

## Report from Palliative Care Special Interest Group of SACP

This group continues to advocate for research and development of a palliative care approach within primary care. Our members have contributed much to the success of a large NCRI funded collaborative called COMPASS, and lead a number of multi-site research projects funded by the DOH, Macmillan Cancer Relief, CRUK and more recently the MRC. Stephen Barclay is now on the Editorial Board of the BJGP and our advocacy of palliative care in primary care is resulting in plenaries for primary care at European level palliative care meetings.

If you are coming to the AGM in Norwich please do feel free to come along to the palliative care parallel session directly after the conference opening, introduced by Domnhall Macauley, Primary Care editor of the BMJ. There are presentations about intractable breathlessness in COPD by Patrick White, a Phase II RCT of Dignity Therapy by Sue Hall, an evaluation of palliative care interventions in East Africa by Liz Grant and a review of three advance care planning research projects by Scott Murray. On the Thursday morning at 07.45 we are having our annual meeting of the special interest group to promote networking and new ideas for research. Since a number of primary care physicians came to St Andrews last year from Holland, Germany and Belgium, we have had editorials in European Journals advocating primary palliative care.

Meanwhile look out for the "Spotlight on palliative care" which should fall out of our BMJs soon.

And finally, the International Primary Palliative Care Research Group continues to thrive and has its annual meeting in Cape Town on 13-14<sup>th</sup> September 2010. We will hear about academic and clinical palliative care in Southern Africa and thereafter fly up to Namibia where the Africa Palliative Care Association Conference takes place 15-17<sup>th</sup> September 2010. There is great unmet need for palliative care support in Africa and we would like to encourage interest in these conferences. See websites <http://www.uq.edu.au/primarypallcare/>  
<http://www.apca.org.ug/>

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