

**20th Annual
Palliative Care Conference
Education and Research Day
26th October 2009**

**Fantasyland Hotel, West Edmonton Mall
Edmonton, Alberta
Canada**



**Covenant
Health**

*Compassionate care led
by Catholic values*

PLENARY SPEAKERS:



Professor David Currow is currently the foundation Chief Executive Officer of Cancer Australia, the Australian government's national cancer control agency. He continues to hold the appointment of Professor of Palliative and Supportive Services at Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia. David initially trained as a physician in internal medicine with sub-specialty training in palliative medicine. At the same time, he completed a Master of Public Health exploring changes in the reported incidence of cancer unknown primary in New South Wales over a 25 year time period. Since 2000 he has had the Chair of Palliative and Supportive Services at Flinders University where there are more than 200 distance students studying at a post-graduate level around the world from a variety of discipline backgrounds. He has published widely in palliative care journals and the general medical literature. Other research interests include the symptomatic management of dyspnea, improving population based planning for people with life limiting illnesses and improving the evidence base around which clinical decisions are made in palliative care. He is a senior associate editor of the Journal of Palliative Medicine.



Dorothy S. Becvar, Ph.D., is a Professor in the School of Social Work at Saint Louis University. A Licensed Marital and Family Therapist and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Dorothy has published extensively and in addition to many journal articles and book chapters is the author of the several books. Currently, Dorothy is serving as Editor of Contemporary Family Therapy: An International Journal. She is also a well-respected teacher and trainer who in addition to Saint Louis University has been a member of the faculties of the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Texas Tech University, Washington University and Radford University, and has presented workshops and taught courses, both nationally and internationally, on a wide variety of topics.



Susan Blacker received her Bachelor of Social Work degree from King's College at the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario and completed her Master of Social Work degree at the University of Toronto. She began her clinical career in Oncology and Palliative Care Social Work at Oshawa General Hospital. Simultaneously, she taught at Durham College in Oshawa, Ontario in the Palliative Care Certificate and Oncology Nursing Certificate Programs. Currently, Susan is the Coordinator of the Oncology Center's patient and family resource program called The Living with Cancer Resource Program. She is also the Director of the Johns Hopkins Oncology Center's Continuing Education Program in Psychosocial Cancer Care, a nationally-recognized training program for health care professionals.



Dr. Fainsinger graduated from the University of Cape Town in South Africa in 1981. In 1991, he completed the first fellowship in palliative medicine at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada. He is the Director of the Tertiary Palliative Care Unit at the Grey Nuns Hospital, Director of the Division of Palliative Care Medicine in the Dept of Oncology, and Clinical Director for the Alberta Health Services – Edmonton Zone Palliative Care Program. He is a Professor in the Division of Palliative Care Medicine, Department of Oncology at the University of Alberta. He is active in education and research, and has published articles on a number of palliative care topics, with an interest in dehydration, delirium, sedation at the end of life, and a classification system for cancer pain. He has over 140 publications in journals and book chapters.