**Palliative care social work fellowship**

The field of Hospice and Palliative Care is rapidly expanding to meet the symptom burden, communication, and complex decision-making needs of patients with life-limiting illnesses and the families that support them. With the aging population growing, by 2030 more than half of the U.S. residents will be aged 65 or older and there are not enough specialists trained in palliative care to meet the demands. Currently there are only ten social work fellowship programs, compared to 135 accredited physician fellowship programs (Sumser et al. Blacker et al.). At this crucial time, leaders, educators, and researchers in palliative care social work are needed. With the lack of formal training programs to educate social workers as specialists in palliative care this presents MedStar Washington Hospital Center (MWHC) with the opportunity to be an innovate leader in educating the next generation of palliative care social workers.

Our Palliative Care social work fellowship would be a one-year program with the social work fellow having the unique opportunity to engage in interprofessional education at a large tertiary hospital serving a diverse population. MWHC palliative care team currently includes five attending physicians, four social workers, two pharmacists, two chaplains and a nurse practitioner. In addition, we have three physician fellows, a palliative pharmacy residency program, a nurse practitioner fellow and a clinical pastoral education program.

**Curriculum: Clinical Rotations**

**1 block = 4 weeks**

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| **Rotation Block** | **Site** |
| Inpatient Palliative Care Consultation (6 blocks) | MedStar Washington Hospital Center |
| Inpatient Hospice (2 blocks) | Capital Caring |
| Home Hospice (1 block) | Holy Cross Hospice |
| Long term care Hospice (1 block) | Holy Cross Hospice |
| Pediatric Palliative Care (1 block) | Childrens’ National Medical Center |
| Electives (2 blocks) | (See below) |

**Electives**

To meet individual learning needs, each fellow has 2 elective blocks during training – *Elective A* and *Elective B*.

* *Elective A* may be selected from the following MedStar services: Clinical Ethics, Psychiatry, Geriatrics House Calls, MedStar Georgetown University Hospital Palliative Care, and Research.
* *Elective B* rotation is more open and may be selected from any rotations above or additional themes such as integrative medicine, grief/bereavement, public policy, narrative medicine etc. At the discretion of the program director, fellows may develop their own unique elective.

**Structured Didactics**

Fellows participate in a variety of educational experiences through the year to develop discipline-specific expertise, including but not limited to:

* Didactics (weekly)
* Journal club (monthly)
* Communication Workshop (monthly)
* Ethical issues in hospice and palliative medicine (quarterly)
* Grief and bereavement care (quarterly)

**Budget**

* $45,000 stipend plus benefits

**Fellowship Director:**

Anne Kelemen, will serve as the fellowship director and clinical supervisor for the program. Ms. Kelemen joined the MedStar Washington Hospital Center Section of Palliative Care in 2014. In 2015, she was named MedStar Health Palliative Care Clinician of the Year. In 2017, she was recognized as an emerging leader in palliative care by the Social Work Hospice and Palliative Care Network (SWHPN). Ms. Kelemen serves as the Social Work Supervisor on the Palliative Care team, supervises the three other social workers on the palliative care team in addition to providing mentorship and clinical supervision to other social workers within the MedStar system. Prior to joining the Hospital Center staff, Ms. Kelemen instituted the first palliative care service at MedStar Good Samaritan Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. She first developed an interest in palliative care while a hospice volunteer in Maryland. She has a Master’s in Social Work from the University of Maryland and a post-master’s certificate in End of Life Care from the Smith College School of Social Work. She is also board certified in Hospice and Palliative Care.