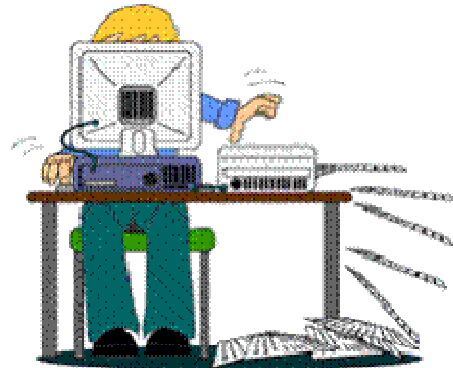


Media Watch

...is distributed weekly to colleagues active or with a special interest in palliative and end-of-life care – to help keep them abreast of current, emerging and related issues, and to inform discussion and encourage further inquiry. Following is an annotated listing of recent articles, reports, etc., with links to the original source.

Compiled & Annotated by Barry R. Ashpole



Compilation of Media Watch 2008 ©

7 July 2008 Edition | Issue #52

Intervention in the decision making process: Scroll down to [U.S.A.](#) and 'Man's survival spawns 'Jesse's Law' (to protect incapacitated patients).'

Canada: National

Academic freedom: Instructor wants to witness assisted suicide for his research

VANCOUVER SUN | Online report – 3 July 2008 – Canada's university professors are preparing to defend the right of a Vancouver researcher to witness illegal assisted suicides in the name of increasing understanding of the right-to-die movement. The Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) has formed a high-level committee to investigate claims that Kwantlen Polytechnic University sociologist Russel Ogden was unjustly denied the chance to research new techniques for assisted suicide. <http://www.canada.com/vancouversun/story.html?id=8ccd8993-940c-476f-b03b-226112ce1044>

- *National Post*: 'School reverses course on death research.'
<http://www.nationalpost.com/opinion/columnists/story.html?id=1bfa5a2c-aac0-4194-a6dc-4809434f25e5>
- InsideHigherEd.com: 'When a university kills suicide research.'
<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2008/07/07/suicide>

Links

Links are active often for only a limited period of time. Please alert this office if you encounter any difficulty and every effort will be made to find an alternative means of access. Alternatively, copy and paste the URL into the address bar of your browser.

A surprisingly potent placebo: “face time”

GLOBE & MAIL | Online commentary – 1 July 2008 – A recent study (published) in the *British Medical Journal* ...found patients who received better communication and more attention from their doctors saw a dramatic improvement in their medical condition than those who had a "colder" relationship and little “face time” with their physician. Patients with the greatest relief of symptoms were the ones that received 45 minutes of quality contact with a clinician. Patients were able to tell their stories and share their ideas and feelings about their symptoms. The doctors conveyed warmth, and realistic but positive expectations. A cold and disinterested clinician may encourage a poor recovery response while an empathetic and hands-on caregiver may be the most powerful, if undervalued, placebo we have.
<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20080701.wlevans01/BNStory/specialScienceandHealth/home>

Disabled veterans' families feel strain on finances, health

CBC | Online report – 30 June 2008 – People who care for Canada's disabled veterans often face overwhelming demands and financial pressures, according a Veterans Canada study. The study, *Wounded Veterans, Wounded Families*, indicates the families of Canadian soldiers released from active duty with severe disabilities suffer long-term financial burdens as well as high rate of emotional stress and health issues. <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/story/2008/06/30/veterans.html>

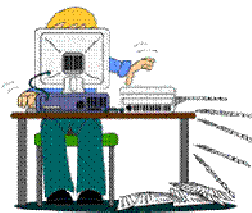
- *Wounded Veterans, Wounded Families*: <http://www.ales2.ualberta.ca/hecol/hcic/>

Canada: The Provinces

Expressions of grief: Photographing dead and dying infants

ONTARIO | Canadian Press – 6 July 2008 – As the family made funeral preparations, a friend suggested that they might want to do something to memorialize their son. When she mentioned ‘Now I Lay Me Down To Sleep,’ an organization that specializes in photographing dead and dying infants, Gina Strimas-Mackey knew she had found the perfect way to remember (her son) Ezra. Strimas-Mackey contacted Heather Rivlin, a Toronto photographer who is with ‘Now I Lay Me Down To Sleep,’ and she agreed to take photos at Ezra's funeral. When Strimas-Mackey and the rest of her family arrived at the funeral home, Rivlin was already there, ready to document their raw emotions as they saw and touched their baby for the first time since his death.
<http://canadianpress.google.com/article/ALeqM5iEM2lwSAOURyBxB0R7SEsC9meKA>

- ChristianNewswire.com: ‘**Families mourning children head to Nashville.**’
<http://christiannewswire.com/news/883207059.html>



Barry R. Ashpole

My experience in palliative and end-of-life care dates from 1985. As a communications specialist, I have been involved in or responsible for a broad range of initiatives at the community, regional, provincial and national level. My work focuses primarily on advocacy, capacity building and policy development in addressing issues specific to those living with a life-threatening or terminal illness – both patients and families. In recent years, I

have applied my experience and knowledge to education, developing and teaching on-line and in-class courses and workshops for frontline care providers.

Ombudsman preparing to investigate conditions in Ontario's nursing homes

ONTARIO | Canadian Press – 3 July 2007 – The "horror stories" about shocking conditions in the province's nursing homes have prompted Ontario's Ombudsman to prepare for an investigation into whether the governing Liberals are doing enough to ensure the safety and dignity of elderly residents. Andre Marin said his office has been doing a "pre-investigation" for the last three months to determine whether a full-blown probe is needed. "These are allegations that need to be assessed." His decision comes in the wake of an investigation by The Canadian Press, which found three-quarters of the province's nursing homes had been cited for failing to meet some of the government's 400 standards – a proportion that hasn't changed significantly since 2004 when then-health minister George Smitherman promised a "revolution" in the province's long-term care. http://canadianpress.google.com/article/ALeqM5ib9dc7NIHqYoJ3XKn4MW_aeR2-Sg

- Canadian Press: 'Three-quarters of nursing homes cited for not meeting some provincial standards.' <http://canadianpress.google.com/article/ALeqM5g9XGH7jwTgFNXSyr9Hve7kxrF6zw>
- Ontario Public Service Employees Union press release: 'Ontario needs nursing home staffing standard now.' <http://www.marketwire.com/press-release/Ontario-Public-Service-Employees-Union-Opseu-875573.html>
- *Sudbury Star*: 'Nursing home fix is expensive.' <http://www.thesudburystar.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1100290>

Study reveals the impact of not having a primary care physician



ONTARIO MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (OMA) | Press release – 2 July 2008 – A report from the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) reveals that Ontarians without a family doctor leads to more emergency room visits and hospital admissions for those who have chronic diseases. The report follows one from the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) that found – since 2003 – doctors have helped provide care to 630,000 patients who did not have a doctor previously, leaving 850,000 Ontarians without a doctor. "The lack of access to a family doctor, especially for those with chronic diseases, negatively impacts the quality of life of patients and places unnecessary stress on our hospitals and emergency rooms," said Dr. Ken Arnold, President of the OMA.

- OMA press release: <http://www.oma.org/Media/news/pr080702.asp>
- ICES report: http://www.ices.on.ca/file/Impact_no%20physician_July3-08.pdf

Growing occurrence of chronic disease, needs of (the) elderly among issues medical profession must address

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR | *Western Star* – 30 June 2008 – Dr. Elizabeth Callahan, recently installed as president of the Newfoundland & Labrador Medical Association, says two significant patient-focused priorities for the medical profession will be addressing the growing occurrence of chronic disease and how to plan to meet the needs of the elderly. The World Health Organization projects that ...high-income countries like Canada will experience an 11% increase in deaths from complex chronic disease between 2006 and 2015, and a 63% increase in deaths from diabetes. <http://www.thewesternstar.com/index.cfm?sid=148351&sc=23>

[U.S.A.](#)

California bill would mandate discussions of end-of-life options

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION | Amednews.com – 7 July 2008 – The California State Assembly in late May passed a bill requiring physicians to have comprehensive discussions about legal end-of-life care options with terminally ill patients who request such information. Doctors agree that patients have a right to know about choices, but most say lawmakers should not meddle in physician-patient relationships. <http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2008/07/14/prsc0714.htm>

'Complicated grief' affects the brain differently

CALIFORNIA | *Los Angeles Times* – 7 July 2008 – Grief activates a part of the brain associated with feelings of reward in people with so-called complicated grief, the psychiatric term for sadness that persists long after a person has experienced a loss. A team of neurologists and psychiatrists at UCLA have shown that the pattern of brain activity in people who suffer complicated grief is markedly different from that seen in people whose sorrow lessens with time. In people with complicated grief, reminders of a lost loved one trigger activity in the brain's nucleus accumbens, a region that's also active when a person experiences feelings of reward. The finding initially struck the researchers as "bizarre," says study author Mary-Frances O'Connor. It almost seemed to imply that the grief was somehow pleasurable. It made more sense, however, when viewed in the context of research that has shown the nucleus accumbens is activated when a person is presented with something they want – that is, a reward – and they begin to crave or yearn for that reward. http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-he-explain7-2008jul07_0.4357701.story

New poll: Most “sandwichers” feel forced to neglect either senior parents or children

CHRISTIANNEWSWIRE.COM | Online report – 7 July 2008 – Poll results reveal that the estimated 20 million Americans who juggle caring for their own children and their aging parents – the Sandwich Generation – feel forced to make tough choices.

- 53% feel forced to choose between caring for their children or caring for their parents at least once a week
- 20% feel they must choose to care for one or the other every day of the week
- 40% believe that their parents did a better job of balancing multi-generational caregiving than they do

"No one wants to feel that they must choose between caring for their aging parents or caring for their kids," said Gary Brown, founder and president of Christian Companion Senior Care. "But the survey indicates that millions of Sandwich Generation Americans are facing these tough, stressful choices every day." <http://christiannewswire.com/news/895927094.html>

[Was Something Missed or Overlooked?](#)

If you come across a media report, journal article, etc., relevant to palliative and end-of-life care not mentioned in this weekly summary of current news coverage, please alert this office so that it can be included in a future edition of Media Watch. Thank you.

Many Nevadans crave painkillers, and some doctors oblige

NEVADA | *Las Vegas Sun* – 6 July 2008 – Nevadans consume about twice the national average of several prescription painkillers, making us among the most narcotic-addled populations in the U.S. In 2006, Nevadans were the No. 1 users per capita of hydrocodone – better-known by the brand names Vicodin or Lortab. We took enough of the drug to equal 48 Vicodin pills for every man, woman and child in the state for a year. And the numbers are climbing. From 1997 to 2006, the most recent year for which data are available, the per capita rate of hydrocodone used in Nevada jumped by 273%. Nevadans are turning to other narcotic painkillers at an even faster rate. The per capita use of oxycodone, best-known by the brand name OxyContin, climbed sevenfold from 1997 to 2006, while methadone use jumped 12-fold.

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2008/jul/06/painful-truth-about-painkillers/>

- *Las Vegas Sun*: **Geography of prescription narcotic consumption in the U.S.**
http://www.lasvegassun.com/multimedia/rx_interactive/
- *Observer* (London): **'U.K. doctors are warned over drug deaths.'**
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/jul/06/health.nhs>

Man's survival spawns 'Jesse's Law' (to protect incapacitated patients)

ARIZONA | OneNewsNow.com – 2 July 2008 – The miraculous story of a Gulf War veteran on the verge of death following a serious accident has sparked the Arizona legislature to protect incapacitated patients from hasty decisions designed to accelerate their deaths. Jesse Ramirez made it through a war, but he almost died as the result of not having a living will. Just ten days after a severe car crash, Ramirez' estranged wife ordered his food, water and antibiotics terminated. He was then transferred to a hospice to die. Gary McCaleb, senior counsel with the Alliance Defense Fund, which helped save Jesse's life, says Ramirez was within hours of dying when they were able to get his food and water restored. "And within a matter of months, he walked out of the hospital – and now he's almost fully recovered and living at home," the attorney reports. <http://www.onenewsnw.com/Legal/Default.aspx?id=162062>

Caregiver study assesses training needs

FLORIDA | ABCLocal.go.com – 2 July 2008 – 'Support of the caregiver of the older cancer patient undergoing chemotherapy,' a new study, is focusing on the caregiver and how support can help not only the patient but also save the health care system money. Researchers want to determine if a brief training program for caregivers will give them confidence to help manage patients' symptoms, improving the quality of life for both of them. For the study, caregivers will receive one-on-one time with a nurse and be given a home care guide to help answer the many questions that may come up. The study is only being done at Moffitt Cancer Center at this time, but if the protocol proves to be helpful, researchers hope to replicate the program at other facilities across the country. <http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=news/health&id=6241019>

[Back Issues of Media Watch](#)

Back issues of Media Watch are held on file for a limited time and available on request.

Washington State Medical Association speaks out against assisted suicide

WASHINGTON | *Yakima Herald-Republic* – 2 July 2008 – The state medical society (has) come out against Initiative 1000, the measure to legalize physician-assisted suicide. "We believe physician-assisted suicide is fundamentally incompatible with the role of physicians as healers," said Dr. Brian Wicks, president of the Washington State Medical Association (WSMA). The WSMA has opposed assisted suicide since 1991 when a similar initiative was proposed and defeated. Wicks said I-1000 would pose a problem that should worry supporters. He said the death certificate would have to be "deliberately falsified" to list the underlying disease, such as lung cancer, as the cause of death even though the doctor knows the death was the result of suicide. <http://www.yakima-herald.com/stories/5440>

- *Herald*, Everett, WA: '**320,000 signatures for right to die initiative.**' <http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20080703/NEWS01/776671937>
- *Times*, Seattle, WA: '**Death with dignity initiative deserves dignified consideration.**' http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/opinion/2008030526_gardneroped03.html

For hospice, a higher authority

WASHINGTON POST | Online report – 1 July 2008 – Twenty-five years after Medicare began paying for hospice care, the federal health program has issued a new rule calling hospice providers to closer account on the quality of care they offer. The rule, which will take effect in December, guarantees hospice patients a say in their treatment plans and requires hospice providers to show they are improving in areas where they have been found deficient. The move comes at a time when hospice care is growing exponentially but is still vastly underused and under-appreciated ...advocates say. About 1.3 million people received hospice services in 2006, more than twice as many as did a decade earlier. What was once a grass-roots, community-based movement in the late 1960s has become a booming health-care business. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/story/2008/06/30/ST2008063002380.html>

Learning lab for end-of-life and palliative care

NURSE.COM | Online report – 30 June 2008 – To arm hospitals with the support they need, seven hospitals nationwide are serving as learning labs and hosting free site visits through the Hospital-Based Palliative Care Consortium (HBPCC). The program involves three phases. During the first phase, a host hospital receives materials that will help its planning committee prepare for the site visit. The participating hospital teams also complete surveys to gauge the visiting hospital's strengths and weaknesses. Phase two involves the site visit to the host hospital to see firsthand how a well-functioning palliative care program operates. During the last phase, visiting hospitals are given feedback as they implement their own programs. <http://include.nurse.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080630/CA02/106300015>

- HBPCC website: <http://www.hret.org/hret/programs/palliative.html>

Events

CHPCA events webpage: http://www.chpca.net/events/calendar_of-events.htm

Program encourages black families to embrace end-of-life care

TEXAS | *Dallas News* – 28 June 2008 – The ‘Progressive Palliative Care Educational Curriculum for the Care of African-Americans at Life’s End’ is sponsored by a coalition of Dallas hospitals, hospices and other care providers. Training includes sessions on cultural and spiritual concerns, improving communication and developing better strategies for patient-centered care. Research shows that race plays a significant role in access to health care. Blacks are less likely than whites to have a primary care doctor. They’re also less likely to get adequate pain treatment. Blacks are more likely than whites to seek aggressive life-support treatments for loved ones facing terminal illness and less comfortable making decisions about withdrawing medical technology. <http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/latestnews/stories/0628dnproendoflife.466f039.html>

Escalating energy costs threaten health care for critically ill and homebound seniors

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR HOME CARE & HOSPICE’S FOUNDATION FOR HOSPICE & HOMECARE | Press release – 25 June 2008 – A new study has documented that nurses, therapists and home care aides who serve chronically ill elderly and disabled patients drive nearly 5 billion miles each year and that escalating gasoline prices are threatening their ability to reach patients, particularly in rural areas. http://www.nahc.org/media/mediaPR_062508.html

International

Trends: High technology funerals

AUSTRALIA | Reuters newswire report – 4 July 2008 – Centennial Park Cemetery Authority, which runs the largest cemetery in South Australia state, says traditional liturgy and somber ceremonies are being replaced with new high-technology funerals which reflect the deceased’s personality. In moving with technology, funeral parlors and chapels (are) upgrading equipment to provide sound systems, plasma television screens and computers for families to use for presentations, and gadgets that allow overseas mourners to take part in the funeral over the Internet. <http://www.reuters.com/article/lifestyleMolt/idUSSYD17138920080704>

- Canada (Ontario): ‘**Songs to die for: The top 10 weird tunes played at funerals.**’ http://www.citynews.ca/news/news_24457.aspx
- New Zealand (South Canterbury): ‘**Green funerals growing.**’ <http://www.stuff.co.nz/timaruherald/4604146a6571.html>
- South Korea: ‘**Mock funerals give new life...**’ <http://news.theage.com.au/world/mock-funerals-give-new-life-to-s-koreans-20080111-1lfv.html>
- U.S. (Portland, ORE): ‘**More burials are eco-friendly.**’ <http://www.news-leader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080703/LIFE06/807030340>

Focus of international conference on “the mystery of death”

CANADA | Press release – 3 July 2008 – Tyndale University College & Seminary will host the 5th Biennial International Meaning Conference in Toronto (Ontario) 24-27 July. The main conference theme is *Living well and dying well: New frontiers of positive psychology, therapy and spiritual care*. The purpose of the conference is to exchange research findings, clinical interventions and spiritual insights. <http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/July2008/03/c9793.html>

- Conference website: http://www.meaning.ca/meaning_conference/index.html

German Chancellor speaks out against assisted suicides, proposes new laws

GERMANY | Dw-World.de – 3 July 2008 – German Chancellor Angela Merkel has spoken out in the strongest terms against euthanasia as the heated debate over a former Hamburg government official's involvement in the assisted suicide of a pensioner gathers pace. Merkel, outlining her Christian Democrats' party line on the topic, said that she was against "every form of assisted suicide" regardless of the circumstances. Merkel's stance was echoed by Germany's Health Minister Ulla Schmidt. The debate was prompted by the revelation this week that a 79-year-old Wurzburg woman chose to end her own life ...despite not having any life-threatening diseases or suffering great physical pain. What added an extra angle to the story was that former Hamburg justice senator Roger Kusch, a proponent for the right to die, advised her of the best way to do it. <http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,2144,3456813,00.html>

- Australia: '**Newsreader's admission fuels euthanasia conscience debate.**' http://www.nzherald.co.nz/section/2/story.cfm?c_id=2&objectid=10519255
- Bahrain: '**Book probes mercy killing issue.**' <http://www.gulf-daily-news.com/Story.asp?Article=221105&Sn=BNEW&IssueID=31096>
- Germany: '**Assisted suicide rather than a nursing home.**' <http://blogs.wsj.com/health/2008/07/03/in-germany-assisted-suicide-rather-than-a-nursing-home/>
- India: '**Law panel backs mercy killing for terminally ill.**' http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/India/Law_panel_backs_mercy_killing_for_terminally_ill/articleshow/3176245.cms
- New Zealand: '**Fight continues to ban euthanasia book.**' <http://www.stuff.co.nz/4597011a11.html>
- Spain: '**Socialists to debate euthanasia...**' <http://www.thinkspain.com/news-spain/15177/socialists-to-debate-euthanasia-abortion-and-immigrant-voting-rights>
- Switzerland: '**Controversial euthanasia policies to be reviewed.**' http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/news/social_affairs/Controversial_euthanasia_policies_to_be_reviewed.html?siteSect=204&sid=9289230&cKey=1215058826000&ty=nd
- U.K.: '**Britain's pathway to euthanasia – protocols for dehydrating disabled patients to death.**' <http://www.lifesitenews.com/ldn/2008/jul/08070303.html>

Study finds people with HIV living longer

U.K. | Reuters newswire report – 2 July 2008 – People with HIV in the developed world are no more likely to die in the first five years following infection than men and women in the general population. The risk for people infected through sex creeps up after that, according to the study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. The findings did not include men and women infected through injected drug use, and their death risk remained higher in the five years after infection. <http://uk.reuters.com/article/UKNews1/idUKL0166796220080702>

Psychological management of dying patient

SRI LANKA | *The Island* – 2 July 2008 – Psychologists and psychiatrists have begun taking an interest in identifying the psychological and social problems experienced by the dying, and have tried to develop methods of relieving and preventing these problems. Despite this change in attitude, many of the issues entailed in the psychological management of the terminally ill – such as whether to tell the patient the truth, how to tell him, what help to offer relatives – remain baffling and complex. A person with an incurable illness obviously enters a psychological and social world which is intrinsically alien and stressful. Not surprisingly, therefore, he may react to this situation with a range of emotions including anxiety, depression, guilt and anger. <http://www.island.lk/2008/07/02/features5.html>

Assisted suicide video horrifies Germany

GERMANY | *Spiegel* online – 1 July 2008 – A former Hamburg government official has launched an intense debate on the right to die in Germany. He actively helped a woman commit suicide on Saturday – and showed a film of it on Monday. The tabloid *Bild* calls it "perverse." Germany's Health Minister Ulla Schmidt said "I reject this path categorically." And, Jörg-Dietrich Hoppe, president of the German Medical Association, calls it "abhorrent and deeply shocking."
<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/0,1518,563230,00.html>

- U.S. (*New York Times*): 'Video of dying mental patient being ignored spurs changes at Brooklyn hospital.' <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/02/nyregion/02hosp.html>

Care homes and hospices (in Wales) could face regular inspections

U.K. (WALES) | CommunityCare.co.uk – 1 July 2008 – A new inspectorate for palliative care providers in Wales could be established under plans unveiled in a Welsh Assembly-commissioned review. Care homes and hospices could face regular inspections under a new framework of standards, as set out by the All-Wales Palliative Care Planning Group. Better partnerships between health and social services are needed to drive up standards, which sets out plans for core-funded multi-disciplinary teams including social workers and welfare support workers. <http://www.communitycare.co.uk/Articles/2008/07/01/108702/palliative-care-in-wales.html>

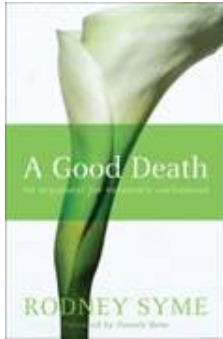
Journal Articles of Interest

A method to determine spatial access to specialized palliative care services using Geographic Information Systems (GIC)

BIO MED CENTRAL HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH, 2008;8:140. Providing palliative care is a growing priority for health service administrators worldwide as the populations of many nations continue to age rapidly. In many countries, palliative care services are presently inadequate and this problem will be exacerbated in the coming years. The provision of palliative care, moreover, has been piecemeal in many jurisdictions and there is little distinction made at present between levels of service provision. There is a pressing need to determine which populations do not enjoy access to specialized palliative care services in particular. Strategic location analysis methods must be developed and used to accurately locate future palliative services in order to provide spatial access to the greatest number of people, and to ensure that limited health resources are allocated wisely. Improved spatial access has the potential to reduce travel-times for patients, for palliative care workers making home visits, and for travelling practitioners. These methods are particularly useful for health service planners – and provide a means to rationalize their decision-making. <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6963/8/140>

Books & Resources

A Good Death



AUSTRALIA | *Sydney Morning Herald* – 30 June 2008 – In 1998, "Jane," a desperate 52-year-old Melbourne woman with advanced multiple sclerosis, dictated a letter to a man she did not know, Dr Rodney Syme. She begged him to "advise and help to end a situation over which I no longer have any control." Faced with such a plea, what should a doctor do? What should the law permit the doctor to do? These are the questions posed in Syme's new book. An eminent urologist and euthanasia advocate, he draws upon case studies ...most involve people afflicted by one of two conditions: malignant cancer or a chronic and progressive neurological disorder, such as MS, motor neurone disease or paranoid schizophrenia. Syme supports the decriminalisation of euthanasia, if defined as "an action taken by, or at the request of, a rational fully informed individual, whose intention is to be

relieved of intolerable and otherwise unrelievable suffering, that hastens death in a dignified manner." <http://www.smh.com.au/news/book-reviews/a-good-death/2008/06/30/1214677923070.html>

New U.S. website offers information for pain sufferers

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Online report – 27 June 2008 – Karen Ogle is a Michigan State University (MSU) physician whose professional mission is to relieve pain. She is one of the driving forces behind a new website developed to help people suffering from cancer pain and those who support them. Located at www.mipain.org, the site offers information and resources for those suffering from pain, their health care providers and policymakers. While it does not provide individualized health care advice, it equips patients and families to ask the right questions and advocate for relief of their pain more effectively. "This is a comprehensive, interactive website devoted solely to cancer pain management," said Ogle, a professor of family medicine at MSU and the president of the Michigan Cancer Pain Initiative (MCPI). The MCPI is an association of health professionals, patient advocates and clergy, government and higher education, dedicated to addressing the problem of unrelieved pain from cancer. <http://msutoday.msu.edu/news/index.php3?article=27Jun2008-4>



Undertreated Pain in the Context of Palliative & End of Life Care

Incidence, Prevalence & Legal Liability
(and related clinical issues).

Review of recent or current literature
compiled and annotated
by Barry R. Ashpole.

Updated 7 July 2008

Photograph by Mark Nowaczynski MD

[PDF file of review attached.](#)

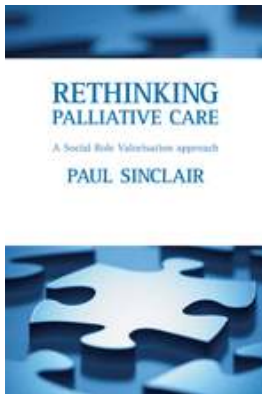
Arts & Entertainment

Taking the show – and the cancer care – on the road

U.S. | Boston.com – 6 July 2008 – Lots of music groups tour abroad, and scientists regularly attend symposia in other countries. Putting the two together? That's a variation. Some 30 members of the Longwood Symphony Orchestra (LSO) boarded a flight to London to launch 'Bridging the Atlantic: Artful Innovations in Cancer Care,' a combination concert tour, medical symposium, and philanthropic campaign. The London performances were the first concerts ever given outside Massachusetts in the 25-year history of the orchestra, which is composed mainly of local medical professionals. "Almost everywhere we went ...we connected at the highest level," said music director and conductor Jonathan McPhee, who describes himself as "the professional musician in the group." The orchestra's performances were recognized in two prestigious musical journals in London, *Classical Music UK* and *The Stage*. And, the medical work accomplished – sharing experiences and research – was equally exciting to orchestra members, said LSO violinist and board president Lisa Wong. "Serious long-term connections were made," she said. http://www.boston.com/ae/music/articles/2008/07/06/taking_the_show_and_the_cancer_care_on_the_road/

Worth Repeating

Rethinking palliative care: A social role valorisation approach



U.K. | CommunityCare.co.uk – 4 October 2007 – This book pulls no punches in arguing that the palliative care model has failed. Kelvin Karim, a social worker, draws upon his experience in the ...disability sector to argue that palliative care devalues dying individuals. Moreover, inherent to the palliative care model are significant factors that prevent death and dying from becoming normal valued parts of life. The author calls for the development of an alternative model of care. This is where social role valorisation (SRV) comes in. Primarily used in the learning disability field, SRV is a concept first formulated in 1983 by Wolf Wolfensberger, a U.S. psychologist and disability rights activist. SRV aims to enhance the perceived social roles of a person or group and ...rethinking palliative care requires the integration of SRV into the palliative care model.

<http://www.communitycare.co.uk/Articles/2007/10/04/106006/rethinking-palliative-care-a-social-role-valorisation-approach.html>

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