



Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program Capital Hospice

Fellowship Director

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* Denotes board certification in Hospice and Palliative Medicine

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a The Cleveland Clinic Foundation

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- c Capital Hospice
- d San Diego Hospice and Palliative Care Center
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Overview:

Hospice and Palliative Care employs an interdisciplinary team approach for the aggressive treatment of individuals with progressive, advanced illness and support for their families. The goal of care is to achieve and sustain the highest quality of life by providing expert pain and symptom management and psychosocial and spiritual support to ameliorate suffering.

The **Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship** at Capital Hospice trains physicians in the many aspects of the practice of palliative medicine:

- expertise in pain and non pain symptom control
- expertise in communication with patients, families and other health care personnel
- cultural competence
- facilitation of difficult medical decision making
- collaboration with appropriate disciplines to explore psychosocial and spiritual impacts on illness
- transition to hospice when appropriate
- consultant etiquette
- systems for the delivery of palliative care as well as policy and advocacy

Background:

This is an incredibly exciting time for Hospice and Palliative Medicine. In July 2006, the American College of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) granted full recognition to Hospice and Palliative Medicine training. This stems from the joint work of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM) in addition to the American Board of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (ABHPM) which developed a certification examination in Hospice and Palliative Medicine, leading to the credentialing of over 1,500 physicians. The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) then ruled to recognize Hospice and Palliative Medicine as an accredited medical subspecialty in September 2006.

The ACGME is currently drafting the core competencies and specific requirements for the fellowship programs across the country and it is anticipated that fellowships will have the opportunity to apply for ACGME accreditation in 2008.

Capital Hospice is recognized nationally as a model for interdisciplinary palliative care, as well as a local and national educational resource. It is one of the limited number of already accredited Hospice and Palliative Medicine fellowship programs in the U.S. and the elements of an academic training program are already well developed at Capital Hospice which has thrived in the community for 30 years. Capital Hospice has a demonstrable track record of:

- excellent clinical care for patients and their families confronting life-limiting illness

- a strong teaching mission reaching out to all health care professionals, volunteers, and members of the community
- a commitment to advancing our understanding of symptom control and emotional and spiritual support for patients, their families, and health care providers, through research

Educational and informational resources include Capital Hospice's Institute for Education and Leadership, Point of Hope Grief Counseling Center, and Capital Palliative Care Consultants. Capital Hospice provides an excellent learning experience for nearly 100 medical trainees each year. Elective rotations are in place for medical students, residents, and fellows at the medical centers in the region. (George Washington University Medical Center, Georgetown University Medical School, Washington Veterans Administration Hospital, Howard University Health Care System, University of Maryland, and John's Hopkins University School of Medicine). The interdisciplinary clinical and educational environment at Capital Hospice is evidenced by clinical electives offered for the disciplines of nursing, social work, and pastoral care. We enjoy close relationships with the palliative care community in metropolitan Washington and elective rotations are available for the palliative care fellow at The National Institutes of Health, Georgetown University, George Washington University, and the Veterans Administration Hospital.

Expectations:

Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellows gain expertise in the field through all aspects of the program: by clinical experience through patient care, by teaching others about the elements of palliative care, and by being involved in scholarly activities including research to enhance our understanding of the field.

Fellows are expected to:

- Commit to a minimum of twelve months of clinical service to begin July 1.
- Provide palliative care consultation along the spectrum of illness and determine medically appropriate interventions and symptom management strategies according to patient and family goals in the following settings:
 - Hospital
 - Home
 - Nursing home / Assisted Living Facility
 - Inpatient hospice
 - Outpatient clinic (weekly) longitudinal oversight of ambulatory palliative medicine patients
- Provide administrative oversight for hospice services, both inpatient and home
- Learning documentation, coding and billing strategies

Fellows also will become an educational resource for hospice and palliative care and are expected to:

- Participate in intensive didactics including EPEC (Education for Physicians on End of life Care) training
- Lead and coordinate monthly Journal Club
- Lecture on various aspects of hospice and palliative care
- Attend quarterly Mid-Atlantic Palliative Medicine Grand Rounds

- Attend AAHPM annual session (or other approved Palliative Medicine conference)
- Participate in ethics consultations and quality improvement projects.

Capital Hospice has been involved in a number of research projects from clinical trial protocols and quality improvement studies in symptom control and quality of life, and assessment and measurement of educational outcomes. Each Fellow will be expected to participate in the research aspects of the program, ideally generating one independent research project during the fellowship.

Qualifications:

The Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship requires a minimum one-year commitment for physicians who are interested in a career in clinical practice which includes, or is focused on, hospice and palliative medicine. Additional funding will be sought for subsequent years of training for fellows who wish to pursue focused research in hospice and palliative medicine or pursue a career in academics. Candidates must be board certified/eligible in either internal medicine (or any internal medicine specialty), family practice, psychiatry, physical medicine and rehabilitation, or anesthesiology. Consideration would be given to other board certified/eligible disciplines, depending on the candidate's professional goals.

Outcomes:

The Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship will train physicians to become expert in the clinical, educational, and research aspects of the field of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. With this training, we anticipate that our fellows will be an integral component of the advancement of the field as:

- clinical experts in symptom management and psychosocial support for patients with advanced illness, and their families
- change agents through educational efforts within the profession and the community regarding quality palliative and hospice care
- catalysts for the improvement of our understanding of symptom control and family support through skilled research