

19th IPOS WORLD CONGRESS 2017
ACADEMY WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

Workshop title:	Communication and Challenging Discussions at the End of Life
Workshop chairs:	Darius Razavi MD, PhD and Yves Libert MA, PhD Université Libre de Bruxelles and Institut Jules Bordet, Brussels, Belgium
Length and Language:	Full-day workshop. The workshop will be held in English.

Workshop description:

This one day experiential workshop provides an overview of common clinical challenges in end-of-life care and an introduction to the issue of improving health care professionals' communication skills in this area of clinical practice. Useful basic communication skills will be briefly recalled. Participants will be introduced to the main components of advanced communication skills, which may be used in the highly emotional contexts of end of life care and in addressing common difficult clinical encounters. Teaching methods designed to improve communication skills will then be described: techniques (learner-centered, skills-focused, practice-oriented) will be discussed. The usefulness of role-play and immediate feed-back will be emphasized. Effective manualized training programs that have been tested in randomized controlled studies conducted in Brussels for physicians and nurses will be presented. During the workshop participants will have the opportunity to test the type of role-playing exercises utilized in these studies. In addition, a detailed description of these studies and the content of training sessions tested will be provided.

Learning objectives:

1. The attendees will become familiar with end of life discussion and communication and with the importance of communication skills, as a component of end of life care, and its relationship to patients and family satisfaction, concerns and distress.
2. The attendees will become familiar with the communication skills, which may improve health care professionals end of life care and the management of difficult end of life decisions;
3. The attendees will become familiar with strategies to address frequently challenging clinical communication (e.g. conflict regarding treatment goals with family or within clinical team; responding to requests to hasten death; assessing and responding to existential concerns and other forms of distress)
4. Attendees will become familiar with the potential impact on clinicians themselves in caring for a dying patient and the consequences for patients, including strategies to minimize this impact.
5. The attendees will participate in role-playing exercises with direct feedback and in case discussions.

Target Audience:

Clinical psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, nurses, oncologists, palliative care and hospice clinicians, medical students, psychology students, physicians in training (Psychiatry trainees/fellows; palliative care trainees/fellows, oncology trainees/fellows). This workshop would also be of interest to researchers of all disciplines who are interested in the issue of discussion and of communication in end of life care.



Darius Razavi, M.D., Ph.D., is psychiatrist, Professor of Psychosomatic and Psycho-oncology at the “Université Libre de Bruxelles” and Director of the “Psycho-oncology Clinic” of Jules Bordet Institute, Cancer Center of the Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium). His main research interest is psycho-oncology (funded by the FNRS). His research focuses on the screening and management of patients’ distress and on the efficacy of communication skills training for physicians and nurses. He is the author of numerous research papers and of a book entitled “Précis de Psycho-oncologie” (Elsevier, 2008). He is also the founding member and member of numerous scientific societies.

Yves Libert, M.A., Ph.D., is psychologist, Lecturer of Health Psychology at the “Université Libre de Bruxelles” and Associate Director of the “Psycho-oncology Clinic” of Jules Bordet Institute, Cancer Center of the Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium). His main research interest is psycho-oncology (funded by the FNRS). His research addresses, family caregivers’ needs in cancer care, assessment of the frailties of elderly cancer patients, decision-making process in oncology and the efficacy of communication skills. He is the author of numerous research papers. He is also member of numerous scientific societies.