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14:00-15:00

Public health and Palliative care: International developments

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Public health approaches to end of life care are new to many of us in palliative care. Employing health promotion and community development strategies in the context of a clinical service devoted to end of life care has seemed to some people as complicated at best and counter-intuitive at worst. Nevertheless, these approaches are proving increasingly popular and are rapidly being adopted here in the UK as well as in many countries world-wide. This partly reflects a major shift towards an interest user and community involvement at the end of life that effectively addresses the twin issues of increasing access to palliative care and continuity of care at the end of life. This presentation will describe international developments in the public health approaches to palliative care as these have emerged from the relevant health services in India, Japan, Australia, and the USA. Some observations and comparisons with developments in the UK will also be made.

Allan Kellehear is Professor of Sociology and Head of the Department of Social & Policy Sciences at the University of Bath. From 1998 to 2006 he was Professor of Palliative Care and Director of Australia's first public health palliative care unit at La Trobe University in Australia. He has held visiting professorships in Australia, Britain, Japan and Hong Kong and in 2009 was William J Clinton Distinguished Lecturer at the William J Clinton Presidential Center and Clinton School of Public Service at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock, USA.

His most recent books include 'Compassionate Cities: Public health and end of life care' (Routledge 2005); 'A Social History of Dying' (Cambridge University Press 2007) and the edited volume 'The Study of Dying: From autonomy to transformation' (Cambridge University Press 2009). He is co-editor (with Glennys Howarth) of 'Mortality', the international journal of interdisciplinary studies of death, dying and bereavement published by Taylor & Francis.