

Workshop on End-of-Life Care: Planning an Approach to Intervene in Family Struggles

A common concern shared by oncologists and palliative care physicians is the level of which a patient and their family are prepared for end of life care. Unpreparedness may expose issues such as, perceived denial, tremendous anxiety and fear, barriers due to personal beliefs, complexities of families, family secrets, uncommunicative patients and out-of-reach families, difficult communications, and overall helplessness experienced by the patient and/or family. Families that are struggling with issues such as these are not easy to deal with, and are often categorised as “difficult” or “challenging”. Throughout this workshop, the trainer will explore conventional approaches and strategies in dealing with family struggles, and supplements these approaches with his own work through case illustrations. As there is no one approach that will be effective for every patient and family, participants will appreciate the discussion of a variety of approaches.