

# PROJECT ON DEATH IN AMERICA

## Soros Social Work Leadership Awards

### *Monthly Newsletter*

Volume 1/Number 4

January 15, 2000

*“Promoting Social Work Leadership in Care of the Dying and the Bereaved”*

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*This monthly newsletter is produced as part of the Soros Social Work Leadership Awards for the Project on Death in America. Questions, comments and ideas should be addressed to:*

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**Grace Christ, DSW**  
*Program Director*

**Jennifer Roesch**  
*Project Assistant*

#### IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

#### Social Work Leader, Barbara Dane

#### *“Continuing Education in End-of-Life Care”*

Barbara Dane has established an advanced professional training program at New York University Ehrenkranz School of Social Work for social work professionals involved in end of life care. The training program includes an End-of-Life Care Consortium of experienced professionals representing 10 New York City provider agencies, including Cancer Care, Gay Men’s Health Crisis, Calvary, Visiting Nurse Service of New York Hospice Care, NYU Palliative Care at the NYU Medical Center, and Chai Lifeline, a network of health support services of catastrophically ill Jewish children and their families.

The program began this fall with a curriculum that includes such topics as workers’ reactions and secondary trauma, the dying child and the bereaved child, spirituality, ethnicity and diverse populations, and ethical issues. The implications of developmental issues, cultural differences, and spiritual and religious diversity related to bereavement and mourning are highlighted. Besides coursework, the training fellows enrolled in the program complete a one-day field visit in a setting outside their current agency and a special field project that will enhance the practice, policy or research in their agency. They are also assigned a mentor who assists them in planning their special project.

Fellows involved in the training program gain valuable social networks and knowledge. Too often professionals involved in end of life care are isolated from one another and their colleagues are uncomfortable dealing with issues of death and dying. According to one fellow, Alissa Sandler, “It’s a great opportunity to meet and interact with peers. Fieldwork can be very isolating, especially when dealing with grief and bereavement.”



*Barbara Dane, PhD*

## Awards, Grants and Presentations

**Gary Stein, MSW**, Director of New Jersey Health Decisions/New Jersey Comfort Care Coalition received a grant from the First Union Bank Hoffman Foundation for \$5,000. The grant will support the development of a conference titled "Living Well at the End of Life: Expanding Our Vision." The conference will be held March 9-10, 2001, and is sponsored by the New Jersey Comfort Care Coalition at New Jersey Health Decisions.

**Grace Christ, DSW, and Susan Blacker, MSW**, presented at the meeting of the Provider Education Committee of Last Acts at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The meeting was held on January 11 in Chicago, Illinois. Both women have been appointed as members of this committee.

**Terry Altilio, ACSW**, was an invited speaker at the following conferences:

*December 2000, New Rochelle, New York:* Co-Presenter: "JCAHO 2001: The Social Worker's Role in Pain Management Intervention" at the Health Care Social Workers' Association.

*November 2000, Baltimore, Maryland:* Terry presented at a conference organized by Susan Blacker, titled "Social Work and End of Life Care Symposium: Clinical Practice in Palliative Care." She spoke on "Pain and Symptom Management: A Multidimensional Perspective."

**Iris Cohen, LICSW**, recently visited Melbourne, Australia, as the International Scholar chosen for the Boston/Melbourne Social Work Exchange from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. Iris spent a month learning about the systems and methods of care related to both oncology social work and palliative care in Melbourne. She had the opportunity to visit several inpatient palliative care units as well as community-based palliative care and consultation services.

ACCESS presented an all day educational program on Dec 15, 2000, to a group of 13 health care providers that included physicians, nurses, social workers, and chaplains. This was the first part of a three-part training called Multicultural End-of-Life Care. The training was held at Laguna Honda Hospital in San Francisco. This training consisted of two modules. **Norma del Rio, MSW, of the Institute for Multicultural Research and Social Work Practice** presented the first module titled "A Framework for Multicultural End-of-Life Care." and a nurse practitioner presented the second module titled "Symptom Management from a Multicultural Perspective". Each module was three-hours long and continuing education units were offered to the attendees.

## New in Print and Media

### In Journals:

*Walsh-Burke, K. and Scanlon, P. (2001). Beyond Reviving Ophelia: Groups for Girls 12-14 and the Women who Care about Them. Social Work with Groups, 23(1): 71-81.*

This article discusses an innovative multigenerational psychoeducational group designed for pre adolescent and adolescent girls and the adult women who care about them. The program was developed by two social workers, who are also mothers of adolescent daughters, and is based on a strengths and empowerment approach. The purposes of the group are to foster an alliance between girls and adult women, to increase awareness of the pressures girls experience in contemporary culture and to teach strategies that support girls in developing and maintaining authentic selves.

The program has been offered in middle schools, high schools and community social service agencies. Qualitative data have been gathered from approximately eighty girls and women who have participated in the group programs. These indicate that the program is effective in facilitating communication among girls and women, increasing a sense of mutual support, and helping girls and women to become more critical consumers of mass media.

## ***Job Openings, Fellowships and Grants***

**Job Opening:** *Director of Patient and Family Support for the American Cancer Society  
Cancer Control, National Home Office (Atlanta, GA)  
Reports To Strategic Business Manager of Cancer Control, Nancy Lins*

Provides leadership, operational direction, and content expertise for cancer control activities involving all aspects related to survivors, patients, families and caregivers from the time of diagnosis through the end of life. Coordinates the development, dissemination, implementation, evaluation and ongoing quality control of programs, services, and collaborations. In collaboration with others, develops long term strategic plans and related short-term business plans related to the Society's goals, Nationwide Objectives and Nationwide Program of Work. Coordinates the development, dissemination, and evaluation of related guidelines and position statements. Monitors current state-of-the-practice in quality of life, survivorship and patient support, incorporating current science and effective practices into plans, programs and services, as appropriate. Identifies trends and issues that may effect the Society's mission and plans. Negotiates collaborative relationships with outside organizations, government agencies, and foundations. Manages and determines project assignments for project directors, managers and assistants. Provides content/subject matter expertise to other National departments, divisions, and outside groups. Identifies, recruits, and maintains a cadre of experts. Collaborates with Divisions and key national staff and volunteers on all related issues.

### Knowledge/Skills Required

Master's Degree in Health, Social Work, Nursing or related field.

Minimum of five years operational experience directing programs for patients, families and caregivers.

Well-developed analytical and problem-solving skills. Must be able to obtain and analyze data, identify problems, develop solutions and project long-term effects of interventions.

Proven leadership, communication, interpersonal, and group consensus skills.

Strong management, negotiation, facilitation and organizations skills.

Demonstrated knowledge of cancer and the needs of cancer patients, families and caregivers.

Minimum of five years operational experience directing programs for patients, families and caregivers

**Joan Berzoff, EdD, MSW**, is beginning to recruit for the second entering class in the end-of-life certificate program at Smith College. This program is supported by a grant from the Project on Death in America. Please forward any suggestions for recruitment mailing lists or possible applicants to Joan Berzoff at [jberzoff@smith.edu](mailto:jberzoff@smith.edu).

### **NEW APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR SOROS AWARDS March 15, 2001**

The Project on Death in America has just announced the third cohort for the Social Work Leadership Awards. The support of existing cohorts was invaluable in identifying and working with potential applicants. PDIA is now accepting applications for the fourth cohort. Please forward the names of potential applicants to Grace Christ at [ghc1@columbia.edu](mailto:ghc1@columbia.edu).

## ***Calendar of Upcoming Conferences***

**January 19 – 21, 2001**

Society for Social Work Research Conference

*Atlanta, Georgia*

**February 11-13, 2001**

National Congress: Improvements and Innovations in End-of-Life Care

*Birmingham, Alabama*

**February 28, 2001**

The Johns Hopkins Oncology Center's Continuing Education Program in Psychosocial Cancer Care  
"Program Evaluation and Outcomes Assessment: A Necessity for the 21st Century"

*Baltimore, Maryland*

**March 1-2, 2001**

The Johns Hopkins Oncology Center's Continuing Education Program in Psychosocial Cancer Care  
"Pain and Symptom Management for Non-Physicians"

*Baltimore, Maryland*

**March 9, 2001**

New Jersey Health Decisions  
"Living Well at the End of Life: Expanding Our Vision"

*Princeton, New Jersey*

**March 9 – 11, 2001**

Council on Social Work Education Conference

*Dallas, Texas*

**March 15, 2001**

Skill Building in Psychosocial Oncology and Social Work

*Tampa, Florida*

**March 23 – 26, 2001**

2nd Annual Clinical Conference and Exposition on Hospice and Palliative Care  
This conference is jointly sponsored by the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association, and the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

*Orlando, Florida*

**March 28 – April 1, 2001**

Association for Death Education and Counseling Conference

*Toronto, Ontario*

**April 1-5, 2001**

7th Congress of the European Association for Palliative Care

*Palermo, Italy*

**April 6, 2001**

NYU Annual Symposium

*New York, New York*

**April 23, 2001**

University of Wisconsin Palliative Care Conference

*Madison, Wisconsin*

**April 25-28, 2001**

Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers

*Calgary, Canada*

**May 2 – 5, 2001**

Association of Oncology Social Workers Conference

*Cleveland, Ohio*

# ***Social Work and End-of-Life Care Symposium: Innovative Approaches to Educating Patients, Their Families and Health Care Providers***

**November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> , 2001  
Baltimore, Maryland**

**Presented by:  
The Johns Hopkins Oncology Center's  
*Continuing Education Program in Psychosocial Cancer Care***

## **Call for Presenters**

Experienced social work clinicians, educators and researchers are invited to submit oral or poster presentation abstracts for this upcoming symposium. Presentations should focus on innovative approaches, lead by social workers, to providing:

*Patient & family-focused education* related to psychosocial challenges encountered  
in facing life-threatening illness or

*End-of-life care education for professionals*, including physicians, nurses and social workers.

Oral presentations will be 75 minutes in length and should focus on one or more of the following categories:

Models of training social workers or other health care professionals about end-of-life care,

Examples of social work leadership in palliative care education,

Patient and/or family education interventions, groups or programs focusing on end-of-life care related themes, or

Innovative patient and/or family-focused educational resources targeting those living with a terminal illness.

Presentation proposals should include:

- 1) A 200-word abstract (max. length) describing the presentation and its objectives,
- 2) The presenter(s) resume and a list of previous presentations/teaching experience, and
- 3) Primary contact information.

**SUBMISSION DUE DATE: March 30<sup>th</sup> , 2001**

**Send submissions to:**

Susan Blacker, LCSW-C

Director, Continuing Education Program in Psychosocial Cancer Care

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**Sponsored by a grant from the  
Open Society Institute - Project on Death in America Social Work Leadership Development Award**

***Pictures from the Lake Tahoe Retreat 2000  
First and Second Cohorts with PDIA Board***



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**PDIA Annual Retreat**  
*Lake Tahoe*  
*July 15 - 20, 2001*

**Terry Altilio, ACSW**

Department of Pain Medicine and  
Palliative Care  
Beth Israel Health Care System

**Elizabeth Mayfield Arnold, MSW, PhD**

Graduate School of Social Work  
University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

**Joan Berzoff, EdD, MSW**

Smith College School for Social Work

**Susan Blacker, MSW, LCSW-C**

Continuing Education Program in  
Psychosocial Cancer Care  
The Johns Hopkins Oncology Center

**Iris Cohen, MSW, LCSW-C**

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

**Barbara Dane, PhD**

Ehrenkranz School of Social Work at NYU

**Norma del Rio, MSW**

Institute for Multicultural Research and  
Social Work Practice  
San Francisco State University

**Jim Keresztury, LCSW, MSW, MBA**

Center for Health Ethics and Law  
West Virginia Initiative to Improve End-  
of-Life Care

**John F. Linder, LCSW**

UC Davis Cancer Center

**Margo Okazawa-Rey, EdD**

Institute for Multicultural Research and  
Social Work Practice  
San Francisco State University

**W. June Simmons, MSW**

Partners in Care Foundation

**Mary Sormanti, PhD**

Columbia University School of Social Work

**Gary L. Stein, MSW, JD**

New Jersey Health Decisions

**Susan Taylor-Brown, PhD**

Greater Rochester Collaborative MSW Program  
Nazareth College

**Katherine Walsh-Burke, PhD, MSW**

Springfield College of Social Work

## ***PDIA Announces Third Cohort of Social Work Leaders***

**Betty J. Kramer, PhD, Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System Research and Sponsored Programs \$60,000**

*Strengthening Social Work Education to Improve End-of-Life Care*

This project will develop and utilize end-of-life content guidelines to critically review fifty textbooks in social work education, and write a text to address identified gaps.

**David Cherin, Ph.D., University of Washington School of Social Work \$59,837**

*University of Washington's School of Social Work End-of-Life Care Knowledge Institute*

The Institute project will improve the quality of life for dying patients through supporting social workers to be research practitioners.

**Yvette Colon, ACSW and Amanda Sutton CSW, Cancer Care, Inc. \$30,000**

*The End-of-Life Internet Forum*

This project is an online, interactive training program for master's level and post master's level social work students.

**Ellen L Csikai, PhD and Mary Raymer, MSW, ACSW, Stephen F. Austin State University/NHPCO \$59,946**

*The Social Work End-of-Life Care Educational Program: A National Initiative*

This project will both assess the knowledge level and educational needs of social workers regarding end-of-life care and develop a curriculum, implemented through a "train the trainers" format, to address these needs.

**Shirley Otis-Green, MSW, LCSW, ACSW, City of Hope National Medical Center, \$60,000**

*Proyecto de Transiciones: Enhancing End of Life and Bereavement Support Services for Latinos within a Cancer Center Setting*

The goal of this project is to gain perspectives from Latino patients to develop a culturally relevant model for comprehensive end of life and bereavement care.

**Judith Dobrof, DSW, The Mount Sinai School of Medicine, \$45,000**

*Caregivers and Professionals Partnership: Assessing a Structured Support Program*

This project will assess the impact of the Caregivers and Professionals Partnership (CAPP), a structured support program for family caregivers of chronically, seriously and terminally ill adults.