The Institute and Section of Palliative Care Hire a New Administrative Director

This month Kimberly H. Lewis, MBA, started as the administrator for the Section of Palliative Care and Medical Ethics and the Institute to Enhance Palliative Care. In this capacity, she is coordinating the ongoing projects of the Section, overseeing the administrative responsibilities of the Section’s research and clinical consult services, and managing the Institute’s budget.

Kim earned her bachelor’s degree from the School of Health Related Professions and a master’s degree in business administration from the Katz Graduate School of Business, both from the University of Pittsburgh. Her professional background includes extensive experience in medical specialty practice management as well as a prior appointment as an assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh, School of Dental Medicine-Dental Hygiene Department.

Family Hospice and Palliative Care and Presbyterian SeniorCare Receive National Award for End-of-Life Care from the American Hospital Association

The American Hospital Association (AHA) named Woodwell, a joint program of Family Hospice and Palliative Care Presbyterian SeniorCare, a 2007 Circle of Life Award® winner.

The Circle of Life Award celebrates programs across the nation that have made great strides in palliative and end-of-life care. The awards are supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and are sponsored by the AHA, the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, the American Medical Association, and the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

“How we care for individuals as they are dying and how we care for their families is of the utmost importance to us. Regardless of what stage of life an individual is experiencing, including end of life, we treat them with respect and dignity” says Fatemeh Hashtroudi, senior director at Presbyterian SeniorCare. “The fact that Woodwell has been recognized nationally as a leader in palliative care is an honor for both SeniorCare and our partner, Family Hospice and Palliative Care.”

Woodwell enhances quality of life by providing competent and compassionate care that respects individual choice at the end-of-life. Together, Presbyterian SeniorCare and Family Hospice and Palliative Care support the individual’s life journey in the living environment of his choice while providing comfort, dignity, respect and education. Equally important is the acknowledgement of the needs of the individual’s loved ones.

"This collaborative effort is an outstanding example of how two organizations can work together to ensure access to hospice and palliative care services for those living in a long-term care setting,” says Rafael Sciolto, president and CEO, Family Hospice and Palliative Care.

“In keeping with the hospice philosophy, our specialized long-term care team provides physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual support to those facing a life-limiting illness and their loved ones. It has been a very positive experience for the patients, families, and staff.”

A national selection committee composed of leaders from medicine, nursing, social work, and health administration chose Woodwell as a recipient of the Circle of Life Award. The committee focused on innovative programs, which respect patient goals and preferences, provide comprehensive care, acknowledge and address the family or caregivers’ concerns and needs, and build systems and mechanisms of support to continue the program for future patients and programs.

The Presbyterian SeniorCare and Family Hospice and Palliative Care’s program is one of three recipients of this year’s Circle of Life Award: Celebrating Innovation in End-of-Life Care. This is the eighth year for the award. For more information, visit, www.aha.org/circleoflife.