Terror Management Theory and Compassionate Communities in Palliative Care

13 December 2018
13.00 -16.30
University of Worcester
£55

Dr Marleen Moors
Dutch philosopher and existential Counsellor - VieCuri Medical Center, Venlo, The Netherlands

Jean Fisher
Head of Education, St Michael’s Hospice, Hereford. Associate Lecturer, University of Worcester, Advanced Communication Skills Accredited Facilitator

Working with seriously ill people presents a range of challenges for all health care professionals. Non-beneficial treatment at the end of life is a common phenomenon in modern medicine. How far and in what way death-denial and/or discomfort with death influences medical/nursing decision making at the end of life in a palliative setting. Could repressed death-anxiety influence doctors’ perspectives on continuing or stopping palliative treatment? Does it influence patient-doctor communication at the end of life? What is the role of compassion and compassionate communities? How is death addressed with the patient? The seminar will offer a short explanation of Terror Management Theory (TMT) and the place of death-anxiety within TMT. The discussion will expose how far death-anxiety remains a taboo in palliative medicine and what possible influence this denial can have on clinical decision making and quality of life at the end of life. Compassionate communities work on the premise of extending the possibility of care and support of the community by the community. Building on the original work of the Compassionate City Model developed by Alan Kellahear, this seminar will share experiences of growing our own local footprint of operation via supporting local populations in the development of their own Compassionate Community.

Target audience: Health care professionals, and Academics, students, care assistants and volunteers.

Bookings
If you would like to book a place, please contact:
Esther Dobson (Study Day, Conference and Events Co-ordinator)
Tel: 01905 542711
E-mail: e.dobson@worc.ac.uk

All staff employed by a Worcestershire NHS Trust or Wye Valley NHS Trust have to complete a study leave form (or equivalent) if they want (a) to study in works time, or (b) want the Trust to fund or part fund the course, or both. Upon receipt of your approved study leave form you will receive notification that your place is booked.

In any given year the availability of conferences, events and study days will depend on delegate numbers. In the event of a conference, event or study day not being run due to a low number of delegates registering, delegates will in these circumstances be offered a full refund.
About the speakers

Dr Marleen Moors

Marleen Moors is a Dutch philosopher and existential counsellor. Her areas of expertise are phenomenology, existentialism, philosophy of medicine and metaphysics. She holds a private practice and works as a spiritual counsellor at VieCuri Medical Center in Venlo, the Netherlands. Marleen specializes in oncology and palliative care and is an active member of the palliative team. Currently she is researching the phenomenon of overtreatment at the end of life in a palliative population with cancer and its existential and philosophical roots.

Jean Fisher

Jean Fisher is Head of Education at St Michael’s Hospice, Hereford. After nurse training in the 1970s Jean followed a career in acute care for seven years prior to moving into palliative care in the 1980s. Jean intended to do two years only, but she has been in love with this discipline ever since. Clinically, Jean has been involved in in-patient care; day hospice and additionally provided coordination and clinical support to Marie Curie Nursing services. Jean’s main clinical role now is linked to family carer services, formal and informal palliative care education and support for students, patients, families and colleagues. The main thrust of Jean’s role is palliative care education across a multidisciplinary range of professionals covering all levels from volunteers and informal carers through to leading academic modules in palliative care (via University of Worcester). Jean is also part of the National Advanced Communication Skills Training Facilitators group and co-facilitates these programmes across the region. An author of book chapters in palliative care, Jean has served as external examiner to Cardiff University’s MSc programme in Palliative Care. Jean’s knowledge and skills are expansive, but her special interest areas are pain assessment and management and teaching advanced communication skills.