

Symposium on end-of-life care to be held in May

A national symposium dedicated to enhancing physicians' understanding, comfort levels, and skills in dealing on a more personal level with terminally ill patients will be held May 8 at The New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM). The Art of Medicine at the End of Life, a continuing medical education symposium, will expose physicians to the cultural, spiritual, and practical aspects of the physician-patient relationship at the end of life.

Geoffrey Dunn, MD, FACS—medical director, Palliative Care Consultation Service, Hamot Medical Center, Erie, PA, and Chair of the College's Surgical Palliative Care Task Force—will join a faculty of experts on end-of-life issues, including Arthur Caplan, PhD, a well-known authority on bioethics.

This highly interactive course is an annual symposium sponsored by the Cunniff-Dixon Foundation and the NYAM. Using short, didactic lectures, discussions, and case presentations, speakers will address how to achieve the following:

- Prepare patients and their families for the transition to the end of life
- Implement a strategy to provide a more personal and informed level of patient care and thus enhance the quality of life for terminally ill patients
- Recognize the appropriate time to suggest palliative

care or hospice for terminally ill patients and facilitate the process

- Anticipate common ethical and legal issues that arise in the context of end-of-life medical care
- Apply an understanding of the psychiatric aspects of mortality to improve the quality of interactions with terminally ill patients and their families
- Recognize and accommodate the needs of patients and

families from various cultures and religions who are coping with the end of life

- Understand research and policy trends in palliative care
- The fee for the course is \$225 for physicians and \$125 for resident physicians who register before April 1, 2009. Fees will increase after the registration deadline and at the meeting. For detailed course information and to register, visit <http://www.nyam.org/events/?id=494>.

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