. This panel will explore assessment and treatment of maladaptive thoughts in Complicated Grief Treatment (CGT), a time-limited, efficacious psychotherapy that fosters adaptation to loss. A brief review of the treatment’s conceptual framework and core procedures will be followed by a presentation of patterns of maladaptive thinking in people enrolled in clinical trials of CGT and discussion of strategies to ameliorate them in work with women who have suffered sudden, unexpected pregnancy loss and with suicide bereaved patients with CG.

Learning Objectives
1. Attendees will be able to describe the role of maladaptive thoughts in complicated grief.
2. Attendees will be able to identify at least two ways of thinking that bereaved persons exhibit which can become maladaptive and interfere with grief adaptation.
3. Attendees will be able to discuss at least one way to help bereaved people to resolve maladaptive thoughts.

References
Thursday, April 26, 2018
5:10 - 5:45pm

Research Report – 60 minutes
THE EXISTENTIAL EXPERIENCE OF DYING THROUGH THE LENS OF CAREGIVERS
Category: Dying
Presentation Level: Introductory
Presenter(s): Mark Hodnick, EdD

What does it mean to die well? Medical science continues to find ways to prolong life nearly indefinitely. However, the death of a human being is much more than a biological event. Dying is an existential experience that involves the whole of a person’s being – body, mind and spirit. The purpose of this research was to gain an understanding of how people experience dying. Through the stories that were told by professional caregivers, dying well means to die in comfort and at peace physically, emotionally, and metaphysically.

Learning Objectives
1. To gain an awareness and understanding that dying is physical-psycho-spiritual life experience that involve a person’s entire being.
2. To learn how the physical-psycho-spiritual aspects of a terminally ill person interact with each other to create the existential experience of dying.
3. To apply the understanding that dying is physical-psycho-spiritual life experience to providing a more holistic approach towards caring for the sick and dying.

References
Thursday, April 26, 2018
4:15 - 5:45pm

Panel Discussion

**OUR WORK, OURSELVES – REFLECTING ON OUR OWN LOSSES AS THANATOLOGISTS**

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

**Presentation Level:** Intermediate

**Presenter(s):** John Jordan, PhD; Heather Servaty-Seib, PhD; Ronald Attrell, LCSW; Amy Chow, PhD

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**

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

**References**

Habits of the Heart is merely one example, yet a comprehensive example, of attachment-oriented, narrative reframing. This presentation will use case conceptualization to demonstrate the various uses of Habits of the Heart specifically and attachment reframing in general. Once a general framework is established this presentation will dive deeper in to the use of neuroscience and attachment theory in practice with an emphasis on making science, theory, and research accessible to clients in the grief therapy setting.

Learning Objectives
1. Discuss the various uses of attachment reframing on grief therapy setting.
2. Demonstrate the use of attachment reframing and Habits of the Heart in practice situations.
3. Summarize the applicability of current research in neuroscience and attachment theory in grief therapy.

References
Thursday, April 26, 2018
4:15 - 5:45pm

Experiential Workshop

**UNCERTAIN LIFE EXPLORE GRIEF’S MULTIPLICITY THROUGH EXPRESSIVE ARTS**

**Category:** Non-death-related Loss  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory  
**Presenter(s):** Rebekah Near, CAGS; Steve Podry, CAGS

Someone once said, if you are not mourning than you are not currently alive in the present day. Explore using Expressive Arts interventions to engage the multiplicity of emotions associated with individual and communal grief. As art making and life experiences are shared, participants will develop new ways to be in relation with grief and with one another. This workshop will illuminate the importance of expressive arts in the field of Thanatology, and the place of grief work in our dreams of social change. Using the arts to dialogue with grief releases the vitality we need to carry on living.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Participants will engage in an Intermodal Expressive Arts intervention as it pertains to grief.
2. Participants will experience the connection between grief work and social change.
3. Participants will gain basic knowledge of Expressive Arts theory in the field of Thanatology.

**References**

Thursday, April 26, 2018
4:15 - 5:45pm

Experiential Workshop

**THE LABYRINTH: EXPLORING AN ANCIENT PATH FOR NEW INSIGHTS.**

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

**Presentation Level:** Introductory

**Presenter(s):** Christine Scott, LISW-S, FT; Judith Smith, LPCC-S, CT

Come and learn about the labyrinth, an ancient tool for prayer and meditation. We will explore the history of the labyrinth, and how to locate a labyrinth in one’s community. Participants in this experiential workshop will walk the path of a room sized canvas labyrinth and make a personal sized finger labyrinth. We will explore ways to use the labyrinth both in a group setting and individually to help those experiencing grief and loss to explore mindfulness and gain new insights into their own personal grief journey.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Participants will learn the history of the labyrinth as a tool for prayer and medication.
2. Explore therapeutic possibilities for use with people experiencing grief and loss.
3. Participants will experience walking a labyrinth and will make a "finger labyrinth" for personal use.

**References**

Keynote Speaker
Friday, April 27, 2018
8:40 – 9:40am ET

Japanese Spiritual Practices Facing Elder Care & Bereavement

CARL BECKER, PHD, DLITT
KYOTO UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Japan has the world’s most elderly population. This makes both the elderly and their caregivers more conscious of death. The elderly worry about becoming too much burden on their families and society, while their caregivers risk burnout in the process of caring for their elders.

Aging populations present challenges to health care systems too. (a) Families and hospitals must care for growing numbers of invalid or demented elders. This is an exhausting job for families and nurses, often leading to burnout, neglect, or even abuse. (b) Dying people themselves face problems of pain, fear, and loneliness. Drugs alone are not enough to heal these psychological problems. (c) Bereaved families suffer feelings of loss, grief, guilt, or meaninglessness. If not addressed, these can lead to additional diseases, accidents, depression, even suicide.

Yet Japanese culture has many hints for avoiding burnout while facing death. This presentation presents five aspects of Japanese spiritual practices: aspiration, perspiration, respiration, expiration, and inspiration. We shall see how tools for measuring meaningfulness can identify burnout before it becomes severe, and prevent elder abuse before it happens. We shall see how meditation can reduce the stress of both caregivers and people who are themselves dying. We shall also see how an East Asian understanding of life and death can reduce the pain and fear of death, and help to heal the grief of bereaved families.

Learning Objectives
1. Learn how measuring meaningfulness can identify burnout before it becomes dangerous.
2. Learn how meditation can reduce the stress of caregivers of people who are dying.
3. Learn techniques that can reduce fear of death, and help heal grief of bereaved families.

Keynote Biography
After studying death and dying at Kyoto University in the 1970’s, Carl Becker received his PhD from the East-West Center of the University of Hawaii in 1981. Subsequently he taught at Osaka, Tsukuba, and Kyoto Universities, the first foreign-born scholar fully tenured and promoted as a civil servant in a Japanese national university. He has received Fulbright grants and the SIETAR Award for Cross-Cultural Understanding. He participates in projects of Japan's Ministry of Education, is consulted by news media, and has been decorated by the Emperor of Japan for his studies of aging and dying in Japanese culture.
Concurrent Session V

Friday, April 27, 2018
10:45 - 11:45am

Personal Story

GRIEVING THE DREAM: 40, FEMALE, CHILDLESS, AND SINGLE

Category: Non-death-related Loss
Presentation Level: Introductory
Presenter(s): Alua Arthur, JD

The quickly rising percentage of childless women is one of the most overlooked and underappreciated current social issues, which in time will result in a greater challenge of elder orphans. Some are childless by choice and others are grieving the loss of the sequential dream; first comes love, then comes marriage, then comes baby in a baby carriage. What are various losses which create this ambiguous loss? How can our community identify and support the loss of circumstantial infertility? What are the ways in which practitioners can apply the distinctions of disenfranchised grief to the loss of any dream?

Learning Objectives

1. Identify societal factors which lead to the prevalence of the ambiguous loss of circumstantial infertility and the societal ramifications of it.
2. Distinguish between the myriad of losses which comprise this disenfranchised grief.
3. Apply the distinctions of disenfranchised grief of childless women to any person who is grieving the loss of a dream.

References

4. Internet Reference: Reference 1
Friday, April 27, 2018
10:45 - 11:45am

Bridging Research and Practice
CONTINUING BONDS ON STEROIDS: LINKING THEORY AND PRACTICE
Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Presenter(s): Jane Bissler, PhD; Phyllis Kosminsky, PhD

Clinicians who work with the bereaved are accustomed to hearing accounts of their clients’ contact with the deceased. Studies done with the bereaved who experienced loving connections with their deceased loved ones derived very positive psychological benefits from these connections. This presentation will link the research of such continuing bonds with actual practice. Videos will be shown of the clinician working with clients using several different modalities to work through the physical loss of the loved one as well as leaning into the new spirituality with the deceased.

Learning Objectives
1. At the completion of the presentation, participants will be able to name six positive psychological benefits derived from having continuing bonds with their deceased loved ones.
2. At the completion of the presentation, participants will demonstrate ways to work with their clients who are having a new spirituality with their deceased loved ones.
3. At the completion of the presentation, participants will have a working knowledge of ways to help their clients develop a new relationship with their deceased loved ones.

References
4. Most people think you're a fruit loop': Clients’ experiences of seeking support for anomalous experiences By Roxburgh, Elizabeth C.; Evenden, Rachel E. Counselling & Psychotherapy Research, Vol 16(3), 211-221.
Some grievers experience a spiritual crisis known as complicated spiritual grief (CSG)—a sense of discord, conflict, and distance from God, and/or members of his/her spiritual community. A validated, novel, easy-to-use measure of CSG, called the Inventory of Complicated Spiritual Grief currently exists. However, subsequent study results from participants’ narrative data and focus groups revealed numerous themes relative to CSG not found on the original ICSG. This study expands the ICSG to accommodate these new data. We will test the ICSG-2.0 using a diverse, international sample of 550 spiritually inclined grievers. Validity, internal consistency, and clinical implications will be discussed.

Learning Objectives
1. Describe the research and clinical importance of a bereavement-specific measure of complicated spiritual grief.
2. Differentiate between the proposed measure and the original measure.
3. Appreciate the research and clinical utility of the revised measure’s expanded number of items and more fine-grained subscales.

References
Friday, April 27, 2018
10:45 - 11:45am

Research Report – 60 minutes

DREAMS AND VISIONS: PROMOTING POST TRAUMATIC GROWTH AT THE END OF LIFE

Category: Dying
Presentation Level: Introductory
Presenter(s): Pei Grant, PhD; Rachel Depner, MHC; Kathryn Levy, MSW

End-of-life dreams and visions (ELDVs) are a prominent experience that may help the dying prepare for and make sense of death. This study aims to add knowledge and conceptualization of the potential positive post-traumatic growth (PTG) that accompanies ELDVs for hospice patients. Both dreaming and non-dreaming hospice patients in an acute care facility were surveyed as often as daily using the Post Traumatic Growth Inventory. Preliminary data suggests that hospice patients experiencing ELDVs have significantly higher overall PTG as well as its smaller components. This study suggests that dreams experienced at end-of-life can promote positive growth and enhance meaning development.

Learning Objectives
1. Describe the psychological aspects of dreams and visions at the end-of-life.
2. Identify the psychological effects of dreams and visions at the end-of-life on post traumatic growth in hospice patients.
3. Recognize how dreams and visions at the end-of-life may facilitate meaning development and making sense of death and dying.

References
Grief is normal, natural, and necessary following a death. Individuals respond differently to death, and responses are connected to the relationship an individual had with the deceased. Different elements contribute to complicated grief than elements that complicate the grief journey. In this presentation definitions of complicated grief and factors impacting the grief journey will be presented. Assessment is a key component for clinicians providing care to individuals who are seeking grief counseling. Assessment determines the degree to which individuals carry out normal activities following a death and the interventions clinicians use. Case examples will illustrate different types of grief.

Learning Objectives
1. Define terminology used to assess the emotional, psychological, cognitive, and spiritual grief reactions associated with complicated grief.
2. Apply complicated grief terminology to case examples assessing the degree to which individuals continue normal activities following a death.
3. Select appropriate interventions for each case using information from the assessment conducted.

References
Friday, April 27, 2018
10:45 - 11:45am

Professional Case Presentation

A FAMILY GRIEVES AFTER DEATH BY DRUG OVERDOSE: A CASE STUDY

Category: Traumatic Death
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Presenter(s): Sarah Montgomery, MSW, LCSW-C; Joy McCrady, MS, LGPC

Losing a loved one to overdose is complicated. Shame, guilt, blame, stigma and fear are often parts of this disenfranchised grief. As adults struggle themselves to comprehend this loss, how do they begin to explain this type of death to children? What words do we use? How do we offer support? This workshop will use a case study example of one family with school-aged children who lost their mother to drug overdose. We will explore developmentally appropriate language to use with children after an overdose death and identify strategies to guide children (and adults who love them) in their grief.

Learning Objectives
1. Discuss developmentally appropriate language to use with children after an overdose death.
2. Explore common themes of grief and loss after a loss by overdose.
3. Identify strategies to assist children and families impacted by overdose-loss grief.

References
Friday, April 27, 2018  
11:15 - 11:45am

Research Report – 30 minutes

**SPIRITUAL RELIGIOUS COPING ON QUALITY OF LIFE OF PARENTS AFTER LOSS**

**Category:** Traumatic Death  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory  
**Presenter(s):** Natasha Parente, MHD

This cross-sectional, quantitative and qualitative study investigated the influence of spiritual/religious coping (SRC) on the quality of life of parents who has lost a child by homicide (67.5%), traffic accident (15%), tragedy (12.5%) suicide and lost bullet (both 2.45%). Forty participated in responding to SRC Scale Brief, WHOQOL-SRPB and the Duke Religious Index. No correlation was found between QOL, religious frequency and SRC. Qualitative results revealed positive SRC used as a resource to serve others, through volunteering and/or building prosocial institutions, to be beneficial for well-being, construction of meaning and searching purpose in life.

**Learning Objectives**

1. The proposal would broaden the knowledge regarding traumatic losses due to homicide, suicide, tragedy and accident.
2. Identify the interaction of fathers and mothers after the loss of a child, using religious / spiritual coping resources.
3. It seeks to show how spiritual religious coping can influence the quality of life of parents who have lost a child through violent death.

**References**

6. Internet Reference: Reference 2
LESSONS OF DEATH: DEVELOPMENT OF A UNIVERSITY POSTVENTION FRAMEWORK

While death may seem distant from the vibrant college and university atmosphere, an urgency arises to respond when a member of the campus community dies. Institutions can play a key role in providing mental health support within a culturally pluralistic framework. Grounded in bereavement theory, this presentation highlights current literature and institutional practices used to inform our campus framework. We will share curriculum developed to honor the deceased, facilitate healthy grief, and ensure support of responders. Resources to increase comfort with engaging students in death conversations will be available. Case examples of facilitating campus support sessions will highlight lessons learned.

Learning Objectives

1. Identify current postvention practices for responding to death on post-secondary campuses.
2. Describe relevant resources for targeted provision of mental health support to bereaved campus members and responders.
3. Explain benefits and challenges of institutional postvention group support sessions.

References

Friday, April 27, 2018
10:45 - 11:45am

Scholarly Paper

TEACHING IDEAS AND METHODS FOR PRE-MED AND MEDICAL STUDENTS.

Category: Death Education
Presentation Level: Advanced
Presenter(s): Ben Wolfe, MEd, LICSW, FT; William Hoy, DMin, FT

Today, the stethoscope first invented by a French physician in 1816 is still used, however, when working with patients and families dealing with end-of-life and bereavement issues, stethoscopes do not identify values, beliefs, cultural backgrounds, secondary losses, spiritual or religious beliefs, social support, hopes or dreams. This presentation will give examples and discuss teaching methods used with pre-med and medical students to think, “outside the science box.” This presentation will also demonstrate how future physicians are provided opportunities to explore their own beliefs and thoughts as they relate to end-of-life issues.

Learning Objectives
1. Describe what is means to “Live in the Second Circle.”
2. Describe various teaching methods that can be utilized with pre-med and medical students.
3. Identify at least four strategies for helping students develop and express critical thoughtfulness and clinical sensitivity.

References
6. Internet Reference: Reference 2
Sexuality and Intimacy Amidst Grief and Loss 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 complexity and nuance of sexuality amidst various types of loss such as following the death of a child, the implications of illness, or a terminal diagnosis. Participants will engage in dialogue, acquire skills, and will potentially be more comfortable in discussing issues related to grief and sexuality. Additionally, information will be respectfully presented in a manner that acknowledges the continuum of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Learning Objectives
1. Gain insight into this underacknowledged area of inquiry of sexuality and loss by addressing contemporary issues and current research.
2. Increase participants’ comfort level in addressing the lived realities of sexuality and intimacy for those who are bereaved and/or living with various types of illness.
3. Provide a sample of specific skills that can assist professionals in their ability to facilitate dialogue regarding sexuality and intimacy.

References
Friday, April 27, 2018
1:00 - 2:00pm

Research Report – 60 minutes

**INTUITIVE AND INSTRUMENTAL GRIEF: A STUDY OF RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY**

**Category:** Assessment and Intervention  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate  
**Presenter(s):** Louis Gamino, PhD; Kenneth Sewell, PhD; Lisa Prosser-Dodds, PhD; Nancy Hogan, PhD

209 participants completed the Grief Pattern Inventory (GPI; Doka & Martin, 2010) identifying three grieving patterns—intuitive, instrumental, dissonant. Redistribution of the dissonant items strengthened the other two scales resulting in acceptable alpha coefficients of reliability. These modified intuitive and instrumental scales were statistically independent constructs, a finding verified by factor analysis. Cluster analysis revealed four distinct subgroups within the sample exhibiting various levels of both intuitive and instrumental patterns. Both scales correlated positively with psychometric measures of distress and negatively with indicators of adaptation. Among participants with Sensing/Thinking preferences, the instrumental pattern prevailed. Implications for clinical practice are discussed.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Describe three hypothesized patterns of grieving: intuitive, instrumental, and dissonant.
2. Discuss indications of reliability and validity for the intuitive and instrumental patterns of grieving.
3. Discuss cluster subgroups illustrating how individuals may endorse a mix of intuitive and instrumental strategies in their responses to loss.

**References**

6. **Internet Reference:** Reference 5
Friday, April 27, 2018
1:00 - 2:00pm

Professional Case Presentation
GOD AS THE PERPETRATOR: FAITH AS AN IMPEDIMENT TO HEARTY GRIEVING

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Presenter(s): Galen Goben, MDiv, CT

Faith is an important component of grief. However, faith can be a hindrance when the bereaved feels God is to blame for the heartache. In this workshop you will recognize the foundational nature of faith and the impact it has on the assumptive world of the bereaved. Bowlby’s attachment theory can be used as a lens to view a person’s faith. Yet when God the caregiver becomes God the perpetrator faith becomes complicit in loss, and grief has the potential to become complicated. Learn to utilize the concept of lament to help reconstruct a relationship with God.

Learning Objectives
1. Recognize how religion impacts a person’s assumptive world.
2. Describe the relationship of attachment theory to a person’s relationship with God.
3. Utilize the concept of lament as a strategy for assisting the bereaved toward a trusting, authentic relationship with the divine.

References
A VARIATION OF EMDR TO FACILITATE GRIEF AND AFTER DEATH COMMUNICATIONS

Category: Assessment and Intervention
Presentation Level: Advanced
Presenter(s): John Jordan, PhD; César Valdez, LMSW

An alteration of the standard EMDR protocol shows promise as a method for facilitating grief and inducing an After Death Communication experience. This technique was pioneered by Alan Botkin, Psy.D., an experienced trauma therapist who calls the procedure Induced After Death Communication therapy. In this presentation, two therapists who have been trained by Botkin will present the background and method of the IADC method. They will also show video of a client experiencing the procedure. Discussion of the implications of this new technique for grief therapists who work with traumatized and bereaved clients will also be allowed, time permitting.

Learning Objectives
1. Describe the therapeutic goals of IADC Therapy and its expected outcomes.
2. Identify the key elements of the IADC therapy protocol.
3. Consider the implications of the technique for their current clinical practice.

References
Based on the Reciprocal Theory of Meaning-Making, Meaning-Centered Grief Therapy (MCGT) was developed to improve grieving individuals’ sense of meaning. This pilot trial of MCGT examined its underlying theory by comparing it to supportive psychotherapy (SP) in parents bereaved by cancer, investigating its differential effects on various meaning-related outcomes. Parents assigned to MCGT had higher levels of posttraumatic growth and personal meaning as compared to those assigned to SP. While both MCGT and SP facilitated meaning reconstruction, MCGT additionally enhanced posttraumatic growth, potentially resulting in the observed improvements in parents’ overall sense of meaning. Clinical implications will be discussed.

**Learning Objectives**

2. Discuss different measures of meaning-related processes.
3. Describe how Meaning-Centered Grief Therapy influences different facets of meaning in parents bereaved by cancer.

**References**

Violent bereavement is associated with disproportionately high rates of complicated grief (CG). It is vital to establish interventions that are tailored for these vulnerable grievers by examining the etiology CG specifically following violent loss. Scholarship suggests that violent loss increases symptoms of CG by hindering meaning making such that the bereft are unable to make sense of the death or its aftermath. This longitudinal study (N = 171) identifies themes of meaning disrupted following violent loss with the aim of informing interventions that facilitate meaning making in a manner that mitigates symptoms of CG among the violently bereft.

Learning Objectives

1. Recognize similarities and differences between themes of meaning that are manifested in the context of grief.
2. Identify specific themes of meaning that are disrupted in the aftermath of violent loss and how this disruption facilitates symptoms of complicated grief.
3. Discuss the application of the meaning reconstruction paradigm specifically in the context of clinical work with the violently bereft.

References

THE LONG LAMENT: UNDERSTANDING THE SIGH OF SUICIDE MOURNERS
Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Introductory
Presenter(s): Daniel Roberts, DD, DMin, FT; Terry Smith, EdD

How an officiant for the funeral (memorial service) for one who has died by suicide can honor the memory of the deceased, without encouraging others to join the journey, and how the same officiant can comfort and console all the bereaved as they travel the long road to reconciliation through the use of the Psalms.

Learning Objectives
1. Understanding how one can make a proper condolence call and construct an eulogy that is not accusatory.
2. Avoiding contagion and the desire to get to Heaven quicker.
3. After Care—Using the Psalms as a source of language for pain so as the pain can be addressed.

References
Friday, April 27, 2018
1:00 - 2:00pm

Research Report – 60 minutes

THE BEREAVEMENT EXPERIENCES OF AFRICAN AMERICAN FEMALES

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Introductory
Presenter(s): Denise Rollins, PhD

As clinicians and the bereaved continue to understand and acknowledge the idiosyncrasies of grief for various demographic groups, the presenter addresses a gap in the literature via her qualitative, grounded theory study that focused on the universality of grief, its cultural context and corresponding modes of support for bereaved African American women. The Contextual Process and Recovery (CPR) Cycle of Bereavement, which emerged from her research, can aid mental health professionals, people managing their own grief, and other individuals and institutions that help these bereaved women. The discussion will include strategies for utilizing the findings in personal and professional interactions.

Learning Objectives

1. Identify foundational and current theories in the literature addressing the grief of African American women.
2. Describe and analyze the key components related to how African American women view loss and respond to grief.
3. Evaluate treatment implications for clinicians working with African American female clients.

References

Friday, April 27, 2018  
1:00 - 2:00pm

**Personal Story**  
**LESSONS ON GRIEF AND MOURNING IN CARTOONS**  
**Category:** Non-death-related Loss  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory  
**Presenter(s):** Gail Rubin, CT

Animated movies designed for children can also address the grief of adults. This presentation incorporates clips from popular cartoon films that illustrate and instruct about mourning losses. From the death of loved ones to significant life changes, we can learn about resiliency and the rebirth of joy by watching characters address their challenges. This session provides a framework for understanding grief and coping strategies gleaned from thanatology and ways to effectively use animated film clips in funeral aftercare programs and non-death-related loss counseling.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Recognize the traumatic events that prompt grief over non-death-related loss.
2. Translate stories in animated films to benefit the emotional processing of both adult and young clients.
3. Create a film program for clients to watch, discuss and learn about grief and resiliency.

**References**

Friday, April 27, 2018
1:00 - 2:00pm

Bridging Research and Practice

**MOVING RESEARCH INTO PRACTICE IN CHILD BEREAVEMENT SERVICES**

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

**Presentation Level:** Intermediate

**Presenter(s):** Irwin Sandler, PhD; Maria Collins, MSW; Darcy Krause, JD, LSW; Crystal Wortham, LSW

This presentation will describe a collaborative project to translate the most extensively evaluated program (the Family Bereavement Program, FBP) for parentally-bereaved children into a practical and sustainable service that can be readily delivered by child bereavement agencies. The presentation will begin with an overview of the FBP, the research which demonstrates program impact and the challenges in translating the program into an effective community-based service. The collaboration between program developers and four community-based bereavement agencies will then be described from the perspective of one of the agencies that serves an urban, underserved population and one of the program developers.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Identify the Family Bereavement Program, its outcomes, and the primary elements of the intervention.
2. Recognize the challenges to bringing academic interventions to the field, particularly in an urban setting.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the research and implementation project and ways these lessons can be applied to personal research and applications.

**References**

Concurrent Session VII
Friday, April 27, 2018
2:15 - 3:45pm

Panel Discussion
**GRIEVING CHILDREN: THE FORGOTTEN VOICES IN THE OPIOID CRISIS**

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Introductory
Presenter(s): Terri Bowling, MS; Michael Yantis, MA; Jason Snyder; Amanda Primrose; Ashley Potts

The purpose of this presentation is to introduce and elevate the topic of grieving children in the opioid crisis conversation – “our opioid orphans” - those children left behind due to the death of a loved one to overdose. Children in the addiction/recovery family are often overlooked or not considered in treatment planning. Further, there are limited resources designed to effectively meet the needs of this growing population. We would like to highlight that addiction, and resulting death in the family is not only a devastating but traumatic experience for children.

**Learning Objectives**
1. Discuss current understandings and trends of addiction, treatment, and resources as related to addiction and resulting death due to overdose.
2. Understanding the complexities and challenges of the grieving child in the recovery/addiction family who has experienced a resulting death due to overdose.
3. Explore ideas for future research and considerations for systems of support for this overlooked population.

**References**
5. www.highmark.com; www.highmarkcaringplace.com
6. Internet Reference: Reference 5
Friday, April 27, 2018  
2:15 - 3:45pm  

Experiential Workshop  
**USING THEATRE TO START THE CONVERSATION**  
Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)  
Presentation Level: Intermediate  
Presenter(s): Elizabeth Coplan, BA; Claudia Coenen, CT, MTP  

Through the use of theatre and film, we present clinicians with new tools to create an empathetic environment with even the most reluctant client. In this session, we show a 10-minute live play as well as a short film depicting different death and grief scenarios. We know that theatre and film produce sensations, movements, emotions, and images. These “feelings” give clinicians the opportunity to create an affective embodied experience by connecting with somatic memories. We then engage in a Q&A session to learn how to encourage a client to open up and express both gut responses and reflections.  

Learning Objectives  
1. Explore your physical and emotional responses to the tragedy and deaths portrayed in the performances.  
2. Understand that through the seemingly passive activity of watching a film or a play and using follow-on (should this be “follow-up”?) questions and discussions, you awaken the opportunity to move along the healing process.  
3. Identify ways you or your clients may have repressed feelings and how you can identify the fears associated with dying and death.  

References  
6. **Internet Reference: Reference 3**
Friday, April 27, 2018
2:15 - 3:45pm

Panel Discussion
**TEACHING THAT MATTERS: BALANCING THE ACADEMIC AND PERSONAL**

**Category:** Death Education

**Presentation Level:** Intermediate

**Presenter(s):** Illene Cupit, PhD; Heather Servaty-Seib, PhD; Mary Varga, PhD; Laura Wheat, PhD

This year’s Teaching that Matters Symposium (TMS) considers the challenges of addressing both cognitive and personal processing within the context of course content in death education. Presentations will cover students’ examination of personal values and affective responses to course content, differences between graduate and undergraduate personal reflections, the use of grief reflection as a tool for learning about research in thanatology and a program evaluation of a grief outreach service learning course. The symposium will conclude with an audience discussion of best practices integrating cognitive and affective issues in death education.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Describe some of the critical issues involved in integrating cognitive and affective aspects of death education.
2. Obtain new ideas about pedagogical techniques that may be used to address personal reflections about death education.
3. Address the unique challenges that death educators experience in presenting emotionally laden material on end-of-life issues in both face-to-face and online environments.

**References**

Experiential Workshop

**LISTENING AT THE THRESHOLD: MUSIC IN END-OF-LIFE CARE**

**Category:** Dying

**Presentation Level:** Intermediate

**Presenter(s):** Kate Dean-Haidet, PhD, RN, PMH-CNS; John Florian, M Div

This experiential session briefly references the current literature on the therapeutic uses of music in end-of-life care, including relevant concepts from psychoacoustics. Sound and music are described as portals to deep sources of strength and spiritual connection. The presenters will discuss resonance, entrainment, and the benefits of live rather than recorded music. Participants are invited to listen to stories about how music allows for heart-felt connection to patients, and between patients and family members in hospice care. This session provides an opportunity to listen to music designed to provide a centering experience for those who listen in end-of-life scenarios.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Define resonance and entrainment, two concepts from psychoacoustics, and their application for the use of music in hospice care.
2. List outcomes from evidence based research that suggest the benefits of using music in hospice care.
3. Discuss the personal effects of the live centering music provided in this session.

**References**

Batman, one of the most iconic superheroes of our time, is a story of a child (Bruce Wayne) who witnesses the brutal murder of his parents on the streets of Gotham City. He vows to avenge their deaths, and it is in the aftermath that the story of Batman begins. Join us as our super grief experts explore through differing frameworks the superhero grief of Batman. Questions related to complicated grief (Shear, 2015), parental death loss (Sandler, Ayers & Romer, 2002), attachment (Kosminsky & Jordan, 2016), sense and meaning-making (Currier, Holland, & Neimeyer, 2006) and interventional strategies will be discussed.

Learning Objectives
2. Learn how the use of superhero narratives can be applied in working with the bereaved.
3. Discuss the intersection of grief and trauma, its influence and elements of Batman's narrative on a transformative grief process and factors for risk and resilience.

References
Patients with serious illness (and their family members) will typically need to make a number of important decisions about the kind of medical treatments that are provided as the end of life draws nearer. Clinicians tend not to want to pursue aggressive measures at the ends of their own lives, but all too often aggressive treatment of illness is what they advise for their patients, and what their patients expect. Clinicians talk frankly about this dichotomy in a series of videos in which they offer patients frank and heartfelt advice about medical decision making at the end of life.

Learning Objectives

1. Recognize common misunderstandings patients and other lay decision makers have about the relative benefits and costs associated with aggressive treatment of serious illness at the end of life.
2. Describe the dichotomy between the level of care clinicians tend to prefer for themselves vs. what they advise for their patients at the end of life.
3. Outline the basic elements of an effective end-of-life care conversation.

References

A traumatic death can be shattering for those left behind. In this workshop we will explore how dance/movement and other art modalities can be integrated into trauma-informed, restorative treatment approaches to promote resilience and healing. Participants will learn practical mind/body strategies that can help the bereaved cope with the interplay of trauma and grief reactions. Ideas for working with children, teens, adults, and families will be explored. Through case examples and experiential exploration, we will look at ways to create a safe container for retelling the narratives of loss and reconnecting with visions of wholeness and hope.

Learning Objectives

1. Describe three components of the restorative retelling model.
2. Demonstrate at least two mind/body self-regulation and calming strategies.
3. Cite an example of how movement, music, and metaphor can be used to process narrative of loss.

References

There is a clearly identified need for terminally ill clients to receive counseling to address the emotional and psychological aspects of death and dying. One promising approach to end-of-life counseling is Dignity Therapy. Dignity Therapy is a person-centered, therapeutic approach that seeks to restore dignity in dying patients and address end-of-life suffering. The current presentation will discuss the use of Dignity Therapy with dying clients and introduce a study that seeks to examine the effectiveness of Dignity Therapy in a hospice setting with dying patients.

Learning Objectives

1. Learn about Dignity Therapy and the use of this approach as an intervention in end-of-life counseling.
2. Understand how Dignity Therapy may influence a dying patient's experience of a good death.
3. Describe the importance of experiencing a good death and how the proposed study investigates this experience.

References

5. Chochinov, H. M. (2012). Dignity therapy: Final words for final days. OUP USA.
This paper is an analysis of contemporary practices in hospice and palliative care pertaining to spiritual and religious identities of service users. It draws on the concept of religious literacy (Dinham & Francis, 2015) and examines how professional practice in hospice and palliative care settings can enhance its rigour when responding to religion, belief and spiritual needs (Pentaris, 2016). This study uses a triangulation method (Carter et al., 2014), and thematic analysis. The paper concludes that despite the immense willingness of professionals to integrate these identities in practice, they still lack the abilities to do so.

Learning Objectives
1. Discuss the descriptors of religious literacy.
2. Identify the need for the development of a more inclusive response to religion, belief and spiritual identities.
3. Discuss the framework of religious literacy, and demonstrate an understanding of its applicability.

References
Friday, April 27, 2018  
2:15 - 3:45pm

Experiential Workshop  
**YOGA FOR GRIEF RELIEF**  
**Category:** Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory  
**Presenter(s):** Antonio Sausys, MA, IGT, CMT, RYT

Physical symptoms of grief are just as common as the mental, behavioral, social, spiritual and emotional ones. Talk therapy can be effective, but too often the body-centered effects of grief get subsumed and remain untreated. Yoga can be instrumental in addressing all symptoms of grief because it focuses on mind, body, and spirit. In this experiential workshop participants will:

- Differentiate between hyperactive and hypoactive symptoms of grief.
- Practice techniques to re-establish the normal function of the sleeping cycle.
- Utilize breathing exercises to decrease the intensity of extreme mood swings.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Differentiate between general categories of hyperactive and hypoactive symptoms of grief.
2. Practice specific techniques to help re-establish the normal function of the often disturbed sleeping cycle.
3. Utilize specific breathing exercises to decrease the intensity and picks of extreme mood swings.

**References**

4. **Internet Reference:** Reference 3
Friday, April 27, 2018
2:15 - 3:45pm

Panel Discussion
CONTINUING BONDS: FROM REVOLUTIONARY ROOTS TO MAINSTREAM MODEL?

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Presenter(s): Edith Steffen, PsychD/Dr.; Amy Chow, PhD; Elaine Kasket, C.Psychol.; David Balk, PhD; Dennis Klass, PhD

When Continuing Bonds: New Understandings of Grief was published in 1996, it signalled a paradigm shift in bereavement research and practice. Coinciding with the publication of a follow-up volume, this discussion panel seeks to take stock of the impact of the continuing bonds model, evaluate how the model informs current developments in both bereavement theory and practice, and address questions about future developments. Is the model’s import still revolutionary and radical? Panel members address these points and questions, drawing on experience and expertise in a wide range of continuing bonds research and practice, informed by different cultural and professional contexts.

Learning Objectives
1. Gain in-depth understanding of the history and core features of the continuing bonds model in the field of bereavement.
2. Understand and critically evaluate the significance of the continuing bonds model for bereavement research and practice.
3. Discuss and assess future possibilities and outlook of the continuing bonds model in bereavement.

References
Concurrent Session VIII
Friday, April 27, 2018
4:45 - 6:15pm

Panel Discussion
NURTURING ADAPTIVE CONTINUING BONDS: INNOVATIVE BEREAVEMENT GROUPS
Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Presenter(s): Kate Dean-Haidet, PhD, RN, PMH-CNS; Pamela Gomph, MSW; Faith Kennedy, MSW; Teresa Neill-Green, MA; Christie Echard-McBride, MSW; Sarah Phillips, MSW

This presentation addresses diverse ways that adaptive continuing bonds are nurtured through symbolic processes in creative bereavement group programming in the first thirteen months after a death. Panel experts are hospice bereavement group facilitators who tenderly support adaptive continuing bonds through family-based activities, mourning ritual and memorial culture, the creative arts, book groups, and reflective practices such as meditation and yoga. Presenting narratives, evaluations, and images of their work with bereaved individuals, panel members address the transformative power of art, ritual, and reflective practices for those clients who struggle to capture the experience of grief and loss in words only.

Learning Objectives
1. Identify selected assumptions of continuing bonds theories of grief and their importance for planning contemporary hospice bereavement programming during the first year after a death.
2. Cite examples of innovative groups that seek to nurture adaptive continuing bonds by offering opportunities to engage the body, creatively express emotion, contain affective intensities, and re-member the deceased.
3. Describe resources needed to establish integrative bereavement groups that use creative arts, meditation, yoga, family camps, ritual, and memorial culture to nurture adaptive continuing bonds to the deceased.

References
Experiential Workshop

**READING BETWEEN THE LINES, CREATIVE BIBLIOTHERAPY & CHILDHOOD GRIEF**

**Category:** Assessment and Intervention  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate  
**Presenter(s):** Donna Gaffney, DNSc

Child and young adult literature has become increasingly popular with themes that cover some of the most challenging and traumatic events in the lives of young people. There are a number of books for children and teens that include the topics of loss, bereavement and grief. This session will provide participants with titles of books and strategies on how to include child and young adult literature as a therapeutic tool in their programs and practices. They will also learn how to use books as an empathy-building strategy in schools and communities and as an adjunct to professional and volunteer training.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Identify child and YA literature that incorporates experiences of loss, grief and bereavement. Such characteristics of YA literature include age, gender and support systems.
2. Describe how child/YA literature is used in different groups by identifying needs and goals of programs/practice settings, an adjunct to therapy, in professional training and in schools or communities.
3. Identifying themes of relationships, support, asking for help, trauma, memory, resilience, healing, trust in selected books as well as empathy, compassion, self-compassion of book characters and plots.

**References**

Friday, April 27, 2018
4:45 - 6:15pm

Experiential Workshop

**INTERVENTIONS WITH BEREAVED YOUNG PEOPLE**

**Category:** Assessment and Intervention

**Presentation Level:** Intermediate

**Presenter(s):** Shelley Gilbert, PhD

Insights are offered into the emotional and psychological experiences of prematurely bereaved children and young people. Dr Gilbert adopts a psychotherapeutic approach, based on foundations from Bowlby, Winnicott and Yalom, to analyse and present ideas that have emerged from her recent, award winning Doctoral research. Grief’s trajectory will be outlined, incorporating the Upward Spiral of Grief Theory. The core processes underlying grief and trauma will be discussed and key focus areas identified. Experiential learning will introduce creative therapeutic activities. Bridging recent research and practice, recommendations are made on how best to support this often overlooked group of vulnerable young people.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Explain the psychological and emotional processes following traumatic loss.
2. Evaluate the model of grief outlined.
3. Identify ways to support bereaved young people and their families.

**References**

6. **Internet Reference:** Reference 2
Friday, April 27, 2018
4:45 - 6:15pm

Panel Discussion
CHILDREN DON’T GRIEVE ALONE: MODELS OF INTERVENTION FOR FAMILIES
Category: Assessment and Intervention
Presentation Level: Introductory
Presenter(s): Robin Goodman, PhD; David Kissane, MD; Judy Cohen, MD; Anthony Mannarino, PhD; Elissa Brown, PhD

For some young people, grief cast aside can lead to short term and lifelong problems. An estimated 20-25% of parentally bereaved children will experience psychological and behavioral problems. Psychological adjustment of the surviving parent can play a major role in the child’s adjustment after parental death. The panelists will present three different interventions. Each presenter will discuss the rationale, assessment methods and criteria for inclusion, structure and format of sessions, and research and results of the intervention. Normative vs problematic grief and the challenges of treating children in the context of caregiver grief and family functioning will be discussed.

Learning Objectives
1. Develop an appropriate assessment package for bereaved children and their caregivers.
2. Identify the appropriate intervention for bereaved children based on symptoms, risk and protective factors, and child and adult functioning.
3. Discuss the application and pros and cons of different types of intervention for bereaved children.

References
Friday, April 27, 2018
4:45 - 6:15pm

Experiential Workshop

INTEGRATING FILM USE IN COUNSELING PROCESS WORK WITH THE BEREAVED

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Presenter(s): Margaret Grebin, MS, LMFT, FT

The value of film use in a therapeutic setting can be a valuable tool with the bereaved, providing space for individuals to tap into their emotions while being aware of the universality of grief and loss, reminding them they are not alone. Viewing a film can bring about a deeper understanding of ourselves, bringing personal insight and self-discovery, eliciting creative change and transformation. In this workshop, the cinematherapy process, foundational framework and therapeutic application will be reviewed. Viewing of death/bereavement scenario film clips will be followed with reflective questions and exploration of how this process might serve the bereaved.

Learning Objectives

1. Understand “Cinematherapy,” and the interactive process involved for use in psychotherapy and education.
2. Describe the foundational framework, and Identify strengths (benefits) and pitfalls (cautions/risks) in the implementation of cinematherapy with the bereaved.
3. Participants will process their experience, responding to various questions pertaining to the film, providing an understanding of how its use can potentiate insight, behavior changes, and/or cognitive restructuring.

References

Experiential Workshop

**GOLD STONE: A NARRATIVE GROUP APPROACH TO TRAUMA RECOVERY**

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

**Presentation Level:** Intermediate

**Presenter(s):** W. David Lane, PhD; Donna Lane, PhD; Ralph Menard, MS

This is an experiential review of a 6 week Brief Narrative Group for Trauma Survivors. Trauma, Narrative, and Group Therapy are reviewed and incorporated into an easy to use, effective treatment model for survivors of trauma to tell their story, relate to others, and reduce uncomfortable feelings and unhealthy coping.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Identify and understand the effects and results of trauma.
2. Identify and understand the central tenets of Narrative Therapy and Group Therapy.
3. Utilize Narrative Group Therapy to address the consequences of trauma and loss in the lives of your clients with a goal of preventing the development of long-term trauma-related pathology.

**References**

Panel Discussion

TOUGH CASES: BEREAVED PARENTS’ VOICES INFORMING OUR PRACTICE

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Presenter(s): Joyal Mulheron, MS; Laurie Burke, PhD; Wendy Lichtenthal, PhD; Michelle Palmer, MSW

This panel will examine the roles that medical and law enforcement systems play in a death event by using videotaped interviews with parents who experienced circumstances that aggravated grieving (e.g. mistaken cause of death, incompetent homicide investigations, preparation to place a live child in a body bag, failure to provide proper pain medication during the dying process). Panel members will examine the roles that medical and law enforcement systems play in a death event, discuss future directions in clinical practice, research, and policy that support grieving families, and how to reduce, if not eliminate, the subsequent victimizations they encounter.

Learning Objectives

1. Define the state-of-the-science of child death and its implications on families.
2. Analyze parental grief responses, complications, external stresses, or secondary traumas that exacerbate bereavement coping.
3. Identify new directions for clinical, research, and programmatic practices.

References

Friday, April 27, 2018
5:45 - 6:15pm

Research Report – 30 minutes

**PSYCHOMETRICS OF THE GRIEF RECOVERY METHOD® OUTCOME INSTRUMENT**

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

**Presentation Level:** Advanced

**Presenter(s):** Rachael Nolan, PhD; Jeffrey Hallam, PhD

For each death in the US, approximately four to five grieving persons remain. Due the provision of services that these grievers require in order to cope with and mourn significant loss, several programs have been established that aim to influence grief. Many of these programs, however, lack valid and reliable instrumentation and have not been evaluated for their effectiveness. This study describes the development and validation of The Grief Recovery Method® Outcome Instrument (GRMOI), a measure of programmatic factors believed to influence grief and promote grief recovery identified as a griever’s 1) knowledge, 2) attitudes, 3) beliefs, and 4) behaviors.

**Learning Objectives**

1. At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to define the burden of grief in the US.
2. At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to explain the importance of using valid and reliable instrumentation to evaluate grief-related programs.
3. At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will classify The Grief Recovery Method® as a potentially effective program that aims to influence grief and promote grief recovery in the bereaved.

**References**

Friday, April 27, 2018
4:45 - 5:45pm

This presentation is 60-minutes in length (scheduled during a 90-minute concurrent session) and attendees are eligible to earn one (1) CE hour.

Bridging Research and Practice

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE DECEASED IN RESEARCH AND THERAPY PRACTICE

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Presenter(s): Edith Steffen, PsychD/Dr.; Anastasios Gaitanidis, PhD

Grief therapy increasingly incorporates continuing bonds work, for example ‘correspondence with the deceased’ as in meaning reconstruction therapy. One presenter (EMS), who is currently trialling a meaning-oriented group grief therapy protocol developed by R.A. Neimeyer and E. Milman, will discuss the theoretical background and current evidence base. The other presenter (AG), a psychotherapist with both clinical and personal experience in the technique, will present actual examples of letters he has written to his deceased wife and received from her as well as a clinical vignette from his practice. Implications for researching correspondence with the deceased will then be discussed.

Learning Objectives
2. Understand and assess the potential significance and impact of letter-writing techniques in grief therapy practice.
3. Critically discuss implications for researching letter-writing grief therapy techniques.

References
1. Ihrmark, C., Hansen, E. M., Eklund, J., & Stodberg, R. (2011). “You are weeping for that which has been your delight”: To experience and recover from grief. Omega: Journal of Death and Dying, 64(3), 223-239.
Keynote Speaker
Saturday, April 28, 2018
4:25 – 5:25pm ET

The AIDS Memorial Quilt and the Design of Digital Memorial Experiences

ANNE BALSAMO, PHD
SCHOOL OF ARTS, TECHNOLOGY & EMERGING COMMUNICATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

The AIDS Memorial Quilt was created 25 years ago as a work of community activism to protest the appalling lack of attention by the US health agencies to what was then, in 1987, an increase in improbable fatalities among previously healthy gay men in the United States. Its first inception unfolded in October 1987 on the National Mall in Washington DC as part of the March for Gay Rights; it included 1,920 Quilt panels. Now 25 years later, the Quilt encompasses more than 48,000 panels, representing 60 countries and commemorating more than 93,000 names. It is the largest living memorial of its kind in the world.

This presentation discusses the creation of an interactive memorial that was designed to augment the viewing of the textile Quilt. I will demonstrate three digital experiences: 1) an open-source mobile web application called AIDS QUILT TOUCH; 2) a tangible tabletop interactive that enables viewers to SEARCH the database of Quilt images to find a specific image and to BROWSE the archive of Quilt panel images; and 3) a community sourcing application that engages people in analyzing and archiving information about the Quilt.

Learning Objectives
This presentation will introduce the concept of “digital memorials.” The example of the AIDS Memorial Quilt digital experiences will elaborate how individual memorials can be connected to cultural memorials through the use of appropriate digital technologies.

Keynote Biography
Anne Balsamo is a scholar, educator, entrepreneur, and designer of new media who has published multiple works exploring the cultural possibilities of emergent media technologies. Balsamo comes to Texas after having served as Dean of the School of Media Studies at The New School in New York City. She received her Ph.D. in Mass Communications at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Balsamo has been a leader in the growth of digital humanities in the United States, having served on the board of HASTAC (Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Advanced Collaboratory) since its founding in 2003. Her most recent book, Designing Culture: The Technological Imagination at Work (Duke University Press, 2011), is a transmedia platform that addresses the role of culture in the process of technological innovation in the 21st century.
Concurrent Session IX
Saturday, April 28, 2018
8:30 - 9:00am

Research Report – 30 minutes

RELATIONSHIP QUALITY TO THE DECEASED AND GRIEF SEVERITY

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Presenter(s): Jamison Bottomley, MS; Melissa Smigelsky, MA, MS; Mae-Lynn Germany, MS; Robert Neimeyer, PhD; Jessica Hammerton-Sawyer, BS

For decades, thanatology researchers have considered kinship category to the decedent to be a viable predictor of grief reactions. However, an overreliance on relationship category may be misleading. Instead, closeness to the decedent might serve as a better predictor of grief reactions and may account for the variability in reactions across types of loss. Using the QRI-B, we examine the role of pre-death closeness and conflict with the decedent on grief outcomes. Results indicated that, when closeness is measured systematically, it nearly perfectly mediates the relationship between kinship category and grief outcomes, representing a more precise predictor of untoward reactions.

Learning Objectives

1. Distinguish between kinship, closeness, and conflict as descriptors to relationship to the deceased.
2. Describe the impact of closeness and conflict on mourners’ grief responses.
3. Identify one measure of relationship quality with the deceased that can be used in clinical and research contexts.

References

Saturday, April 28, 2018
8:30 - 9:30am

Experiential Workshop
HEALING THE HELPERS: RELEASING VICARIOUS TRAUMA TO PREVENT BURNOUT

Category: Assessment and Intervention
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Presenter(s): Claudia Coenen, CGC, FT, MTP

Opening to the grief, trauma and crises of others can trigger personal reactions in counselors. The slippery slope from compassion fatigue to burnout requires proactive intervention. Explore how vicarious emotions take up somatic residence within us, how to release them while creating permeable boundaries, so that secondary grief does not become primary. After discussing the research behind vicarious trauma, we will explore breath, movement, expressive art and sound which can alleviate these issues in order to maintain compassionate presence. Participants will be invited to share their own wisdom and personal self-care methods so that we can learn from each other.

Learning Objectives
1. Review research in the field of compassion fatigue and discuss causes of vicarious trauma, compassion and burnout, transference/counter-transference from client to counselor.
2. Identify the helping professional's emotional and somatic reactions to the grief and trauma of others, how this can vicariously trigger personal grief, and experience specific exercises to release these reactions.
3. Explore ways to cope resiliently with vicarious trauma through breath, body awareness, movement, expression and sound, including ideas for effective self-care, generated in discussion with the participants.

References
Workplace burnout, stress, and fatigue negatively impact palliative care workers and additionally create pervasive secondary detrimental effects. In spite of the many initiatives/programs developed, many have failed to demonstrate positive outcomes or are lacking empirical rigor. The current observational study aims to specifically measure the relationship between professional quality of life, self-care, workplace isolation, and the capacity for meaning-integration in palliative care workers. This research will facilitate greater understanding of contributing facets of professional quality of life; help elucidate barriers to implementing programs/initiatives aimed at improving professional quality of life, and build towards an evidence-based treatment for palliative care workers.

Learning Objectives

1. Articulate, and recognize facets of Professional Quality of Life (Compassion Satisfaction, Compassion Fatigue, Burnout, Vicarious Trauma) commonly exhibited and relevant to palliative care clinical staff.
2. List and demonstrate self-care behaviors to improve neglected and/or deficient self-care strategies common in palliative care workers that may help prevent/lessen burnout, workplace isolation, and improve overall professional well-being.
3. Demonstrate knowledge about types of initiatives and/or programs that may help facilitate self-care and professional well-being which are specifically adapted for palliative and bereavement care staff.

References

Saturday, April 28, 2018
8:30 - 9:30am

Practice Report

**PRIMING PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS IN PALLIATIVE CARE**

**Category:** Dying

**Presentation Level:** Introductory

**Presenter(s):** Mari Dias, EdD

A review of the course offerings on current physician assistant curricula combined with a review of the existing literature on palliative care in higher education indicates a dearth of offerings in these skills. This workshop is the result of an invitation to develop and provide a model workshop to physician assistants with the inclusion of palliative care in a medically oriented curricula that rarely includes an in-depth discussion of the skills needed in palliative care. Participants will experience the workshop through the eyes of physician assistants who are charged to heal and save while facing death and profound suffering.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Participants will be able to differentiate the issues in palliative care from the lens of patients, families, and physician assistants.
2. Participants will be able to advocate for and defend the inclusion of palliative care training in physician assistant programs.
3. Participants will be able to apply ADEC's BOK Matrix categories to the knowledge base of physician assistants providing palliative care.

**References**

5. **Internet Reference:** Reference 2
Saturday, April 28, 2018
8:30 - 9:30am

Practice Report

**PARENT AND CHILD ADAPTIVE TASKS AFTER A DEATH IN THE FAMILY**

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

**Presentation Level:** Intermediate

**Presenter(s):** Andy McNiel, MA; Pamela Gabbay, EdD, FT

Grief is both an individual and corporate experienced shared within the context of a child’s family and social ecology. This presentation will explore five domains of family dynamics that are impacted after the death of a family member, including Roles and Responsibilities, Rituals and Routines, Expectations and Values, Beliefs and Superstitions, and Environment and Atmosphere. We will provide a model for working with families to recognize and navigate various adaptive tasks after the death of a family member. We will also provide interventions and techniques for professionals to incorporate into individual and family support.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Attendees will learn five domains for understanding family dynamics and how these are impacted by the death of a family member.
2. Attendees will increase their understanding of adaptive tasks associated with healthy family adaptation after the death of a family member.
3. Attendees will learn interventions and techniques for assisting families to successfully navigate adaptive tasks after the death of a family member.

**References**

5. Internet Reference: Reference 2
Saturday, April 28, 2018
8:30 - 9:30am

Personal Story
SHAME BORN IN SILENCE: DISENFRANCHISED LOSS FOLLOWING SEXUAL ASSAULT
Category: Non-death-related Loss
Presentation Level: Introductory
Presenter(s): Jessica Miller, PsyD; Sarah Dietz, PsyD

This presentation utilizes one individual's story to demonstrate how disenfranchised grief manifests in the aftermath of sexual assault, often perpetuating trauma. The story highlights how many fail to recognize these losses, often depriving survivors of the necessary support. We will also examine the impact of the unacknowledged losses on the survivor. The field of thanatology recognizes the importance of acknowledging loss and reconstruction in the resolution of grief; but sexual assault is not often viewed under this lens. Lastly, we will discuss the benefits of utilizing a grief framework with clients to provide space for healing following sexual assault.

Learning Objectives
1. Recognize disenfranchised grief resulting from sexual assault.
2. Understanding effects of unacknowledged losses following sexual assault.
3. Increased awareness of possible implications for treatment.

References
Saturday, April 28, 2018
8:30 - 9:30am

Research Report – 60 minutes

GRIEVING FOR STRANGERS: RUBBERNECKING OR EXPERIENTIAL EMPATHY?

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Introductory
Presenter(s): Carla Sofka, PhD

This presentation will explore “emotional rubbernecking” by sharing 1) the results of an online survey of social media users and 2) examples of social media participation following highly publicized tragic events. After summarizing the benefits and risks of participation in virtual communities of grief by individuals who did not personally know the deceased, a strengths-based label for this phenomenon - “experiential empathy” - will be proposed to capture the therapeutic components (e.g., provision and receipt of “virtual social support”; digital survivor advocacy) of this behavior. Implications for grief counseling, death education, and future research will be discussed.

Learning Objectives
1. Describe examples of event grief that occurred prior to and after the advent of social media.
2. Define the concepts of emotional rubbernecking, experiential empathy, and digital survivor advocacy in relation to online behavior and social media use among individuals who are grieving.
3. Discuss the potential benefits and risks/negative consequences of social media participation by someone other than a primary griever following the death of a stranger or a highly publicized tragedy.

References
Saturday, April 28, 2018
9:00 - 9:30am

Research Report – 30 minutes
**BEREAVEMENT RUMINATION PROCESS AND ITS ROLE IN ADJUSTMENT TO LOSS**

*Category:* Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
*Presentation Level:* Intermediate
*Presenter(s):* Suqin Tang, MS; Amy Chow

Bereavement rumination process consists of three components, namely content of rumination, metacognitions of rumination, and reactions to rumination. Exploratory factor analyses among 393 Chinese bereaved individuals showed that the content of rumination consisted of six factors: “Regretful Memories”, “Self-Comforting”, “Questing on Reactions”, “Questioning on Responsibility”, “Considering Others”, and “Conflicting Memories”. Two factors of metacognitions were “Rumination is Helpful and Normal” and “Rumination is Harmful and Uncontrollable”, and two factors of reactions were “Engaging in Rumination” and “Distancing from Rumination”. Regression analyses found adaptive and maladaptive types of ruminations, metacognitions, and reactions in association with prolonged grief, anxious and depressive symptoms.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Identify factors embedded in the content of rumination, metacognitions of rumination, and reactions to rumination in the bereavement rumination process.
2. Recognize the distinct role of different types of rumination, metacognition, and reaction in the development of prolonged grief, anxiety and depression following bereavement.
3. Demonstrate the clinical implications of the comprehensive assessment of bereavement rumination process and the adaptive and maladaptive types of rumination, metacognition, and reaction.

**References**

Communication at end of life (EOL) is difficult, but incredibly important. This research examined language as a clinical tool in hospice settings. Focus groups and interviews were conducted with hospice clinicians in order to understand language choices in providing EOL care. Findings illustrate three overarching themes, a) constructing the conversation, b) roles and responsibilities, and c) socio-cultural considerations. Implications and future directions for research will be discussed. This research substantially contributes to the field of thanatology by adding important insight to the line of research related to clinicians EOL communication and language use in hospice.

Learning Objectives

1. Demonstrate knowledge regarding the previous EOL language literature.
2. Identify how clinical language in EOL is constructed and the challenges clinicians face in this process.
3. Explain the importance of learning EOL language strategies for future clinicians and the need for earlier EOL discussions as a way to help counteract challenges created by delayed discussions.

References

6. Internet Reference: Reference 1
Saturday, April 28, 2018  
8:30 - 9:30am

Scholarly Paper

**USING NATURE BASED RITUALS WITH BEREAVED CLIENTS**

**Category:** Assessment and Intervention  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate  
**Presenter(s):** Christina Zampitella, PsyD

The development and use of individualized, therapeutic nature-based rituals as an intervention for bereaved individuals contains specific components that make the ritual meaningful, powerful, and transformational. This presentation aims to discuss the use of natural based rituals in the management of grief, specifically with adult surviving siblings (an often disenfranchised group of grievers). The attendee will learn how performing a ritual in nature has its own special properties and what specifically makes a ritual therapeutic, and will be given reproducible worksheets to guide clients in the development of their own personalized, nature-based therapeutic ritual.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Describe the required components for a ritual to be considered therapeutic.  
2. Discuss the therapeutic properties of nature-based interventions.  
3. Construct a nature-based, therapeutic bereavement ritual.

**References**

Concurrent Session X
Saturday, April 28, 2018
9:45 - 10:45am

Bridging Research and Practice
RELATIONAL FACTORS IN WORKING WITH BEREAVED FAMILIES
Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Presenter(s): B. Tammy Bartel, MA; Janice Nadeau, PhD

Grieving is often described as a very personal experience; however, it is also inherently interpersonal. Considering individuals within their relational context is integral to understanding the lived experience of bereavement. This presentation will address relational factors of bereavement that have emerged through research exploring family bereavement. Drawing on two data sets, the presenters will highlight the intricacies and nuances of doing research with more than one family member, and demonstrate the importance of recognizing family bereavement as a shared, relational process. The Nadeau Family Mobile will be used for illustration purposes. Implications will be drawn for theory, research, and practice.

Learning Objectives
1. To appreciate the intricacies and nuances of doing relational research, and be able to recognize important relational aspects of bereavement within family systems.
2. To identify three critical variables that are unique to relational studies versus studies of individual grief, and then discuss interventions that take these into consideration.
3. To discuss the implications that relational studies have for theory, research, and practice.

References
Biomedical advances rescue many from sudden death, enabling survivors to live with chronic conditions for years. As illness worsens and general frailty gradually asserts itself, death can often be foreseen. As never before, dying can invite attention to itself for its own sake. This relatively recent development has shaped society, enabling a focus on “end of life.” But now dying is under siege from several quarters. Expected remedies from hospice and advance care planning are not reliable. This presentation traces the development of dying and explores what puts it in jeopardy. Possible interventions will be offered.

Learning Objectives

1. Name one factor that played a role in the development of dying as a specialized focus.
2. Describe how medical advances have made dying more difficult to identify.
3. Explain why hospice cannot protect dying generally.

References

Saturday, April 28, 2018
9:45 - 10:45am

Research Report – 60 minutes

**VALIDATION OF MICROAGGRESSIONS AND SAME-GENDER PARTNER LOSS SURVEY**

**Category:** Assessment and Intervention  
**Presentation Level:** Advanced  
**Presenter(s):** Jodi Flesner, PhD, LPC; Marti Baricevic, PhD, LPC; Brianne Overton, PhD ABD, LPC, NCC

Same gender partner loss is an important yet often overlooked topic in the grief and bereavement literature. Little known research has been done on microaggressions, or subtle forms of discrimination and stigmatization, experienced by bereaved individuals who lost a same gender partner. This session will present the preliminary psychometric results from the development and administration of a measure to assess the influence of microaggressions on individuals grieving the loss of a same gender partner. The significance of this survey as it relates to both counseling research and practice with grieving individuals who identify as sexual minorities will be discussed.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Participants will understand various potential factors that may influence how individuals identifying as sexual minorities experience a unique form of grief and bereavement following the death of a same-gender partner.
2. Participants will learn about the development, implementation, and psychometric analysis of the Microaggressions and Same-Gender Partner Loss Survey.
3. Participants will understand how the use of the Microaggressions and Same-Gender Partner Loss Survey may inform counseling research and practice with grieving individuals who identify as sexual minorities.

**References**

The effects of trauma on adult children of alcoholics are lifelong. Utilizing the ACE Questionnaire, identifies this population to facilitate interventions for healing. Adult children of alcoholics experience many triggers promoting post traumatic stress. An inside look is required to fully understand enduring dynamics, latent manifestation of trauma, and impacted grieving. At the completion of this presentation, participants will differentiate trauma work for this specialized population compared to others, recognize maladaptive functionality and symptomatology that impairs grieving, and interpret how varying modalities and assessments are used to help promote healing.

Learning Objectives
1. Differentiate trauma work for this specialized population compared to others.
2. Recognize maladaptive functionality and symptomatology that impairs grieving.
3. Interpret how varying modalities and assessments are used to help promote healing.

References
4. Internet Reference: Reference 1
Saturday, April 28, 2018
9:45 - 10:45am

Professional Case Presentation

**WHEN ANCESTORS WEEP: HEALING THE SOUL FROM INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA**

*Category:* Traumatic Death  
*Presentation Level:* Intermediate  
*Presenter(s):* James Houck, PhD

Mental health and pastoral professionals have gained a tremendous amount of insight into how to help individuals and families heal from Intergenerational Trauma (IT). Although we have developed an understanding of IT and its place in the context of loss and grief, mental health counseling and spiritual development, one area has been neglected, namely how and why IT affects who we really are as souls?  This presentation integrates my journey of discovery, personal visits to the traumatic sites, and practical application for people to awaken their soul-consciousness to heal their ancestors and generations yet to be born.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Understand how historical crimes against humanity have been a catalyst for producing and reinforcing intergenerational trauma on the soul level.
2. Identify the psycho-social-spiritual implications of healing from intergenerational trauma.
3. Utilize a self-realization model to heal and release our lineage from intergenerational trauma.

**References**

9. Internet Reference: Reference 3
When individuals are perceived as not having the right to grieve, their grief becomes disenfranchised. Those grieving the death of an extra marital partner face additional challenges as therapeutic support may be difficult to locate and when available, individuals may find it hard to tell their story and receive support from other group members. In the case of an extra marital affair, exclusion from the funeral, from religious rituals and suppression of mourning can be further complicated by the lack of strategies to help facilitate the disenfranchised to move towards a healthy recovery process (Lenhardt, 1997).

Learning Objectives
1. Discuss concept of disenfranchised grief as it pertains to marital infidelity.
2. Identify obstacles that impede healing for this population.
3. Recognize the challenges and benefits of using a group modality to promote healthy grieving.

References
Supporting families in end of life choices is essential to quality healthcare. Collaboration between healthcare providers and community therapists encourages patients and families, facing end of life, proactively explore what is most important to them. Families explore hopes, fears, anticipatory grief, plans for vulnerable loved ones, legacy preservation, and concrete care options. In this partnership therapists explore the unique needs of each family and communicate with the medical team to ensure that specific concerns are known. We will share case examples, where careful discussions afforded patients and loved ones a greater level of physical and emotional comfort at life’s end.

Learning Objectives

1. Discuss the importance of careful, professionally facilitated, proactive end of life discussions with individuals and families facing this challenging time of life.
2. Explore core issues of concern for families experiencing life limiting illness and end of life choices.
3. Emphasize the importance of robust healthcare and community based partnerships in adequately meeting the needs of families facing the complexities of end of life.

References

Saturday, April 28, 2018
10:15 - 10:45am

Research Report – 30 minutes

LITERARY, CULTURAL, AND THERAPEUTIC ASPECTS OF BEREAVEMENT MEMOIRS

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Presenter(s): Katarzyna Malecka, PhD

This study examines the literary and therapeutic aspects of grief memoirs addressing life-partner loss. The study explores: common literary characteristics of grief narratives; the use and function of artistic forms and grief literature featured in grief memoirs; grief theories discussed in grief accounts; and questions asked by bereaved memoirists as a form of self-therapy. These finding may: (1) help therapists in their practice of creating meaning via expressive arts; (2) constitute directed journaling exercises exploiting the longitudinal nature of grief memoirs; and (3) assess the therapeutic aspects of the genre which is a popular form of public mourning and self-therapy.

Learning Objectives

1. Define the grief memoir as a literary genre and assess its value as a popular form of public mourning and self-therapy.
2. Identify types of professional grief literature and artistic grief expressions featured in published grief memoirs and their impact on grief memoirists representing the bereaved at large.
3. Develop a system of response-writing and journaling exercises employing the comprehensive, longitudinal nature of grief memoirs that may contribute to such grief practices as the meaning-reconstruction approach.

References

Saturday, April 28, 2018
9:45 - 10:15am

**Research Report – 30 minutes**

**RESIDENTIAL HOMES FOR THE DYING: UNIQUE TRAINING IN END-OF-LIFE CARE**

**Category:** Death Education  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory  
**Presenter(s):** Kelly Melekis, PhD; Carol Weisse, PhD; Crystal Moore, PhD; Eun-sil Lee, PhD

Community-run residential homes for the dying offer a unique venue for obtaining skills-training that may improve students’ confidence and ability to provide end-of-life care. This mixed-methods pilot study examined the impact of placing undergraduates in direct caregiver roles in residential homes for the dying in upstate New York. Data revealed significant increases in empathy (p < .05) and perceived self-efficacy to provide palliative care (p < .001) after completion of the program. Qualitative data indicate that residential homes for the dying may be an ideal place for training individuals in end-of-life care and for cultivating a community of compassionate caregivers.

**Learning Objectives**
1. Understand the structure and function of community-run residential homes for the dying.
2. Describe key elements and impacts of an innovative interprofessional training opportunity in end-of-life care.
3. Consider the potential for collaborative partnerships and evaluate the feasibility of local program development.

**References**

6. **Internet Reference:** Reference 4
2018 marks the centennial of the influenza pandemic which killed between 50-100 million. Pandemics upend assumptions about medical delivery systems, personal security and grief care evidenced in outbreaks of Ebola and Zika. Globalization elevates risk: Individuals in isolated areas could be exposed to influenza, board a plane—or succession of planes—and reach a major metropolis within hours potentially infecting hundreds. How would hospitals, nursing homes, hospices, pharmacies, coroners, funeral directors, cemeterians, cremation providers, and thanatologists provide care? Because the U.S. Center for Disease Control and the World Health Organization “imagine” a future pandemic(s), what might thanatologists learn from 1918?

Learning Objectives

1. To explore biological, economic and social influences that “drove” the 1918 pandemic and corollaries to contemporary potential events and catastrophic anticipatory grief/loss?
2. To examine the potential for future catastrophic epidemics and the false confidence that modern day medicine will thwart/manage modern day epidemics.
3. To strategize ways to use insights from the centennial of the 1918 Influenza pandemic in contemporary grief education?

References

3. Troy, Tevi. (2016). Shall we wake the president? Two centuries of disaster management from the Oval Office. Guilford, CT: LP.
Concurrent Session XI
Saturday, April 28, 2018
11:15am - 12:15pm

Scholarly Paper
A DOZEN GOOD THINGS ABOUT GRIEVING
Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Presenter(s): Thomas Attig, PhD

Contemporary discussion, research, teaching, and counseling about loss and grief focus predominantly on “negative” aspects of the experiences, including bereavement (deprivation), grief reaction (sorrow and brokenness), pathology, and complication. The presenter will call for expanding focus on “positive” aspects of the experiences, including grieving response, overcoming suffering, relearning how to live meaningfully, resilience, healing, hope, reaching through pain to connect with the best in life, labors of love, remembering, embracing legacies, creativity, and healing. The presentation will explore how caregivers can use these positives to support and encourage grievers in facing the most challenging aspects of loss and grief.

Learning Objectives
1. Evaluate the differences between grief counseling focused on the negative (pathologies and complication) and grief counseling focused on the positive (healing, hope, and abiding love).
2. Identify sources of resilience within and sorrow-friendly practices to use that enable grievers to relearn how to live meaningfully.
3. Describe ways of guiding grieving persons onto hopeful paths beyond sorrow to embracing the best of life (past and present) that is still theirs in renewed wholeness and healing.

References
If you have ever wondered what it is like to undergo Complicated Grief Therapy (CGT), learn from someone who has just gone through all 16 sessions. Understand the pitfalls of bereavement counseling from the client’s perspective. Sure, exposure therapy is a valuable exercise; so is undergoing a root canal—what do they have in common, and how can you guide someone to go where they would not prefer? This presentation will also provide insight in how best to support clients in overcoming their often self-imposed isolation and thus free them up to refashion a new and better life.

Learning Objectives
1. Understand from the client’s perspective how resistance-to-treatment strategies and avoidance maneuvers are employed.
2. Learn which compensatory techniques work best for reducing client anxiety.
3. Evaluate how best to balance confronting the reality of death while still being able to encourage a “holding on” though the establishment of continuing bonds.

References
1. None
A comprehensive examination of community attitudes towards grief counseling is required in order to promote help-seeking behavior among the bereaved. A community sample of adults (N = 156) was surveyed to investigate their attitudes towards grief counseling. Overall attitude towards grief counseling was positive and women reported a significantly more positive attitude than men; there were no associations between attitude and age, country of birth, previous counseling experience, and previous bereavement experience. Targeting beliefs about grief counseling may promote positive attitudes towards grief counseling so that bereaved individuals most in need will be more likely to seek it.

Learning Objectives
1. Discuss attitudes to grief counseling.
2. Understand predictors of attitudes to grief counseling.
3. Apply the findings to their own contexts.

References
Satuday, April 28, 2018  
11:15 - 11:45am  
Research Report – 30 minutes  
**DEFINING LEGACY: A STUDY OF PROVIDERS, PARENTS, & PEDIATRIC PATIENTS**  
**Category:** Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate  
**Presenter(s):** Angelia Davis, BS; Jessica Cook, BS; Lauren Smith, BA; Jessika Boles, PhD; Kristen Brady, BS

Although most children’s hospitals offer “legacy interventions” to dying children and their families, multiple definitions of legacy exist across disciplines - thereby complicating service provision and evaluation. The purpose of this study was to explore ways in which healthcare providers, caregivers, and pediatric patients described legacy in a children’s hospital. Online surveys and semi-structured interviews revealed varied definitions based on personal, educational, and illness/hospitalization experiences. Thus, legacy is a subjectively-informed concept practiced by individual patients and families. Further research is needed to identify practices for assessing and addressing legacy perspectives to ensure high-quality family-centered care at the end of life.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Discuss the evolution of, and interdisciplinary theoretical perspectives on, "legacy" and relationships to coping with end of life care and familial loss and grief.  
2. Identify demographic factors of pediatric providers, caregivers, and patients that impact perceptions of and access to legacy-oriented education and interventions.  
3. Identify techniques for introducing and providing legacy-oriented interventions to promote coping in pediatric patients and their families who are experiencing loss and grief.

**References**

Saturday, April 28, 2018
11:15am - 12:15pm

Scholarly Paper

**ONLINE GRIEF SUPPORT: CONSIDERATIONS FOR HOSPICE PROVIDERS**

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

**Presentation Level:** Introductory

**Presenter(s):** Allison Gibson, PhD; Stephanie Wladkowski, PhD; Cara Wallace, PhD; Andrew Keppler, MPA

Online support groups can be an effective means of extending services beyond the traditional modes of delivery. In this review, researchers examine the literature over the last 10 years for the potential opportunities and the challenges of providing online bereavement support services. Discussion topics will include challenges for recruitment of participants, availability of technology resources, addressing privacy and confidentiality issues, participants’ knowledge of technical equipment, legal considerations, ethical dilemmas to consider when providing services online, and additional tips for ensuring best practices. The presentation can help guide hospice providers as they look online to reach and serve grieving populations.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Participants will be able to describe benefits to offering online grief support.
2. Participants will be able to discuss concerns and challenges that exist for hospice professionals in offering online grief support groups.
3. Participants will be able to identify considerations for online support groups to varying client populations (i.e., adolescents, older adults).

**References**

6. **Internet Reference:** Reference 4
Saturday, April 28, 2018
11:15am - 12:15pm

Practice Report

UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORTING THE LATINO BEREAVED COMMUNITY

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Introductory
Presenter(s): Flor Guebara, LCSW; Cristina Flores, LCSW

Bo’s Place, a bereavement center in Houston, has offered Spanish-speaking grief support groups for the past six years to better meet the needs of Houston’s growing Spanish-speaking population. This presentation will provide detailed information on grief and its impact in the Latino community. The discussion will explore key cultural values that impact the grief journey of Latinos in the United States. Additionally, we will discuss important concepts to take into account when offering culturally competent services to the Latino bereaved community.

Learning Objectives

1. Participants will be able to interpret the different ways grief and loss are defined and experienced in the Latino community.
2. Participants will be able to distinguish and discuss numerous Latino cultural values that may impact the grief journey.
3. Participants will be able to identify concepts to take into account when offering culturally competent services to the Latino bereaved community.

References

Research on differential susceptibility indicates that some individuals are genetically more sensitive to environmental experiences, both positive and negative. As of yet, there are no studies investigating differential susceptibility and bereavement. However, there are studies on differential genetic risk for depression, PTSD, anxiety, and poor self-regulation in response to life stress or trauma. We will review research that informs possible genetic and biological risk factors for complicated grief, as well as provide further evidence for the benefits of treatment and social support for more genetically-sensitive individuals.

Learning Objectives
1. Describe foundational and current theoretical and empirical research on the differential susceptibility framework.
2. Explain research on differential susceptibility as it relates factors such as life stress, social support, parenting and family relationships, and outcomes such as depression, anxiety, PTSD, and self-regulation.
3. Discuss the applicability of the differential susceptibility framework to complicated grief.

References
The bereavement memoir has become a popular form of mourning and self-therapy. Most grief memoirists claim they feel better as a result of writing about their grief. This two-tier study evaluates the application of grief memoirs in grief counseling via: (1) surveys of therapists and the bereaved that assess both groups’ familiarity with grief memoirs and their judgment of the applicability of these narratives in therapy and self-therapy; and (2) a therapeutic response-writing study using prompts from grief memoirs falling into two categories: a. images capturing the essence of the grief process; b. excerpts discussing writing as a healing process.

Learning Objectives

1. Assist professionals to direct clients to a memoir that might resonate most with a particular case of grief.
2. Develop a system of therapeutic response-writing and journaling exercises employing the comprehensive, longitudinal nature of grief memoirs.
3. Encourage the bereaved to use grief narratives as a jump-start tool to express their often inexpressible emotions in words and concrete images helping to rebuild a life stressed by loss.

References

Saturday, April 28, 2018
11:15am - 12:15pm

Bridging Research and Practice

**NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE RESEARCH AND NARRATIVE MEDICINE**

**Category:** Dying  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory  
**Presenter(s):** David Royse, PhD; Rob Slocum, PhD

Persons reporting near-death experiences (NDE) assert life-changing effects. This qualitative study of 26 survivors of large burns who reported NDE found themes consistent with those identified in earlier literature (peace and calmness, out-of-the-body experience, encountering spirits and deceased persons, sense of purpose, etc.). These narratives can help professionals distinguish NDE from hallucinations or psychosis, and help patients make sense of these experiences. Further, a Narrative Medicine approach encouraging patients and family members to share their accounts of NDE and other stories can lead to new insights, appreciation of meaning, and decisions beneficial to the living and the dying.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Recognize near-death experiences (NDEs) when reported by others.  
2. Understand the power and the significance that NDEs have on the lives of those who report them.  
3. Use a Narrative Medicine approach to assist individuals with NDE accounts draw out their sense of meaning, identity, and future relative to their lives.

**References**

Saturday, April 28, 2018
11:15 - 12:15pm

Professional Case Presentation
"STAY‘N ALIVE" LESSONS FROM A LIVELY LONG RUNNING DEATH CAFE
Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Presenter(s): Lynda Shand, RN, PhD, CHPN; Nancy Gershman, BA

Longitudinal feedback reveals our Death Café’s longevity relates to two interrelated characteristics. Participants value hosts who are both “straight shooting” and nurturing as well as a setting that balances intimacy with safety; mirth with empathy; curiosity with confession. Spontaneous exploration of urgent topics gives way to analysis of new books and films, or vice versa. Ambience also plays a role: our take on “tea and cake” is likened to a “dinner party with old friends.”

Learning Objectives
1. Discuss how to create a nurturing and supportive environment, including how to handle delicate situations.
2. Explore practical suggestions such as how to build a social media presence and increase community awareness and visibility.
3. Introduce the value-added resources provided to our members, including lists of books/films, cultural excursions, and an archive of representative Death Café conversations.

References
Concurrent Session XII
Saturday, April 28, 2018
1:30 - 2:30pm

Professional Case Presentation
CALL SECURITY! CULTURAL COMPETENCY AND THE ICU GRIEF POLICE
Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Presenter(s): Kate Grossman, MD; Tashel Bordere, PhD

After an admission for what was thought to be a benign medical process, an African American matriarch of a family of thirteen lay dying in the ICU. Mistrust grew between the grieving family and the hospital team and the escalating tension worsened as the patient’s clinical status declined. This case will provide a framework for a discussion of cultural competency among hospital caregivers, discriminatory practices (whether conscious or subconscious) and their effect on both patient care and family interactions, expressions of grief in the hospital setting, and family satisfaction in end of life care.

Learning Objectives
1. Define cultural mistrust and barriers for helping professionals and marginalized individuals and families in end of life and expressions of grief.
2. Explore social justice theories and concepts, including, privilege, oppression, suffocated grief, and alliance building in loss and grief as well as symbolic interaction and ecological systems theories.
3. Critically evaluate factors that contribute to trust establishment and effective practice in work with African American families, including the use of the Five A’s of Culturally Conscientious Care.

References
6. Internet Reference: Reference 5
Saturday, April 28, 2018
1:30 - 2:30pm

Research Report – 60 minutes

PARENTAL BEREAVEMENT EXPERIENCE OF CHILD LOSS: A SYSTEMIC REVIEW

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Introductory
Presenter(s): Andy Hau Yan Ho, PhD, EdD, FT; Geraldine Tan-Ho, MSocSci, CT; Ping Ying Choo, MA; Oindrila Dutta, MA

Using the PRISMA guidelines, 694 qualitative research articles were identified and screened for appropriateness from 6 major databases between 2010-2017, 22 were retained for thematic-synthesis. 13 themes emerged and were organized into a four-phase interlinking trajectory of parental bereavement experience of child loss: (1) ‘Liminal Margin’, defined by emotional-upheaval, family-disarray, medical-relationships, and death-contemplation; (2) ‘Holding Space’, defined by nurturing the child’s body; (3) ‘Navigating Losses’, defined by anguish and responsibility, spousal-collision, parenting-guilt, social-disconnection, and shared-understanding; and (4) ‘Reconstructing Lives’, defined by restorative-actions, continuing-bonds, and meaning-making. Findings are discussed with recommendations for enhancing parental bereavement support services in contemporary societies.

Learning Objectives

1. Understand psycho-socio-emotional impact of child loss on bereaved parents.
2. Discuss the empirical foundation of the lived experience of parental bereavement, as well as the personal and relational dynamics that affects coping with grief and bereavement outcomes.
3. Utilize an empirically informed four-phase interlinking trajectory of parental bereavement experience of child loss for assessing and obtaining in-depth understandings of the needs of bereaved parents in contemporary societies.

References

Saturday, April 28, 2018
1:30 - 2:30pm

Practice Report

JOURNEY TO CRESCENT COVE: CHILDREN’S HOSPICE AND RESPITE CARE IN MN

Category: Dying
Presentation Level: Introductory
Presenter(s): Kathryn Markell, PhD; Marc Markell, PhD

Crescent Cove is the first independent Children’s Hospice and Respite Care Home in Minnesota. It opened its doors in the fall of 2017. It is one of only three children’s hospices in the USA. This presentation will outline the journey that Crescent Cove took, from its beginning plans in 2009 to opening its doors in 2017. It will overview the need for children’s hospices and respite care and the challenges they face. It will describe the research, collaboration and fund-raising that Crescent Cove did to be able to finally open its doors, and its current mission and future plans.

Learning Objectives
1. Describe the need for children’s hospices and respite care in the United States.
2. Identify the challenges faced in opening children’s hospices and respite care in the United States.
3. Explain the research, collaboration and fund-raising that Crescent Cove did to be able to finally open its doors.

References
Saturday, April 28, 2018
1:30 - 2:30pm

Scholarly Paper

**THE SALIENCE OF DEATH AND DYING INTO PUBLIC HEALTH DISCOURSE**

Category: Dying
Presentation Level: Advanced
Presenter(s): Rachael Nolan, PhD Candidate

Within the next fourteen years, the US population will undergo a dramatic shift. By 2030, the number of aging adults (65+) will double to more than 71 million Americans. Current research shows that 80% of these aging adults have at least one life-threatening condition entrenching dying and death as a major public health concern. This presentation provides insight into the various ways that public health contributes to dying and death through epidemiology research of disease progression, the integration of end-of-life and hospice care services, and the practice-based efforts to provide caregiver respite and increased quality of life for the dying.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Discuss the salience of death and dying as a major public health concern.
2. Demonstrate the historical impact that fields of public health have had on Thanatology, grief, and bereavement.
3. Identify the need for public health discourse to explore where and within what context does death and dying occur.

**References**

6. Internet Reference: Reference 1
Given the rising number of suicides in the past 20 years, the need for mental health practitioners with knowledge of suicidality and expertise in meeting the needs of suicidal clients is crucial. Currently, however, most graduate level programs do not include suicide-specific training in their curricula. In this report detailing a mixed methods research study, the presenter will describe how she and her colleague at a small Midwestern university developed a curriculum to address this training gap and evaluated its effectiveness with the MSW student participants.

Learning Objectives

1. Recognize the importance of providing specific suicide content in graduate level mental health training programs.
2. Identify the key components of suicide related curricula for graduate level students in mental health fields.
3. Discuss the possible benefits of suicide specific training in promoting student confidence and competence in supporting suicidal clients.

References

HELPING REFUGEES COPE WITH LOSS AND GRIEF IN TURKEY

Saturday, April 28, 2018
1:30 - 2:30pm

Scholarly Paper

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Presenter(s): Fuat TANHAN, PhD; Firat Ünsal, MA; Ömer ÇİFTÇİ, PhD

Most Syrian children are aware of death, even if they don’t understand it. As a counsellor, you can’t protect a child from the pain of loss, but you can help him feel safe. And by allowing and encouraging him to express his feelings, you can help him build healthy coping skills that will serve him well in the future. Encourage a child grieving to express feelings, be developmentally appropriate, be direct, attending the funeral, observe behaviours, and help all children, regardless of age, to understand loss and death and encourage children to ask questions about loss and death.

Learning Objectives

1. Don’t lie to children about the tragic event: Children are often bright and sensitive. They will see through false information and wonder why you do not trust them with truth.
2. Give the child information at the level that he/she can understand. Loss and death are both part of the cycle of life that children need to understand.
3. Encourage a child grieving to express feelings, be developmentally appropriate.

References

6. Internet Reference: Reference 5
Concurrent Session XIII
Saturday, April 28, 2018
2:45 - 3:45pm

Professional Case Presentation
HOPE LIVES ON: GIVING VOICE TO THE PAIN AND FINDING HOPE THROUGH ART
Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Introductory
Presenter(s): Krista Ball, MS

Art therapy research indicates that art is a natural means of expression that invites the ability to break down barriers that can accompany verbal communication. The presenter will showcase a unique collaboration between a grief center and community art center where children and teens used creative mediums to address their grief reconciliation needs. The artwork was presented in two art exhibitions showcasing pieces from over 150 participants. Through the power of artistic expression, the artwork represents both the pain of the loss and the hope that lives on. The impact and process of this collaboration will be discussed.

Learning Objectives
1. Gain a understanding of the theoretical bases for using therapeutic art techniques as an intervention for grieving children and teens.
2. Explain how the art making process can address the reconciliation needs of the grieving child as outlined by Dr. Alan Wolfelt.
3. Identify factors to consider in creating a beneficial environment for children to create therapeutic, grief related artwork.

References
6. Internet Reference: Reference 3
Saturday, April 28, 2018
2:45 - 3:45pm

Research Report – 60 minutes

THE PAIN OF PERINATAL GRIEF, DEPRESSION, AND PERSONALITY DISORDERS

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Presenter(s): Lisa Burke, Dpsy

One in three women experience stillbirth, miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, and terminations, yet epidemiological research has largely overlooked risk factors for complications in perinatal grief. This research assessed perinatal grief, depression, and personality disorders in a group of women (n=197). Results confirmed 1 in 4 women developed post-loss de novo depression; and for these women, and those with personality disorders, the risk of developing more problematic perinatal grief was between two and four times greater than women without such conditions. After a median 11 years post-loss, 6.5% of women in this research continued to report clinically significant levels of perinatal grief.

Learning Objectives
1. Recognise the importance of mapping grief trajectories for women who experience perinatal loss.
2. Evaluate the knowledge base as per epidemiological research investigating perinatal bereavement responses.
3. Appreciate the role of mental illness as a potential risk factor for complications in perinatal grief.

References
This doctoral research aimed to explore the under-researched area of the lived psychological and emotional experiences of parentally bereaved young people and the challenging and helpful aspects of support, from the young people themselves. Grounded theory based on Charmaz’s social constructivist approach was used to analyse the findings. Semi-structured interviews, CORE-YP and a creative activity were used to elicit the responses of the participants. Bridging research and practice, recommendations are made on how best to support this often overlooked group of vulnerable young people using a multisystem model. Recommendations and opportunities are also made for further research and dissemination of information.

Learning Objectives
1. Compare revised model of grief.
2. Reflect on contemporary thinking from the UK.
3. Bridge research and practice.

References
6. Internet Reference: Reference 5
Bridging Research and Practice

**MALE VS. FEMALE GRIEF - WHEN JACK AND JILL COLLIDE**

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

**Presentation Level:** Introductory

**Presenter(s):** R. Glenn Kelly, BS

My presentation focuses primarily on the taboo subject of not only the grieving man, but also the emotional behaviorism of the grieving woman. Going beyond sex, it will also bring forth the considerations of individual gender. This is extremely relevant to the ADEC audience in that differing sex and gender biased expression of emotions can cause confusion and isolation between two or more individuals following the loss of a loved one. These relationships can include not only parents, in the case of a child’s death, but also a brother-sister in the loss of a parent, father-daughter in the loss of a wife/mother, or other close opposite sex or gender connections. The presentation will begin by covering the myth that males are not as emotional as females, and will be dispelled by citing research which reveals such findings as men experiencing more emotions than women, yet do process those emotions internally. The presentation will then move into the influences of both Nature and Nurture on each sex. Not only may either respond emotionally different to profound life-events due to evolutionary pre-wiring (nature), but will also be influenced by environment and role-modeling after birth (nurture). This will then lead into presenting the impacts of brain sex, specifically in differing neurology and physiology of the male brain versus the female brain. In doing so, the audience will benefit through understanding some sex biased emotional response may take place without conscious effort or control of the griever. One of the greatest takeaways for the ADEC audience will be to understand that the differing expressions of emotions based on sex and gender are normal. Support to couples should include awareness that each may process and display the outward expressions of grief in sometimes opposing manners. Awareness obtained during troubling times can aid greatly in healing.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Become aware, through the relevant examples of experience and research of the presenter, that men do grieve as deeply as women, yet generally process those emotions more internally.
2. Understand that while the majority of men and women may express grief emotions in anticipated sex norms, an individual’s scale of masculinity or femininity (gender) will impact emotional expression levels.
3. Recognize that bringing awareness of the differing sex and gender biased expressions of emotions to couples experiencing relationship difficulties has a tremendously positive impact on the grief recovery process.

**References**

1. Kerry Davies, BA, MA, PhD, Tim Whitworth Pg, DIP & Marie Murray Pages 92-98 | Published online: 06 Jan 2016.
4. Internet Reference: Reference 1
Saturday, April 28, 2018  
2:45 - 3:45pm  
Research Report – 60 minutes  
**SOCIAL MEDIA INTERVENTION FOR PRIMARY CAREGIVERS OF SICK CHILDREN**  
Category: Dying  
Presentation Level: Introductory  
**Presenter(s):** Kathryn Levy, MSW; Pei Grant, PhD; Rachel Depner, MS; Kelly Tenzek, PhD  

Informal family caregiving occurs across cultures, settings, and generations. Despite their poor health outcomes, physical burden, and financial burden, caregivers of children with life-threatening illnesses are largely overlooked. The Photographs of Meaning Program (POMP) is an innovative social media-based intervention combining meaning-centered psychotherapy and photovoice. Components include a nine-week curriculum and a community photo exhibition featuring collected caregiver photo-narratives. Participant engagement, program feasibility, photo-narrative themes, and future directions will be discussed. This research aims to expand understanding for this specific caregiver population while introducing an intervention that can help meet their needs without adding undue burden.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Discuss the available literature on caregivers, the subset of caregivers of children/adolescents with chronic and/or life-threatening illness, and the goals when tailoring and intervention to this population.
2. Describe the intervention and its components, including meaning-centered psychotherapy, photovoice, the social media app utilized for distribution, and the concluding photo exhibition.
3. Recognize the feasibility, engagement, qualitative themes, and compelling future directions emerging from this pilot study.

**References**

Saturday, April 28, 2018
2:45 - 3:45pm

Scholarly Paper

**CAREGIVERS: UNDERSTANDING LOSS AND GRIEF: A PARADOX**

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

*Presentation Level:* Intermediate

*Presenter(s):* Lillian Meyers, PhD

Professional staff in inpatient and outpatient settings are often made aware that a patient/client has suffered significant loss, especially the death of a loved one. This program will emphasize the need for caregivers to resolve their own losses if they are to be helpful in assisting others in their losses. The process of mourning losses will be described and the "wounded healer" model will be identified.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Understand the grief process and the myths and untruths about it.
2. Realize the importance of caregivers resolving their own losses.
3. Describe the secondary losses that go along with loss.

**References**

4. **Internet Reference:** Reference 3
Saturday, April 28, 2018
2:45 - 3:45pm

Practice Report

ALETHES - HEALING THE SOUL AT THE END OF LIFE
Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Presenter(s): John Schluep, D Min

Alethes means "Truth so obvious it cannot be denied." Many veterans of military service, especially combat veterans, have compromised their personal ethics and morals in kill or be killed scenarios. The moral injury occurs when the noble cause for which they volunteered is compromised by situations, orders from authority, or from accident. Many of these issues manifest at the end of life and need to be met with compassion, sincerity and understanding to facilitate forgiveness and wellness.

Learning Objectives
1. Participants will be able to identify the moral injury and soul wound which often underlie Post Traumatic Stress Disorder as outlined by the APA.
2. Participants will discern the nuances of religious and spiritual similarities and differences and utilize resources for healing and wellness.
3. Participants will learn the warrior character that desires honor, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

References
In constructivist theory, the most important aspect of grief is making meaning out of loss. Grief narratives, unique stories that help with acceptance of death and accommodation of loss, are created to guide this meaning-making process. The creation of these stories is an active, unconscious activity influenced by both old and new life experiences. Sometimes, within these narratives, grievers will experience sudden “aha” moments in which they have thoughts that allow them to see the loss differently. The presentation will conclude with the reading of a grief narrative that demonstrates how transformative thoughts can alter the course of grief.

Learning Objectives
1. Discuss the evolution of grief narratives in making meaning out of loss.
2. Recognize the importance of transformative thoughts in altering the course of grief.
3. Utilize grief narratives in working with individuals in the process of grief.

References
Poster Presentations
Thursday, April 26, 2018
9:40 - 10:45am and 3:15 - 4:15pm

Poster Presentation
ASSESSING BEREAVEMENT LEAVE FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF HR PROFESSIONALS
Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Introductory
Indicator: Institutional/Societal
Author(s): Stephanie Adam, DBA

For this poster, a survey regarding bereavement leave policies will be analyzed and presented to show whether Human Resource professionals feel their current policies are sufficient. HR professionals reported on bereavement leave from the perspective of the bereaved employee, the management team, and the HR professional him/herself. Recommendations regarding the need for, or lack of need for, adjustment to current policy are included. Keeping in mind that organizations are driven by strategic and financial goals, this analysis takes a detailed look at both the financial and "human" side of bereavement leave policy.

References
6. Internet Reference: Reference 3
Professional Case Presentation

**Evolving the Role of the Death Doula in End of Life Care**

**Category:** Assessment and Intervention  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory  
**Indicator:** Contemporary Perspectives  
**Author(s):** Alua Arthur, JD

Often called by different names, death doulas have been increasing in popularity in recent years and are gaining national attention. Death doulas can be most effective when equipped to handle all of the family’s non-medical needs like creating a comprehensive end of life plan. Aside from the gifts of empowered families and dying people through the steps necessary to wrap up affairs before and right after the death occurs? Death doulas and end of life planners have started filling in this gap in services and gaining popularity suggests a need for shift within current paradigms of end of life care.

**References**

Thursday, April 26, 2018
9:40 - 10:45am and 3:15 - 4:15pm

Poster Presentation

**SURVIVING SUICIDE LOSS: ASSESSING NEEDS, SUPPORT, AND TRAJECTORIES**

**Category:** Traumatic Death

**Presentation Level:** Intermediate

**Indicator:** Resources and Research

**Author(s):** Jamison Bottomley, MS; Mae-Lynn Germany, MS; Jessica Hammerton-Sawyer, BS; Robert Neimeyer, PhD

Each year in the United States, over 40,000 people die by suicide. Recent estimates indicate that nearly 5 million people could identify as a survivor of suicide loss (SOSL) with nearly half of the population being exposed to the suicide loss of someone familiar. Despite the prevalence of survivorship, little is known about the trajectory of survivors and the support structures that are intended to help them. This presentation proposes a methodology for a longitudinal, mixed-methods study that addresses recommendations for research and identifies effective elements of support for SOSL. Preliminary data and implications for clinical practice will be discussed.

**References**


Thursday, April 26, 2018
9:40 - 10:45am and 3:15 - 4:15pm

Poster Presentation
STATE OF DISASTER RESPONSE TRAINING IN AVIATION MANAGEMENT CURRICULA
Category: Death Education
Presentation Level: Introductory
Indicator: Resources and Research
Author(s): Andrew Brown, MSEd; Heather Servaty-Seib, PhD

This study collected data from 26 aviation administration department heads to learn the prevalence of disaster preparedness and response courses, as well as attitudes towards such classes. Respondents agreed (4.04 on a 5-point scale) that disaster response should be a planned course topic within an existing course, but agreed less that it should be an elective (3.48) or a required course (3.23). In open-ended responses, participants generally agreed a course would make students more prepared for future jobs, but expressed concerns regarding funding and curricular space. These findings highlight the need for thanatology experts to investigate death-related concepts in aviation.

References
Thursday, April 26, 2018  
9:40 - 10:45am and 3:15 - 4:15pm  

Poster Presentation  
**COPING WITH VIOLENCE ON CAMPUS**  
**Category:** Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory  
**Indicator:** Cultural/Socialization  
**Author(s):** Amanda Cabrera; Mary Shelton, PhD  

Incidents of gun related deaths or injury have gone from 40 incidents between 2001-2006 and climbed to nearly 208 incidents between 2011-2016. (Cannon, 2016). Observations made after a shooting at my own HBCU made us wonder if the surprisingly calm reactions of students was representative of the entire campus and if so, why? Using and PACT scales (Burton, Bonanno, 2015) we will collect data regarding student's ability to cope and ability to effectively express emotion. Our belief is using these scales will uncover if gun violence on campus has been normalized or rationalized due to student suppression strategies.  

**References**  
5. **Internet Reference:** Reference 4
Poster Presentation

DEATH EDUCATION CLASS ACTIVITIES: IMPLICATIONS FOR EDUCATORS

Category: Death Education
Presentation Level: Introductory
Indicator: Resources and Research
Author(s): Jessica Clontz, Med

Human service undergraduate educators may lack scheduling flexibility to incorporate an exclusive death education course within the degree program, despite its necessity. This study evaluates the impact of a brief, in-class death education activity on death attitude and desire to work with persons at the end of life. Using the Death Attitude Profile-Revised and a supplemental questionnaire, undergraduate human service students’ attitudes and perspectives on working with persons who are dying were measured before and after a death education exposure activity. Results collected from the measures and student self-reports are reviewed as well as implications for future research.

References

Thursday, April 26, 2018
9:40 - 10:45am and 3:15 - 4:15pm

Poster Presentation
**PRODUCTION OF INFORMATIVE MATERIALS FOR SUPPORT IN Bereavement**

**Category:** Death Education  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate  
**Indicator:** Institutional/Societal  
**Author(s):** MariaHelena Franco, PhD

In São Paulo, with 14 millions of inhabitants, the approximate daily number of deaths is 220. The Center of Research and Interventions on Grief and Bereavement in agreement with the Funeral Services of the Municipality of Sao Paulo – SFMSP-, produced informative materials for adults and children, that were published in different media in order to address grief in an educational and friendly way. Both products were available for the population at the funeral agencies of São Paulo and are distinguished by the innovation of the collaboration between SFMSP and the University as important tools for breaking the death taboo.

**References**

Thursday, April 26, 2018
9:40 - 10:45am and 3:15 - 4:15pm

Poster Presentation
A THERAPEUTIC PERSPECTIVE OF DEATH AND DYING THROUGH DANCE & MOVEMENT

Category: Death Education
Presentation Level: Introductory
Indicator: Contemporary Perspectives
Author(s): Jaclyn Gatto, MS

The purpose of this heuristic study was to understand the dance/movement therapist’s experiences and perceptions of death and dying through the use of dance and movement. Five main themes surfaced from these interviews that led to a creative synthesis of improvisational movement exploration and a film. The content revealed how this experience with dying populations and death impacted/enlightened one's perceptions of life. Results conclude, while experience is a valuable component in understanding the various issues surrounding death, it was, in fact, through education about and developing an awareness of death that one develops the readiness to work with this population.

References
4. Internet Reference: Reference 2
Uncommon losses and traumatic stressors are likely occurrences for individuals across the lifespan. There exists little empirical examination of the global and situational meaning shifts in the wake of both death and nondeath loss events. This study explores reactions of college students to death and NDL events including: the perception of gains and losses, meaning-making processes, centrality of stressful life events, personal growth, grief severity, and world assumptions. Losses will be coded according to shattered world assumptions and NDL loss type (e.g. loss of identity) for a multidimensional understanding of commonalities and difference among the bereaved and NDL grievers.

References
Thursday, April 26, 2018
9:40 - 10:45am and 3:15 - 4:15pm

Poster Presentation
EXPLORING PROFESSIONALS’ ATTITUDES TOWARDS DIGITAL IMMORTALITY
Category: End of Life Decision Making
Presentation Level: Introductory
Indicator: Cultural/Socialization
Author(s): Allison Gibson, PhD; Andrew Keppler, MPA; Stephanie Wladkowski, PhD; Cara Wallace, PhD

As advances continue across technology and digital/social media, individuals are leaving an online footprint of their lives and experiences with the information they share online. Through the use of focus groups with hospice professionals and social work students, this study explored professionals’ and future professionals’ attitudes towards digital immortality. Many individuals across groups brought up ethical issues, legality concerns, problems with deceased loved ones’ continued presence online, and challenges in dictating preferences in regards to digital immortality, each of which are discussed within this session.

References
5. Internet Reference: Reference 2
**Thursday, April 26, 2018**

**9:40 - 10:45am and 3:15 - 4:15pm**

**Practice Report**

**I DIED TODAY: AN INTIMATE ENCOUNTER WITH MORTALITY**

**Category:** Death Education

**Presentation Level:** Introductory

**Indicator:** Contemporary Perspectives

**Author(s):** Andy Hau Yan Ho, PhD, EdD, FT; Geraldine Tan-Ho, MSocSci, CT

“I Died Today (IDT): An Intimate Encounter with Mortality” is an integrative experiential learning programme that provides participants with the unique opportunity to reflect on their own mortality and the meaning of life via a series of innovative and immersive activities. Through writing self-eulogies, participating in a living-funeral, and engaging in an paint-brush autopsy, participants experience death firsthand so as to foster greater connectedness to their sense of spirituality and aliveness. “IDT” is also a performance art that engages the community and encourages further reflection and discourse on life and mortality. Recommendations for empirical-based practices and programme implementation are discussed.

**References**

Thursday, April 26, 2018  
9:40 - 10:45am and 3:15 - 4:15pm  

Poster Presentation  
**TRANSFORMATIVE ONLINE DEATH EDUCATION**  
*Category:* Death Education  
*Presentation Level:* Intermediate  
*Indicator:* Professional Issues  
*Author(s):* Rie Kobayashi, PhD; Mary Ann Clute, PhD  

Taking a death and dying course is often both personal and professional endeavor. When such a course is offered online, unique opportunities and challenges can arise for the learners and teachers. Informed by Transformative Learning and Relational theories, online “Death & Dying” and “Grief & Loss” courses were created to offer social work students flexibility and convenient while providing a holding, supportive learning environment that can be replicated.

**References**  
Thursday, April 26, 2018
9:40 - 10:45am and 3:15 - 4:15pm

Poster Presentation
THE EXPERIENCE OF CHILDHOOD LOSS: SURVIVORS’ MEMORIES AND INSIGHTS
Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Indicator: Family and Individual
Author(s): Sue Lawrence, M Ed

The experience of loss and bereavement during childhood is not necessarily uncommon, but it may be misunderstood. Children interpret death in ways that match their cognitive and emotional development, and as a result, their grieving process differs in significant ways. College students who had experienced the death of a loved one during their early years were interviewed about their experiences. These survivors describe their memories of the grief experience and reflect on the longstanding impact on their lives. Their reflections provide insight into the ways that loss, trauma, grief, and bereavement can impact a child's development.

References
Thursday, April 26, 2018
9:40 - 10:45am and 3:15 - 4:15pm

Poster Presentation
**WHAT MATTERS FOR ELDERLY SUICIDAL IDEATION**

Category: Traumatic Death
Presentation Level: Introductory
Indicator: Resources and Research
Author(s): Jung-eun Lee, MA

Elderly suicide is a major public health issue in South Korea. The aim of this study was to systematically examine the current knowledge about suicidal ideation among Korean older adults with specific focus on risk and preventive factors. Three domains were identified and used for further analysis: individual, family, and society.

References

Thursday, April 26, 2018
9:40 - 10:45am and 3:15 - 4:15pm

Poster Presentation
ORGANIZATIONAL SATISFACTION AND ADEC MEMBERSHIP RETENTION
Category: Death Education
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Indicator: Professional Issues
Author(s): Chye Hong Liew, MSEd; Mae-Lynn Germany, MS; Brett Boeh, BA

ADEC has expressed increased commitment to organizational change, including broadening organizational focus and increasing international collaboration and membership. Common concerns for many professional organizations, including ADEC, revolve around membership retention and recruitment, as well as cultural competence and diversity. We examined how organizational and personal factors were related to sense of belonging, organizational satisfaction, and members’ intention to maintain membership during ADEC’s organizational shifts. To do so, we surveyed ADEC members and analyzed responses using multiple regression. Based on the findings, we offer recommendations to support bereavement professionals through continued organizational changes.

References
EXPRESSED NEEDS OF BEREAVED PARENTS IN END-OF-LIFE CARE

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Indicator: Family and Individual
Author(s): Janice Meisenhelder, DNSc

Bereaved parents clearly identify their needs for support from both friends and family, as well as health care professionals. A systematic review of the research of parents experiencing the loss of a child reveals specific interventions for both expressed and unspoken needs of this bereaved group. Parents express high expectations of their care providers, but also great disappointment when these expectations are unmet. This session presents specific ways to address all these needs, both immediate and over time. Such positive experiences with health care professionals have been shown to ease grief intensity as well as enable positive transformation and growth.

References
In 2016, 647,435 missing person cases entered the National Crime Information Center database (the vast majority were canceled/cleared). When a family member/friend disappears, law enforcement is likely the first large, complex system they encounter. Unfortunately, the relationship between families and law enforcement can be fraught and complicated. Little has been written about this interface, and this presentation will discuss findings from survey and interview data from families of the missing and law enforcement experienced with such cases to help illuminate the communication qualities of this interface and how it impacts the family’s capacity to cope with ongoing ambiguous loss.

References

6. Internet Reference: Reference 3
Thursday, April 26, 2018
9:40 - 10:45am and 3:15 - 4:15pm

Poster Presentation

**LGBT* AFTER LOSS**

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Advanced
Indicator: Family and Individual
Author(s): Rachael Nolan, PhD Candidate; Ronald Davis, MSW, LSW

Grief and bereavement are universal human experiences that do not discriminate based on sex, gender, or sexual orientation. Existing literature provides valuable insight into the bereavement experiences of persons who identify as heterosexuals, but much less can be found on persons who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender* (LGBT*). To this end, the purpose of this study is to use a descriptive approach and identify how LGBT* persons describe their experiences with partner bereavement and to understand what effect these experiences may have had on interpersonal relationships and subsequent partnerships.

References

Thursday, April 26, 2018
9:40 - 10:45am and 3:15 - 4:15pm

Poster Presentation

**BEST PRACTICES FOR TEACHING END-OF-LIFE COMMUNICATION SKILLS**

**Category:** Death Education

**Presentation Level:** Introductory

**Indicator:** Resources and Research

**Author(s):** Karen O’Brien, PhD; Greta Jankauskaite, MA

Many physicians and nurses have not received adequate training regarding how to communicate about end-of-life issues with their patients. The purpose of this presentation is to share the results of a study that evaluated the efficacy of existing interventions used to educate doctors, nurses, and medical and nursing students about end-of-life communication. Specifically, the presentation will summarize empirical investigations of communication interventions, highlight the findings regarding the efficacy of these trainings, identify best practices, and recommend future directions to enhance efforts to educate medical personnel about end-of-life communication.

**References**

6. **Internet Reference:** Reference 3
This mixed methods study examined legacy beliefs across generations in 14 older parent and adult child pairs. This work validates and expands on a 2005 typology of legacy beliefs from gerontologists, Elizabeth Hunter and Graham Rowles. The expanded model targets four legacy types: values, material, biological and personality. A structured interview was administered separately to parents and children, coded for legacy examples and analyzed. Our findings suggest that targeted legacy interventions have the potential to increase mutual understanding and, perhaps, accentuate confidence that valued aspects of the self will live on in others after death.

References

Poster Presentation
THE NIGHT THE CLOWNS DIED! 1918 HAGENBECK-WALLACE CIRCUS TRAINWRECK
Category: Traumatic Death
Presentation Level: Introductory
Indicator: Historical Perspectives
Author(s): Harold Smith, DMin, FT

100 years ago, circuses traveled by train. Early June 22, 1918, the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus was traveling to Hammond, Indiana. Performers and animals were sleeping when a military train--whose engineer had fallen asleep--sliced through the train. Exploding kerosene lights sent flames through the train. On June 28, 1918, a Catholic priest and Protestant minister conducted a mass committal in Woodlawn Cemetery, Forest Park, Illinois. The majority of the 86 killed were buried in a mass grave. “The show must go on.” With performers, animals and equipment from Ringing Brothers and Barnum and Bailey, the H-W Circus completed their tour.

References
1. Lush, Tamara. (2017 May 28). Final bow: Ringling Bros. shuts down the big top after 146 years. The Desert Sun, 1E, 2E.
In some societies and beliefs death is an extinction, while in some societies death is rebirth. In the same way, some societies do not accept mourning but some societies accept mourning as a part of belief. In our world where even the color of death and mourning varies from region to region, it is difficult to make universal discourses about this concept. The determination of the perceptions and attitudes of the societies regarding the concept of death and the introduction of objective data facilitates the evaluation of the approaches of societies to the concept of death.

References
Thursday, April 26, 2018
9:40 - 10:45am and 3:15 - 4:15pm

Poster Presentation
**DEATH ANXIETY IN ADOLESCENCE: SOCIAL AND SOCIETAL INFLUENCES**

**Category:** Dying  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate  
**Indicator:** Cultural/Socialization  
**Author(s):** Danielle Zahn

During adolescence, teens become increasingly more aware of death and dying. Chopik (2017) supported this when he found that as age increases, death anxiety decreases. The current study will measure the amount of death anxiety in those from ages 14 to 18 and attempt to see if a significant increase will occur during this crucial developmental stage. We will also question the participants on their social media usage and extracurricular involvement in order to see if these areas affect the amount of death anxiety.

**References**

Research has demonstrated a positive association between exposure to suicidality and the exposed individual's risk of suicidal thoughts and/or behaviors. Interdisciplinary research has acknowledged that suicide can propagate among the exposed—known as “suicide contagion.” However, exposure to completed suicide rather than exposure to nonfatal forms of suicidal behavior (NFSB) has been emphasized in investigating the propagation of suicide. This study examines variables associated with being exposed to someone’s NFSB that may serve as a pathway to future suicidality, contributing to the suicide contagion hypothesis. Findings highlight the importance of enhancing support for those exposed to NFSB.

References

Friday, April 27, 2018
9:40 - 10:45am and 3:45 - 4:45pm

Poster Presentation

**TALKING WITH TEACHERS: A PROPOSAL OF DEATH EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS.**

*Category:* Death Education  
*Presentation Level:* Intermediate  
*Indicator:* Professional Issues  
*Author(s):* MariaHelena Franco, PhD

The Center of Research and Interventions on Grief and Bereavement – LELu provided interventions considering the role of educators in disseminating information and changing of attitude regarding death and grief. Four educational meetings were held. Theoretical conceptions about grief and bereavement were presented, according to the Attachment Theory and the Dual Process Model of Grief. Opportunity was offered for sharing with these professionals, who brought personal and professional experiences with death and grief. Taking into consideration long-term interventions, two booklets, one for children and another for educators were prepared to be used in schools, as facilitator in death education.

**References**

Friday, April 27, 2018
9:40 - 10:45am and 3:45 - 4:45pm

Poster Presentation
GAINS AND LOSSES IN COMING OUT AND TRANS*ITIONING: A MIXED METHOD STUDY
Category: Non-death-related Loss
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Indicator: Resources and Research
Author(s): Mae-Lynn Germany, MS; Anna Pederson, MS; Whitney Shuman, MS; Sara Bridges, PhD

Coming to the realization that one is trans* and beginning to live and express with further congruency of gender identity and expression may result in relief and joy. However, shifts in power, privilege, and the acquisition of a stigmatized identity (Scott, 2011) may catalyze feelings of grief and loss. This mixed-methods study presents results of the perceptions of gains and losses in the coming out and transitioning process for trans* individuals. We examine how identity centrality, witnessing of disenfranchised grief, social support and gender-based stress and resilience may mediate the relationship between grief severity and coming out and transitioning.

References
Friday, April 27, 2018  
9:40 - 10:45am and 3:45 - 4:45pm  

Research Report – 60 minutes  
THE EXISTENTIAL EXPERIENCE OF DYING THROUGH THE LENS OF CAREGIVERS  
Category: Dying  
Presentation Level: Introductory  
Indicator: Religious/Spiritual  
Author(s): Mark Hodnick, EdD

What does it mean to die well? Medical science continues to find ways to prolong life nearly indefinitely. However, the death of a human being is much more than a biological event. Dying is an existential experience that involves the whole of a person’s being – body, mind and spirit. The purpose of this research was to gain an understanding of how people experience dying. Through the stories that were told by professional caregivers, dying well means to die in comfort and at peace physically, emotionally, and metaphysically.

References

6. Internet Reference: Reference 5
Friday, April 27, 2018  
9:40 - 10:45am and 3:45 - 4:45pm

Poster Presentation  
**WHAT ASPECTS OF MENTAL WELLBEING IS PROTECTIVE FOR SUICIDAL IDEATION?**  
**Category:** Traumatic Death  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory  
**Indicator:** Resources and Research  
**Author(s):** Jiyoung Lyu, PhD

Mental well-being is one of the protective factors for suicidal ideation, but this concept is too broad. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to investigate the relationship between sub-factors of mental well-being and suicidal ideation among individuals aged 65 and older. The study sample was drawn from a community-based survey. Adjusted for confounding variables, a multivariate analysis showed that emotional well-being was a protective factor for suicidal ideation, but other domains of mental well-being did not show any significant relationship with suicidal ideation. Intervention programs aimed for individual’s emotional well-being may improve personal happiness and lower the suicidal ideation.

**References**

Poster Presentation

**CHILDREN OF DIVORCE: GRIEVING THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE**

**Category:** Non-death-related Loss  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory  
**Indicator:** Family and Individual  
**Author(s):** Ralph Menard, MS

This poster presentation will prepare practitioners to help children and families address specific needs related to the past, present, and future impact divorce may have. Divorce has a lasting impact on children and parents. However, all too often children's needs are not addressed until after problem behaviors have been identified. After viewing the presentation, participants will compare and contrast immediate and long term impacts of divorce, will recognize early warning signs of grief related to divorce, and will compare multiple treatment modalities to determine which empirically supported treatment is most appropriate for practice.

**References**

Poster Presentation

**ASK ME ANYTHING POSTS AND CANCER DISCOURSE IN REDDIT**

**Category:** Dying  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate  
**Indicator:** Contemporary Perspectives  
**Author(s):** Colleen Murray, PhD

This study examined dominant discourses of seven posters who disclosed a cancer diagnosis on the “Ask Me Anything” section of the social media platform, Reddit. Only their replies to follow-up questions and comments of others were included in the 351 sentence corpus. Content analysis of sentences confirmed the presence of 3 types of discourse: battle/military analogies (over 7% of sentences in OP replies), survivorship discourse (10%), and post-traumatic growth (11%). However, 71% of sentences did not contain the discourses, focusing on medical procedures and pain. Reddit may be a source for coping and forming connections with others seeking support.

**References**

DIMENSIONS OF DEATH ANXIETY IN REDDIT POSTS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH CANCER

Category: Dying
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Indicator: Contemporary Perspectives
Author(s): Colleen Murray, PhD; Jonathan Wilson, MA

Reddit posts of individuals with a cancer diagnosis were compared to a classic 5-dimension death anxiety model. Analysis of 3,277 words found the two most common responses were a general fear of death and the fear of burdening others, neither of which were in the classic model. Two factors from the original model, fear of suffering and fear of the unknown, were uncommon. Overall, respondents expressed more concern with ways their disease impacted family and friends than with physical pain or suffering it caused them. Results suggest measures of death anxiety need to include both individual-focused and socially embedded concerns.

References
Friday, April 27, 2018
9:40 - 10:45am and 3:45 - 4:45pm

Scholarly Paper
DEATH, GRIEF AND MOURNING IN LATE TWENTIETH-CENTURY UGANDA
Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Introductory
Indicator: Historical Perspectives
Author(s): Nakanyike Musisi, PhD

Using a variety of sources, this paper analyzes how ordinary people dealt with death and burial of their dead in late twentieth-century Uganda. It examines rituals associated with caring for, and disposing of, the corpse as well as expressions of grief as texts in themselves imbued with richly evocative concepts of community, affection, loss and hope. I make two arguments: first, like the material culture of burial and entombment, mourning has a history, and second, the historic and public context in which individual and family grief was expressed in twentieth-century Uganda is fundamental to our understanding of its contemporary manifestations.

References
Friday, April 27, 2018  
9:40 - 10:45am and 3:45 - 4:45pm  

**Poster Presentation**  
**PSYCHOMETRICS OF THE GRIEF RECOVERY METHOD® OUTCOME INSTRUMENT**  
**Category:** Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)  
**Presentation Level:** Advanced  
**Indicator:** Resources and Research  
**Author(s):** Rachael Nolan, PhD; Jeffrey Hallam, PhD  

For each death in the US, approximately four to five grieving persons remain. Due the provision of services that these griever require in order to cope with and mourn significant loss, several programs have been established that aim to influence grief. Many of these programs, however, lack valid and reliable instrumentation and have not been evaluated for their effectiveness. This study describes the development and validation of The Grief Recovery Method® Outcome Instrument (GRMOI), a measure of programmatic factors believed to influence grief and promote grief recovery identified as griever’s 1) knowledge, 2) attitudes, 3) beliefs, and 4) behaviors.  

**References**  
Friday, April 27, 2018  
9:40 - 10:45am and 3:45 - 4:45pm

Poster Presentation  
**BIBLIOTHERAPY AS AN APPROACH TO TALK ABOUT DEATH WITH CHILDREN**

**Category:** Death Education  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory  
**Indicator:** Resources and Research  
**Author(s):** Lucelia 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**

As in the whole world, structural differentiation is taking place in a lot of realms of social life in Turkey too, together with the urbanisation process. Urbanisation dynamics, which represents an apparent face of modernisation, is reshaping living practices shaped within the aura of rural life, in the framework of unique norms. In this respect, the purpose of our study is to analyse, from a sociological perspective, the erosion in a religious ritual, the tradition of condolence, which has earned a fundamental character in the traditional living patterns in the Eastern and Southeastern Anatolian Region and the Condolence Houses.

References

Poster Presentation

BEREAVED PARENTS’ GRIEF AND MENTAL HEALTH 1-5 YEARS AFTER LOSS

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Introductory
Indicator: Family and Individual
Author(s): Lilian Pohlkamp, MSc

Intense, prolonged grief reactions and mental health symptoms are common in bereaved parents. This study assessed parents’ symptoms of prolonged grief, PTSS and depression 1-5 years after losing a child to cancer in a national Swedish sample. The results showed no difference between years since loss in any of the measures. Of parents who had lost their child one year previously, mothers had higher levels than fathers on all measures, while no differences were seen between genders 2-5 years after the loss. The findings indicate that time does not impact parent’s grief the first five years following the loss.

References

Friday, April 27, 2018
9:40 - 10:45am and 3:45 - 4:45pm

Poster Presentation
BEREAVEMENT, TRAUMA, & COPING ABILITIES OF HBCU COLLEGE STUDENTS

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Advanced
Indicator: Cultural/Socialization
Author(s): Mary Shelton, PhD; Amanda Cabrera

This study uses stratified random sampling to assess the prevalence of bereavement in college students attending an HBCU. Participating students will report their experience with bereavement and will complete The Life Events Checklist for DSM-5, the RCOPE Scale of religious coping, The Flexible Regulation of Emotional Expression (FREE) Scale, and the Perceived Ability to Cope with Trauma (PACT) Scale. An ordinal multiple regression will be conducted to see if life experiences, religious coping, and flexible emotional regulation predict the level of perceived ability to use both trauma focused and "forward focused" strategies to cope with bereavement and potentially traumatic events.

References
6. Internet Reference: Reference 5
Friday, April 27, 2018
9:40 - 10:45am and 3:45 - 4:45pm

Poster Presentation

**JULY 14, 1918: THE DAY QUENTIN DIED AND TEDDY CRIED!**

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Introductory
Indicator: Historical Perspectives
Author(s): Harold Smith, DMin, FT

117,000 Americans died in World War I including pilot Quentin Roosevelt, 20, Theodore Roosevelt’s son. The former president, a proponent of “bully” masculinity, had insisted that his sons enlist. Quentin joined the fledgling United States Air Service. Teddy took pride that Quentin was flying airplanes—a dangerous innovation in warfare. On July 14, 1918, Captain Roosevelt was shot down. Theodore’s grief was self-disenfranchised: “Roosevelts buck up!” Given TR’s decision to leave his son buried in French soil, ritualization was limited. Teddy Roosevelt died on January 6, 1919, of what some thought “a broken heart.”

References

Friday, April 27, 2018
9:40 - 10:45am and 3:45 - 4:45pm

Scholarly Paper

**THE 1918 ROMANOV EXECUTIONS: APPLICATIONS FOR 2018**

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

*Presentation Level:* Introductory

*Indicator:* Institutional/Societal

*Author(s):* Harold Smith, DMin, FT

2018 marks the centennial of executions which ended the Romanov dynasty’s 300 year reign in Russia and impacted the outcome of World War I and spread of the influenza pandemic. In the past 100 years, royal families, dynasties and dictatorships have collapsed deflating the assumptive world of many individuals whose life, status, and resources, relied on the “well-being” of political regimes. Displacement of ruler-families and the subsequent political instability, civil war and bloodshed motivated a diaspora to exile communities and to entrenched grief for family, friends, colleagues left behind. The exits of political leaders has impacted generations.

**References**

FAMILY FEUDS: IMPACT OF FAMILY CONFLICT ON HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Introductory
Indicator: Professional Issues
Author(s): Judith Smith, LSW, LPCC-S; Christine Scott, LISW-S, FT

Stress is a constant concern for hospice and palliative care workers. This study was a pre/post design. We presented an in-service designed to help staff better manage family conflict in the families we serve. Information on personal conflict-handling modes was presented and applied through the use of case studies. Staff completed a pre and post test to determine the impact of the study on confidence and stress. Confidence did not increase significantly but significant reduction in stress was observed. Future studies might examine the impact of opportunities to meet and discuss topics regarding employee stress.

References
Sleep problems are common in bereaved individuals. This study evaluated the effects of an internet-delivered cognitive behavior therapy (CBT-I) for insomnia in parents after the loss of a child. Preliminary results show that the insomnia symptoms decreased from pre- to post-treatment in the intervention group (d=1.56), however there was no significant difference between the two groups at post-measure (d=0.11) due to a large reduction also in the control group (d=1.12). The results indicate that the internet-delivered CBT-I may have a positive effect on reducing insomnia in bereaved parents. However, larger studies are needed to confirm the findings.

References
Friday, April 27, 2018
9:40 - 10:45am and 3:45 - 4:45pm

Professional Case Presentation
**LAYERS OF LOSS: END OF LIFE CASE STUDIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

**Category:** Death Education  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate  
**Indicator:** Cultural/Socialization  
**Author(s):** Kelly Tenzek, PhD

The session focus is on the intersection of higher education, military, and intercultural communication, all within the context of end-of-life (EOL). As a teaching tool, three case studies have been created revolving around a Marine’s experience with EOL across the lifespan. The case studies are being used to teach college freshman and graduate level professional military students. The session will highlight post-semester observations of what worked well and what areas can be improved in the future so that successful implementation of case studies related to EOL can continue in the college classroom.

**References**

Friday, April 27, 2018
9:40 - 10:45am and 3:45 - 4:45pm

Poster Presentation
**EXPLORING DEATH FEARS IN THE CONTEXT OF POSSIBLE SELVES**

*Category:* End of Life Decision Making  
*Presentation Level:* Introductory  
*Indicator:* Family and Individual  
*Author(s):* Christian Terry, BA; John Hollander, BA; Alissa Dark-Freudeman, PhD

Possible selves are elements of the self-concept that include what we expect to become, hope to become, or are afraid of becoming. The purpose of the current study is to examine the content of death selves. Participants included 261 adults (ages 18-88), who completed an online survey assessing possible selves, hopes and fears related to end-of-life, depression, and self-efficacy and outcome expectancy for achieving and avoiding the hopes and fears. Basic frequency data of the codes were gathered and reported. Exploring the descriptive nature of death selves provided insight into very specific fears individuals have about death and dying.

**References**

Friday, April 27, 2018
9:40 - 10:45am and 3:45 - 4:45pm

Poster Presentation
SEEKING OUT GRIEF AND LOSS EXPERIENCES AS A NEW COUNSELOR
Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Presentation Level: Introductory
Indicator: Professional Issues
Author(s): Sara Troupe, MA

Death, grief, and loss are universal experiences that pervade the work of mental health professionals. Gaining experience with grief and loss is an imperative component to becoming a well trained and effective mental health professional. Yet, training programs do not always provide explicit training in this area. This presentation will discuss ways that graduate students training in counseling services can seek out educational, interactive, and interpersonal experiences with grief and loss when those experiences are not offered through their training programs. It also will discuss the benefits and challenges of finding and engaging in experiences related to grief and loss.

References
The current project examines the intersection of the D(d)eaf community and end-of-life (EOL) care. Research indicates that communication and access to health care are important issues for the deaf community, often underrepresented and marginalized. These issues are magnified during EOL. Therefore, we sought to conduct an extensive literature review to capture a holistic view on the scholarly efforts to understand EOL care in the deaf community. Results of the literature review will be shared and recommendations will be made for better communication among health care participants. Finally, suggestions for future research directions will be made.

References

6. Internet Reference: Reference 5
Friendship grief is often powerful but may not be recognized by others. The poster presentation discusses issues that may occur when grieving over the death of a friend and provides some helpful coping strategies.

References
Webcasts
Thursday, April 26, 2018
10:45 - 11:45am

Webcast
AMBIGUOUS LOSS AT THE INTERSECTION OF RELIGION AND SEXUALITY
Category: Non-death-related Loss
Indicator: Cultural/Socialization
Presentation Level: Introductory
Presenter(s): Nancy Thacker, MS, NCC; Jillian Blueford, MA, NCC

The LGBTQ+ population encounter unique forms of ambiguous loss as they develop and integrate their queer identity into their holistic understanding of self. Negotiation of other identities, particularly a religious/spiritual (R/S) identity, can create complex loss experiences and subsequent unexpected grief. Using a case study example from the presenters’ professional experiences as counselors, this presentation will explore the ambiguous loss experiences of R/S LGBTQ+ individuals and impacts on integrating identity through a social constructivist lens. Implications for practitioners will also be discussed.

Learning Objectives
1. Understand ambiguous loss in the religious/spiritual (R/S) LGBTQ+ population.
2. Consider the intersection of religion/spirituality and sexuality and its impacts on LGBTQ+ individuals’ loss experiences and grieving processes.
3. Develop practice strategies to facilitate R/S LGBTQ+ individuals’ grieving processes as they negotiate their identities.

References
Thursday, April 26, 2018
2:15 - 3:15pm

Webcast

THE TRI-DIMENSIONAL COMPETENCY MODEL OF SUPERVISION

Category: Death Education
Indicator: Professional Issues
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Presenter(s): Pamela Malone, PhD; Mark de St. Aubin, LCSW

The Tri-Dimensional Competency Model of Supervision focuses on three specific competency dimensions critical to the supervision of hospice and palliative care social workers. These include Administrative/Professional, Clinical, and Self-Informed/Personal competency dimensions. Supervisors are informed and guided by the model to focus not only on the basic dimensions but also on the areas of intersection between these dimensions, and then bring them to the attention of the social worker. This is where critical teaching and learning occurs during supervision. Social workers, especially recent graduates, faced with issues related to death and dying present for supervision with a variety of needs and concerns.

Learning Objectives

1. Identify the three competency dimensions and their areas of intersection.
2. Explore the supervisor’s multiple roles of teacher/mentor/consultant/gatekeeper dependent on the developmental needs of each social worker.
3. Utilize activities in supervision to stimulate learning in hospice and palliative care social workers.

References

Thursday, April 26, 2018  
4:15 - 5:45pm

Webcast  
**FAMILY GRIEF FROM AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE**  
**Category:** Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)  
**Indicator:** Family and Individual  
**Presentation Level:** Intermediate  
**Presenter(s):** Kathleen Gilbert, PhD; Lauren Breen, PhD; Janice Nadeau, PhD; Daniela Reis e Silva, MCP; Regina Szylit, PhD; Debra Wiegand, PhD

This panel discusses grief theory, research, practice, and education in the context of the family. We concentrate on family systems theory and tie these to existing grief theories. Challenges in conducting research on bereaved families and important questions regarding study design and implementation are addressed. With practice, family-centered care is a key foundational consideration in many settings. We then argue for the inclusion of family-focused content in grief education. We represent five countries, four continents, and a range of academic and professional orientations, both clinical and scholarly. We will draw on these diverse perspectives as well as personal experiences and observations.

**Learning Objectives**
1. Describe the value of incorporating the family context as a means of thinking beyond the individual perspective.
2. Identify the value and challenges of studying whole families vs. family representatives when studying grief in the family context.
3. Discuss how family-centered care where the family is the unit of care (as opposed to individual-focused care) serves as a key foundational consideration in many clinical settings.

**References**
Thursday, April 26, 2018
1:00 - 2:00pm

Webcast
**RESEARCH THAT MATTERS 2018: SUICIDE BEREAVEMENT**

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

**Indicator:** Resources and Research

**Presentation Level:** Intermediate

**Presenter(s):** David Balk, PhD; John Jordan, PhD; Ann Mitchell, PhD; Melinda Moore, PhD

This panel discussion will look at important clinical issues in suicide bereavement. Jack Jordan will summarize the burgeoning literature on the deleterious bereavement effects of suicide, and argue that suicide postvention must form part of all suicide prevention efforts. Melinda Moore will examine the potential for post-traumatic growth among the bereaved following suicide. Ann Mitchell will present evidence that exposure to, and bereavement from, suicide can have both detrimental as well as constructive effects on those left to cope with a suicide death. Emphasis will be on practical suggestions on how to help those bereaved by suicide.

**Learning Objectives**

1. To identify components of suicide prevention and postvention.
2. To examine both the deleterious effects and positive growth in suicide bereavement.
3. To cite examples of practical suggestions on how therapists, caregivers, and families can help those bereaved by suicide.

**References**

6. **Internet Reference:** Reference 1
A WORD SCAFFOLD: THE USE OF BEREAVEMENT MEMOIRS IN GRIEF THERAPY

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Indicator: Resources and Research
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Presenter(s): Katarzyna Malecka, PhD; Jamison Bottomley, MS; Neimeyer Robert, PhD

The bereavement memoir has become a popular form of mourning and self-therapy. Most grief memoirists claim they feel better as a result of writing about their grief. This two-tier study evaluates the application of grief memoirs in grief counseling via: (1) surveys of therapists and the bereaved that assess both groups’ familiarity with grief memoirs and their judgment of the applicability of these narratives in therapy and self-therapy; and (2) a therapeutic response-writing study using prompts from grief memoirs falling into two categories: a. images capturing the essence of the grief process and b. excerpts discussing writing as a healing process.

Learning Objectives

1. Assist professionals to direct clients to a memoir that might resonate most with a particular case of grief.
2. Develop a system of therapeutic response-writing and journaling exercises employing the comprehensive, longitudinal nature of grief memoirs.
3. Encourage the bereaved to use grief narratives as a jump-start tool to express their often inexpressible emotions in words and concrete images helping to rebuild a life stressed by loss.

References

Saturday, April 28, 2018
1:30 - 2:30pm

Webcast
PARENTAL BEREAVEMENT EXPERIENCE OF CHILD LOSS: A SYSTEMIC REVIEW

Category: Loss, Grief, and Mourning (Death-related)
Indicator: Family and Individual
Presentation Level: Introductory
Presenter(s): Andy Hau Yan Ho, PhD, EdD, FT; Geraldine Tan-Ho, MSocSci, CT; Ping Ying Choo, MA; Oindrila Dutta, MA

Using the PRISMA guidelines, 694 qualitative research articles were identified and screened for appropriateness from 6 major databases between 2010-2017, 22 were retained for thematic-synthesis. Thirteen themes emerged and were organized into a four-phase interlinking trajectory of parental bereavement experience of child loss: (1) ‘Liminal Margin’, defined by emotional-upheaval, family-disarray, medical-relationships, and death-contemplation; (2) ‘Holding Space’, defined by nurturing the child’s body; (3) ‘Navigating Losses’, defined by anguish and responsibility, spousal-collision, parenting-guilt, social-disconnection, and shared-understanding; and (4) ‘Reconstructing Lives’, defined by restorative-actions, continuing-bonds, and meaning-making. Findings are discussed with recommendations for enhancing parental bereavement support services in contemporary societies.

Learning Objectives
1. Understand psycho-socio-emotional impact of child loss on bereaved parents.
2. Discuss the empirical foundation of the lived experience of parental bereavement, as well as the personal and relational dynamics that affects coping with grief and bereavement outcomes.
3. Utilize an empirically informed four-phase interlinking trajectory of parental bereavement experience of child loss for assessing and obtaining in-depth understandings of the needs of bereaved parents in contemporary societies.

References

www.adec.org
Saturday, April 28, 2018
8:30 - 9:30am

Webcast
HEALING THE HELPERS: RELEASING VICARIOUS TRAUMA TO PREVENT BURNOUT
Category: Assessment and Intervention
Indicator: Professional Issues
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Presenter(s): Claudia Coenen, CGC, FT, MTP

Opening to the grief, trauma and crises of others can trigger personal reactions in counselors. The slippery slope from compassion fatigue to burnout requires proactive intervention. Explore how vicarious emotions take up somatic residence within us, how to release them while creating permeable boundaries, so that secondary grief does not become primary. After discussing the research behind vicarious trauma, we will explore breath, movement, expressive art and sound which can alleviate these issues in order to maintain compassionate presence. Participants will be invited to share their own wisdom and personal self-care methods so that we can learn from each other.

Learning Objectives
1. Review research in the field of compassion fatigue and discuss causes of vicarious trauma, compassion and burnout, transference/counter-transference from client to counselor.
2. Identify the helping professional's emotional and somatic reactions to the grief and trauma of others, how this can vicariously trigger personal grief, and experience specific exercises to release these reactions.
3. Explore ways to cope resiliently with vicarious trauma through breath, body awareness, movement, expression and sound, including ideas for effective self-care, generated in discussion with the participants.

References
Saturday, April 28, 2018
9:45 - 10:45am

Webcast
HOW DYING IS UNDER SIEGE AND WHAT CAN BE DONE
Category: Dying
Indicator: Contemporary Perspectives
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Presenter(s): Helen Chapple, PhD

Biomedical advances rescue many from sudden death, enabling survivors to live with chronic conditions for years. As illness worsens and general frailty gradually asserts itself, death can often be foreseen. As never before, dying can invite attention to itself for its own sake. This relatively recent development has shaped society, enabling a focus on “end of life.” But now dying is under siege from several quarters. Expected remedies from hospice and advance care planning are not reliable. This presentation traces the development of dying and explores what puts it in jeopardy. Possible interventions will be offered.

Learning Objectives
1. Name one factor that played a role in the development of dying as a specialized focus.
2. Describe how medical advances have made dying more difficult to identify.
3. Explain why hospice cannot protect dying generally.

References
Art Therapy research indicates that art is a natural means of expression that invites the ability to break down barriers that can accompany verbal communication. The presenter will showcase a unique collaboration between a grief center and community art center where children and teens used creative mediums to address their grief reconciliation needs. The artwork was presented in two art exhibitions showcasing pieces from over 150 participants. Through the power of artistic expression, the artwork represents both the pain of the loss and the hope that lives on. The impact and process of this collaboration will be discussed.

Learning Objectives
1. Gain a understanding of the theoretical bases for using therapeutic art techniques as an intervention for grieving children and teens.
2. Explain how the art making process can address the reconciliation needs of the grieving child as outlined by Dr. Alan Wolfelt.
3. Identify factors to consider in creating a beneficial environment for children to create therapeutic, grief related artwork.

References
6. Internet Reference: Reference 3
A FAMILY GRIEVES AFTER DEATH BY DRUG OVERDOSE: A CASE STUDY

Category: Traumatic Death
Indicator: Family and Individual
Presentation Level: Intermediate
Presenter(s): Sarah Montgomery, MSW, LCSW-C; Joy McCrady, MS, LGPC

Losing a loved one to overdose is complicated. Shame, guilt, blame, stigma and fear are often parts of this disenfranchised grief. As adults struggle themselves to comprehend this loss, how do they begin to explain this type of death to children? What words do we use? How do we offer support? This workshop will use a case study example of one family with school-aged children who lost their mother to drug overdose. We will explore developmentally appropriate language to use with children after an overdose death and identify strategies to guide children (and adults who love them) in their grief.

Learning Objectives
1. Discuss developmentally appropriate language to use with children after an overdose death.
2. Explore common themes of grief and loss after a loss by overdose.
3. Identify strategies to assist children and families impacted by overdose-loss grief.

References
Friday, April 27, 2018
1:00 - 2:00pm

Webcast
A VARIATION OF EMDR TO FACILITATE GRIEF AND AFTER DEATH COMMUNICATIONS

Category: Assessment and Intervention
Indicator: Contemporary Perspectives
Presentation Level: Advanced
Presenter(s): John Jordan, PhD; César Valdez, LMSW

An alteration of the standard EMDR protocol shows promise as a method for facilitating grief and inducing an After Death Communication experience. This technique was pioneered by Alan Botkin, Psy.D., an experienced trauma therapist who calls the procedure Induced After Death Communication therapy. In this presentation, two therapists who have been trained by Botkin will present the background and method of the IADC method. They will also show video of a client experiencing the procedure. Discussion of the implications of this new technique for grief therapists who work with traumatized and bereaved clients will also be allowed, time permitting.

Learning Objectives
1. Describe the therapeutic goals of IADC Therapy and its expected outcomes.
2. Identify the key elements of the IADC therapy protocol.
3. Consider the implications of the technique for their current clinical practice.

References
Friday, April 27, 2018
2:15 - 3:45pm

Webcast

SUPERHERO GRIEF EXPLORED BY A SUPER GRIEF PANEL: THE ORIGIN OF BATMAN

Category: Traumatic Death
Indicator: Contemporary Perspectives
Presentation Level: Advanced
Presenter(s): Jill Harrington-LaMorie, DSW, LCSW; Christopher Hall, MA, BEd, Grad Dip Adol & ChildPsych; Robert Neimeyer, PhD; M. Katherine Shear, MD; Irwin Sandler, PhD; Phyllis Kosminsky, PhD, LCSW

Batman, one of the most iconic superheroes of our time, is a story of a child (Bruce Wayne) who witnesses the brutal murder of his parents on the streets of Gotham City. He vows to avenge their deaths, and it is in the aftermath that the story of Batman Begins. Join us as our super grief experts explore through differing frameworks the superhero grief of Batman. Questions related to complicated grief (Shear, 2015), parental death loss (Sandler, Ayers & Romer, 2002), attachment (Kosminsky & Jordan, 2016), sense and meaning-making (Currier, Holland, & Neimeyer, 2006) and interventional strategies will be discussed.

Learning Objectives

2. Learn how the use of superhero narratives can be applied in working with the bereaved.
3. Discuss the intersection of grief and trauma, its influence and elements of Batman’s narrative on a transformative grief process and factors for risk and resilience.

References

Friday, April 27, 2018  
4:45 - 6:15pm

Webcast  
**CHILDREN DON'T GRIEVE ALONE: MODELS OF INTERVENTION FOR FAMILIES**

**Category:** Assessment and Intervention  
**Indicator:** Family and Individual  
**Presentation Level:** Introductory  
**Presenter(s):** Robin Goodman, PhD; David Kissane, MD; Judy Cohen, MD; Anthony Mannarino, PhD; Elissa Brown, PhD

For some young people, grief cast aside can lead to short term and lifelong problems. An estimated 20-25% of parentally bereaved children will experience psychological and behavioral problems. Psychological adjustment of the surviving parent can play a major role in the child’s adjustment after parental death. The panelists will present three different interventions. Each presenter will discuss the rationale, assessment methods and criteria for inclusion, structure and format of sessions, and research and results of the intervention. Normative vs problematic grief and the challenges of treating children in the context of caregiver grief and family functioning will be discussed.

**Learning Objectives**

1. Develop an appropriate assessment package for bereaved children and their caregivers.
2. Identify the appropriate intervention for bereaved children based on symptoms, risk and protective factors, and child and adult functioning.
3. Discuss the application and pros and cons of different types of intervention for bereaved children.

**References**
