

Thursday 11 March 2010

08:00-08:50

Challenges and opportunities for palliative care in the community

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Five key challenges that face palliative care in the next decade will be outlined, and ways of meeting these challenges effectively in the community will be illustrated.

These challenges are

- 1) palliative care for all, extending beyond cancer to all diagnoses
- 2) palliative care from diagnosis of a life-threatening illness, not just in the terminal stage,
- 3) concern for all dimensions of need, not prioritizing the physical,
- 4) palliative care in all settings, especially in generalist settings such as home, homes and hospitals
- 5) palliative care for all, including resource-poor settings.

The masterclass will examine practical ways that palliative care specialist nurses and doctors, and general practitioners and community nurses might take these opportunities forward through clinical care, quality improvement and research.

Scott is a practising general practitioner and also leads the Primary Palliative Care Research Group which is a multi-disciplinary team based at the University of Edinburgh. This group seeks to understand the experiences of patients with life limiting illnesses and their carers, and to develop, test and advocate for best models of holistic care throughout the last year of life. Their strategic focus is on people with organ failure (such as heart failure and COPD) and the frail elderly, as well as on cancer; and on interventions which can deal with multiple dimensions of need, including spiritual or existential issues.

Scott is a clinical research advisor to the BMJ where he is currently leading a "Making a difference campaign" for all people at the end of life. Together with Dr Stephen Barclay from Cambridge he chairs the International Primary Palliative Care Research Group, and regularly visits African countries, where he used to work, to conduct training, service evaluation and research there.