

Friday 12 March 2010

08:00-08:50

Palliative Care Research – challenges, pitfalls and rewards

Dr Bridget Johnston, Senior Research Fellow, University of Stirling

Dr Marilyn Kendall, Research Fellow, University of Edinburgh

This session will look at the particular challenges, pitfalls and rewards of conducting research with people who are very ill, and their families. It will consider practical, ethical and methodological issues, including possibilities for service user involvement, at all stages of the research process. There will be opportunities for participants to share their own experiences and to discuss ways of addressing any problems and celebrating achievements

Dr Bridget Johnston BN (Hons), PGCE(FE) RGN PhD

Bridget trained as a nurse at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London. She worked at Barts as a Staff nurse in Medical Oncology before doing a full time degree in Nursing at Cardiff University. She completed her adult teaching qualification alongside the final year of her degree. Bridget was then a clinical teacher in Edgware and Barnet before taking a Macmillan Lecturers post in Cambridge. From 1995-2006 Bridget worked at Strathcarron Hospice in Stirlingshire as a Lecturer, helping set up the first Post Graduate Diploma in Palliative Nursing in Scotland at the University of Glasgow. She completed a PhD at Glasgow University in 2002. In 2006 Bridget joined the team at the Cancer Care Research Centre at University of Stirling on a 2 year post doctoral fellowship to explore the experience of patients and carers regarding end of life care through the promotion of self care as a Senior Research Fellow. She is now programme lead for the Symptom Improvement Programme.

Marilyn Kendall is a Research Fellow in the General Practice Section of the University of Edinburgh. Having completed a Ph.D. concerned with service users' experience of severe mental illness, she has since worked with patients, and their carers, in the last year of life on a number of community based palliative care studies. She has a particular interest in narrative inquiry and service user involvement in research.