

EVENING ETHICS DISCUSSION

“DEATH WITH DIGNITY LAWS: WHAT DO THEY MEAN FOR PHYSICIANS?”

WITH OREGON'S PRINCIPAL RESEARCHER ON PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED DYING



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Evening Ethics Discussion with Linda Ganzini, MD, MPH

Wednesday, October 28, 5:30-7:00pm, RAB * 1.5 CME

Death with Dignity Laws: What do they Mean for Physicians?

Anticipating a fuller presentation of research the following morning at Internal Medicine Grand Rounds, Dr. Ganzini will review qualitative studies based on interviews with Oregon physicians who have provided legal assistance in dying under the state's Death With Dignity Act. The interviews focus on the physicians' personal experiences with requests for physician-assisted dying and their views on patients who make these requests. Background reading for this discussion include two articles by Linda Ganzini, MD, Steven K Dobscha, MD, Ronald T. Heintz, MD, and Nancy Press, PhD, "[Oregon Physician's Perceptions of Patients Who Request Assisted Suicide and Their Families](#)," (2003), *J of Palliative Medicine*; 6:3, and "[Oregon Physicians' Responses to Requests for Assisted Suicide: A Qualitative Study](#)," (2004), *J of Palliative Medicine*, 7:3.

Internal Medicine Grand Rounds * 1.0 CME

Thursday, October 29, 7:45-8:45am, HSEB 1750

"Oregon Health Care Providers' Experiences with Legalized Physician-Assisted Dying"

Based on data from Oregon, where a Death With Dignity law has been in force since 1997, that state's principal researcher, Linda Ganzini, MD, MPH, will review the legal requirements of Oregon's Death with Dignity Act, the views of providers in Oregon about the Act, and the impact of legalized PAD on their care of dying patients. Similar statutes are in effect in Washington state and Vermont, and a similar bill has now been introduced in the Utah legislature. Panelists from oncology, palliative care, and general medicine will comment on some of these issues.

A Noon Lecture Co-sponsored by UtahPresents & the Division of Medical Ethics & Humanities * 1.0 CME

Thursday, October 29, 12:00-1:00, HSEB Alumni Hall (box lunches provided)

"The Oregon Death with Dignity Act: Why do Patients Request Assisted Death?"

Also based on data from Oregon, Dr. Ganzini will explore the multiple reasons for which patients ask their physicians to prescribe a lethal dose of medication, which has been legal since 1997 under the state's Death with Dignity Act. Dr. Ganzini will review the legal requirements of Oregon's Death with Dignity Act, the views of health care practitioners in Oregon about the Act, the demographic, mental health and personality characteristics of patients who request assistance in dying, and the impact of palliative care on pursuit of physician-assisted dying. Complementing Dr. Ganzini's Grand Rounds earlier in the day about the impact of Death with Dignity laws on physicians, this lecture will provide a comprehensive picture of why the patient might make such a request in the first place and physicians' approaches to care of these patients.

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