



Preparing Palliative Care Community Specialists

Nancy Robertson, MSN, ANP-BC, ACHPN, Shaun Ellen Gleason, PharmD, MGS; Elissa Kolva, PhD

Division of General Internal Medicine
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

www.ucdenver.edu/MSPC

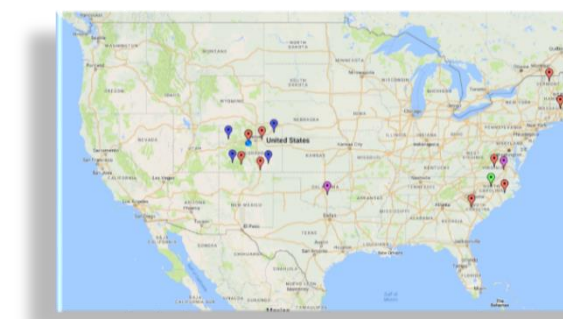
Needs & Objectives

- Summarize need for community-based interprofessional Palliative Care (PC) healthcare providers and our programmatic response.
- Demonstrate case-based woven curriculum and certificate designed for interprofessional adult learners.
- Review student-self-assessment evaluations and learning outcomes of the curriculum.

Setting & Participants

Inaugural Class Fall 2016 (N=16)

- Average Age = 46 (30-63) years
- Practice Years = 16 (3-36) years
- Women 13; Men 3
- Professional Background
 - Nursing = 9
 - Pharmacist = 1
 - Physicians = 2
 - Physicians Assistants = 4
- Work settings: < 20% work in PC; 3 work in Hospice 100%; 2 work in Pediatrics; 2 work in Critical Care; 2 work in Oncology; 4 have transitioned into full time PC work
- Geographic Location of Practice
 - Urban = 8
 - Suburban = 5
 - Rural = 3



Secondary Palliative Care

Primary Palliative Care
All providers

Tertiary Palliative Care
Academic Medical Centers,
Complex PC cases

Secondary Palliative Care
Palliative Care
Community Specialists
Specialty PC and consultation

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
iPallCARE™
for working palliative care professionals

MSPC Program

PALLIATIVE CARE COMMUNITY SPECIALIST
Building a network to support patients and families

Illustrate mastery in the following areas:

- Communication skills
- Expert symptom management skills (pain and non-pain)
- Ethics, advocacy and legal aspects of care
- Spiritual, religious and existential aspects of care
- Social and cultural aspects of care
- Psychological aspects of care
- Palliative care integration
- Palliative care educator
- Systems thinking

www.ucdenver.edu/MSPC

FIRST YEAR		
SEMESTER 1*	SEMESTER 2*	SEMESTER 3
PC Core Concepts and Communication Skills**	Interdisciplinary Care for Non-Pain Symptoms A	Communication Skills Refinement**
Basic Pain Assessment and Management	Interdisciplinary Care for Non-Pain Symptoms B	Advanced Illness in Special Settings A
SECOND YEAR		
SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2	SEMESTER 3
Systems Thinking Topics: Capstone Project Preparation	Advanced Illness in Special Settings C	Palliative Care Integrated in Your Community**
Advanced Illness in Special Settings B	Advanced Concepts in Pain Management (Biomedical Track) OR Death and Dying: Unique Roles of the Allied Health Professional (AHP Track)	Master's Capstone

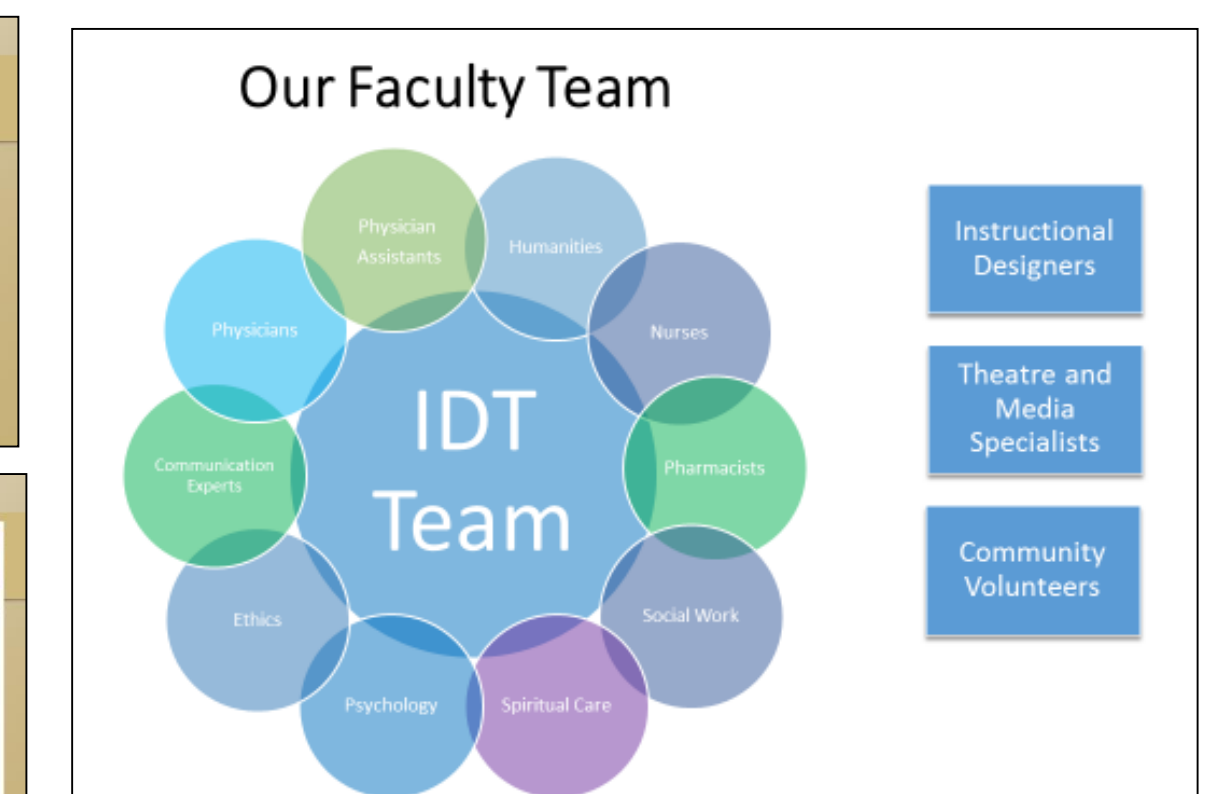
* Interprofessional Palliative Care Certificate students complete the first 12 credit hours during the fall and spring semesters

** Hybrid course – online study combined with one three-day weekend intensive taught on the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora, Colorado.

Pedagogy

Case-Based and Narrative Driven

A Typical Week



Evaluation

Mixed Methods Program Evaluation

- Learner self-report of type and amount of PC in current practice
- Course evaluations
- Learner focus groups led by advisors
- Checklist of communications skills' exercises with standardized patients
- IDT case study integration

PC skills categories - self report (38 questions total; Means; 1-5; 5=most competent)	Pre	"Look-back"	Mid-program	Change (Look-back to Mid)
Treatment plans/discussions	2.66	2.27	3.63	1.36
Holistic patient assessment	3.07	2.49	3.75	1.26
Interprofessional collaboration	3.36	2.73	3.95	1.22
Patient/ family discussions	3.03	2.63	4.11	1.48
Medical management	2.97	2.74	3.61	0.87

Course evaluations (means; scales of 4 and 5 being positive)
- Semester 1 : 3.92/ 4; - Semester 2: 4.62 / 5

Discussion & Reflection

Interprofessional Master Science Palliative Care

- Successful interprofessional faculty design and delivery
- Interdisciplinary student cohorts: Biomedical + Allied Health
- Mid-career providers who work or desire to work in PC
- Scalable PC education and training programs
- 12-credit interprofessional PC certificate (first four courses)