# 11th Annual Palliative Care Social Work Conference

**Leaning In to Lead: Innovations in Advanced Practice & Policy**

**Friday, April 12th, 2019**

**Tivoli Student Union, Downtown Denver, CO**

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<tr>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>Registration, Breakfast, and Exhibitors</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:15</td>
<td>Steering Committee</td>
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<td>8:30</td>
<td><em>Stacy Fischer &amp; Laurel Eskra Tropeano</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15</td>
<td>Exhibitors/ Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30</td>
<td><em>Barbara Head</em></td>
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<td>10:15</td>
<td>Exhibitors/ Break</td>
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<td>10:30</td>
<td><em>Barbara Head</em></td>
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<td>Exhibitors/ Break</td>
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<td><em>Andrew MacPherson</em></td>
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<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>1:15</td>
<td>Concurrent Breakout Session #1</td>
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<td>Concurrent Breakout Session #2</td>
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All Attendees Check in at [The Tivoli Student Union](#) in Turnhalle (Room 250), where the morning program will take place. The Tivoli is located on the [Metropolitan State University of Denver](#) Campus, Downtown Denver (campus map).

**Registration Information**
- Parking Vouchers, Light Breakfast & Lunch are provided. This price also includes 6 hours of CEUs. Please provide your license number when you register. Speaker bios below.

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**Welcome and Thank you to our Sponsors**

**ALIGN: Tales from a Palliative Care Social Work Intervention trial**

**Part I: Who Is following You?**

**Part II: Who We Are….Where We’re Leading?**

**The Policy & Politics of Palliative Care: A Washington Perspective**

**Health Policy Advocacy in Washington D.C.: HEALS Scholars**

**Health Care Policy Topics Important for Palliative Care Social Workers, Things we can do in practice, Andrew MacPherson**

**Balancing Hope in Miracles with Biomedical Decision-Making at the End of Life, Kelly Arora, PhD**

**WHO IS FOLLOWING YOU?**

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**Poster Presentation - Lunch time Q&A:**

**Who Is following You?**

**Who We Are….Where We’re Leading?**

**The Policy & Politics of Palliative Care: A Washington Perspective**

**Health Policy Advocacy in Washington D.C.: HEALS Scholars**

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**Power and Control: How do we handle this in Palliative Care situations? Melissa C. Palmer LCSW ACHP-SW JD; Nancy Robertson, MSN, ANP-BC, ACHPN**

**Using Telehealth to Bridge Barriers: Lessons from Providing Tele-Mental Health for Veterans in Skilled Nursing Facilities in both Rural and Urban Colorado, Rachel Johnson-Koenke & Elizabeth Holman**

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**Thank you to our Sponsors:**

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**Speaker Bios**
- **Stacy Fischer & Laurel Eskra Tropeano**
- **Barbara Head**
- **Andrew MacPherson**
- **Melissa C. Palmer LCSW ACHP-SW JD; Nancy Robertson, MSN, ANP-BC, ACHPN**
- **Rachel Johnson-Koenke & Elizabeth Holman**
Bios for Speakers are in the order of their appearance in the program.

Stacey Fischer, MD:
My research and clinical experiences to date have focused on working with ethnically diverse and vulnerable populations in aging and palliative care. I have built and led interdisciplinary teams to develop and conduct the research. In the academic setting, I regularly facilitate, teach, and supervise students and residents. I am or have been a research mentor to undergraduate students, graduate and post-doctoral students as well as junior faculty. Thus, I have the necessary expertise to conduct the proposed research, assistant in supervising and mentoring students in research methodology, and help build research capacity through this R15 grant. During my Geriatric Medicine fellowship, collaborating with fellow Co-I Gozansky, I developed the CARING criteria, an index to identify persons appropriate for palliative care at the time of hospital admission. As a Brookdale National Fellow, I laid the groundwork for the proposed research by conducting a large observational cohort study that employed both quantitative and qualitative methods to examine cross-cultural preferences and outcomes of care at the end of life. This work has informed my NIA/Beeson K23 Career Development Award protocol that has demonstrated the feasibility of patient navigation intervention to improve end of life care for seriously ill hospitalized Latinos. Applying patient navigation, a recognized and culturally competent approach to eliminate health disparities, to end of life care is a novel and innovative intervention that has provided me with a unique expertise. Currently, I am the PI of an American Cancer Society RSG to conduct a fully powered RCT of the patient navigator intervention on Latinos with advanced cancer. I lead an inter-disciplinary team of this growing research program in patient navigation for palliative care.

Laurel Eskra Tropeano:
Laurel Eskra Tropeano, LCSW is Director of Research and Education with The Holding Group. Laurel began a career in marketing before recognizing her passion for social work. After receiving her MSW from New York University, Laurel completed a fellowship in the Department of Pain Medicine and Palliative Care at Beth Israel Medical Center. With the decision to move to Denver upon completion of this fellowship, Laurel had the great fortune of joining Denver’s palliative care community. The unique opportunity to form a social work-driven, consultative palliative care program, with the flexibility and autonomy to meet clients where they truly are, is what drew Laurel to this team. The great importance of this work and implicit trust in her social work colleagues – in the midst of such exponential growth of this field – have served as a wake-up call to Laurel that thinking outside of the box is the best way to bring imperative, end of life conversations to the most people.
Dr. Barbara Head:
Barbara Head, PhD, CHPN, ACSW, FPCN is presently an associate professor at the University of Louisville School of Medicine and affiliated faculty at the Kent School of Social Work. Her research interests include work force issues for hospice and palliative professionals, financial concerns in serious illness, geriatric palliative care, and interprofessional palliative education. Her work has been funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky, the National Cancer Institute, the Hospice and Palliative Nurse’s Association, and the Human Resources Services Association. She is currently the principal investigator on a grant funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation to develop a specialty certification program for hospice and palliative social workers and serves as the President of the Board of the Advanced Palliative and Hospice Social Work Certification program. She has served as both board member and president of the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association and the National Board for Certification of Hospice and Palliative Nurses and is a current member of the SWHPN Board of Directors. Prior to entering academics, she worked at Louisville’s large hospice program as a homecare nurse, quality improvement director, and staff/community education director. Barbara has taught the End-of-Life Nursing Education Curriculum (ELNEC) geriatric curriculum nationally since its inception in 2006 in the U.S., Malaysia and India. She is also principal investigator for the iPEX project which is training faculty teams from across the nation to develop interprofessional curricula in palliative care at their home institutions.

Andrew MacPherson Bio:
Andrew MacPherson currently serves as Principal at Healthsperien, LLC, a Washington, D.C.-based health policy consulting firm and as Senior Policy Advisor to the National Partnership for Hospice Innovation (NPHI) and the Coalition to Transform Advanced Care (C-TAC). In addition to these roles, Andrew serves on the Board of Directors of the Social Work Hospice & Palliative Care Network and the National POLST Paradigm.

As Principal at Healthsperien, Andrew provides strategic guidance, in-depth policy analysis, and legislative and regulatory strategy on a wide-range of federal health policy and political issues for an array of Fortune 500, governmental, and national, not-for-profit organizations. Prior to Healthsperien, from 2007-2013 Andrew served as Director of Government Affairs at Jennings Policy Strategies, Inc. (JPS), a nationally recognized health policy consulting firm led by Chris Jennings, Former Senior Health Care Advisor to President Barack Obama and previously to President Bill Clinton. While at JPS, Inc, Andrew staffed a variety of client and pro bono initiatives including as advisor to the presidential campaigns of President Obama and Former Secretary Hillary Clinton. Prior to JPS, Andrew worked for several elected and political organizations, including Senator Carl Levin (D-Mich.), the Democratic Governors' Association, the Vermont Democratic Party, Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) and Penn, Schoen & Berland Associates, Inc., a market research and strategic communications consulting firm based in Washington, D.C. Originally from Vermont, Andrew received a B.A. in Political Science and Philosophy from The George Washington University in 2005.
Kelly Arora, Phd Bio:
Kelly Arora, PhD, is Co-Director of the Interprofessional Graduate Certificate and Master of Science in Palliative Care programs at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus and Assistant Clinical Professor of Spiritual Care in the CU School of Medicine. She is also the John Wesley Iliff Senior Adjunct Lecturer in Spiritual Care at Iliff School of Theology in Denver. Dr. Arora has taught courses on the relationship between spirituality and health at Regis University and at the Regis University School of Pharmacy, as well as courses in interprofessional ethics at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. She serves on the board of Centus Counseling, Consulting and Education, and she is a member of the Porter Adventist Hospital Ethics Committee. Dr. Arora maintains a private practice in spiritual direction.

Tanya Greathouse, Ph.d., LCSW:
Dr. Greathouse is an Assistant Professor at Metropolitan State University of Denver, and adjunct faculty at Smith College Social for Social Work where she served as the Sotomayor Fellow 2015/2016. She earned her BA in Sociology from University of Colorado Boulder (1978), Master’s in Social Work from University of Denver (1985) and Ph.D. in Clinical Social Work from Smith College (1997). She began her clinical social work career at Boulder County Hospice in 1985. Her practice areas include multi-culturally informed trauma work, discrimination and identity work, building instructors and supervisors cultural humility, multicultural organizational development, deconstructing organizational oppression and implicit bias training.

Chaya Parkoff, MSW, LSW:
Chaya “Hiya” Parkoff is a palliative care and hospice social worker at Suncrest Hospice and is the Founder and CEO of Spark Insights Consulting, a cutting-edge resiliency and burnout prevention training and coaching consultancy firm and counseling practice. Chaya earned her BA from Pacific University (1987) and Master’s in Social Work from Metropolitan State University of Denver (2017). Chaya is a Licensed Social Worker and Registered Psychotherapist, whose experience in palliative and hospice care allows her to witness first-hand the innate resilience that human beings possess, no matter their past or current circumstances. She is passionate about bringing out the best in individuals and organizations, and she accomplishes this by sharing the simple, yet profoundly transformative universal True Paradigm of how human beings truly operate psychologically, known in the academic literature as The Three Principles. Chaya is a gifted teacher with a talent for putting people at ease, enabling them to wake up to their own potential. Chaya lives in Denver, Colorado with her husband Seth and their five children. When Chaya is not working, she can be found running, training for a triathlon, spending time with her family, or singing out loud.

Shannon Hughes, MSW, PhD:
School of Social Work, Colorado State University and Department of Community and Behavioral Health, Colorado School of Public Health

Dr. Shannon Hughes teaches and conducts research on how we use psychoactive drugs and medicines in our society today. She has been a leader in articulating a uniquely Social Work perspective on the use of prescribed psychoactive drugs for treating mental health problems. Dr. Hughes is actively engaged in community education and organizing in the emerging field of psychedelic medicine in Colorado. She has published numerous peer-reviewed publications and regularly speaks at professional conferences and community advocacy events.

Contact info: Ph: 970-491-5654 Email: Shannon.hughes@colostate.edu
Rob Colbert, MA, PhD:
Registered Psychotherapist, *An Enduring Love, Inc* Dr. Rob Colbert is a transpersonal therapist in Colorado specializing in non-ordinary states of consciousness, navigating major life transition, and psychedelic drug integration. His doctoral research explored the experiences of adult couples who use MDMA recreationally and the perceived benefits of MDMA use on their relationships. He is a Board Member of the Colorado non-profit, The Nowak Society, which provides education, training, and advocacy around refining our relationships with drugs and medicines.
Contact info: Ph: 970-744-1531 Email: enduringlovecolorado@gmail.com

Cari Levy, MD, PhD:
Dr. Levy is a Professor of Medicine in the Division of Health Care Research and Policy at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center. In addition to training as an internist, she has earned board certification in the subspecialty of Hospice and Palliative Medicine and holds a Certificate of Added Qualification in Geriatrics. Her clinical work as a geriatrician and Section Chief of Palliative Care at the Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center informs her research which focuses on providing telehealth services to Veterans in community nursing homes, quality of life at the end of life in nursing homes, disparities in care among persons living in institutional care settings, and in quality of care in non-institutional care settings such as the VA Home Based Primary Care Program and the VA Medical Foster Home Program

Leah Haverhals, MA, PhD:
Leah Haverhals, MA, is a PhD Candidate in Health & Behavioral Sciences at University of Colorado Denver Downtown Campus, & Geriatric and Palliative Care Researcher at the Denver-Seattle Center of Innovation for Veteran-Centered & Value-Drive Care at the VA Eastern Colorado Health Care

Kaye Z, Cantwell, LCSW:
In her private practice, Circle of Life Transitions.com, Kaye provides in-home Palliative Care consultations. Additionally, she is a member of the multidisciplinary team providing inpatient Palliative Care to hospitalized patients at a local hospital. Kaye’s career includes 20 years of experience working in hospice, and 12 years in Hospital Oncology and Palliative Care. She has been a frequent presenter on Ethics and Patient Rights at End-of-Life. kayecircleoflife@gmail.com 303-875-2012

Laura Hughes, MD:
Laura is a board certified Hospice and Palliative Care physician currently providing support to patients with life limiting illness, living in Colorado. She is a member of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, serving on the Physician-Assisted Death SIG. She is a former Hospice Medical Director and continues to serve on multiple Ethics Committees as both a clinical consultant and perpetual pupil/scholar. She advocates for reconsideration of paternalism in medicine, recognizing individual patients and families are potentially burdened by autonomy, especially near end of life.
Melissa C. Palmer, LCSW, ACHP-SW, JD:  
Melissa Palmer earned her MSW at the University of Denver in 1999. She has worked in medical social work for almost 20 years and has her advance practice in palliative care and hospice from the NASW. Melissa currently works at Kaiser Permanente as a case manager and is adjunct faculty with the University of Colorado Masters of Science in Palliative Care.  
Melissa.palmer@ucdenver.edu

Nancy Robertson, MSN, ANP-BC, ACHPN:  
Nancy is a Nurse Practitioner with 13 years Internal Medicine experience and over 7 years specializing in Palliative Care. She practices at the UCHealth Palliative Care clinic and teaches in the Interprofessional Masters of Science and Certificate in Palliative care at the University of Colorado.  
Nancy.robertson@ucdenver.edu

Rachel Johnson-Koenke:  
Rocky Mountain Regional VA Eastern Colorado Healthcare System and Denver-Seattle Center of Innovation for Veteran-Centered and Value-Driven Care (COIN)  
Rachel is a research social worker and licensed clinical social worker. She is a PhD student at the College of Nursing, University of Colorado where her research interest is around interdisciplinary teams and adjustment to illness. She has been working in research at the Rocky Mountain Regional VA, Seattle-Denver Center of Innovation for Veteran-Centered and Value-Driven Care for seven years and has done clinical social work, project management, qualitative and quantitative data analysis, and has consulted for, designed and implemented clinical interventions as part of interdisciplinary research teams.  
Rachel.a.johnson@ucdenver.edu (303) 842-0270

Elizabeth Holman:  
Elizabeth Holman, PsyD, is the palliative care psychologist at the Denver VA Medical Center and an Assistant Adjunct Professor in the Department of Medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine. She is joined in her work by Tootsie, a Facility Dog who brings comfort and support to the veterans they serve.  
Dr. Holman received her clinical psychology degree in 2008 from the University of Denver. She also holds a master's degree in Theology from Cambridge University and BA from Smith College. She came to psychology after several other jobs, including serving as a mediator and child advocate in high-conflict divorce, and working in education policy.  
Elizabeth.Holman@va.gov (720) 723-3166