The Institute and CQEL
Combat Disparities and Improve Palliative and End-Of-Life Care with the
COMPASSIONATE CARE FOR ALL CAMPAIGN

The Institute and the Coalition for Quality at the End of Life (CQEL) are launching the COMPASSIONATE CARE FOR ALL CAMPAIGN, a community initiative to improve access and quality of health care near the end of life in our region. With the support of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, Highmark, Open Stage Theater, Presbyterian SeniorCare, the Take Charge Partnership, UPMC Health Plan, University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, and the W.I. Patterson Charitable Trust, COMPASSIONATE CARE FOR ALL comprises three programs:

(1) COMPASSION SABBATH PITTSBURGH, an educational retreat for area clergy and lay leaders, to enlist their spiritual and community leadership skills for vigorous outreach to congregants throughout the region, bringing better information and spiritual support to individuals and families in times of serious illness.

(2) APPEAL, a regional conference for health professionals to enhance their understanding and ability to provide compassionate, high-quality end-of-life care for African Americans.

(3) VESTA, a production of a nationally acclaimed play that dramatically portrays a multi-generational family’s challenging experience with aging, loss, and grief, which has the capacity to stimulate profound community discussion of these difficult issues.

Compassion Sabbath Pittsburgh is being held April 12 at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. In addition to small group workshops to learn about supporting and reaching out to community members who are facing serious illness and the end of life, several exciting speakers will be featured to share their expertise and experience. These include the Rev. Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr. of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, the leader of a congregation, which is a model for how faith communities can serve and support members at the end of life; the family of Pittsburgh’s own late beloved Mayor O’Connor; and Rev. Dr. Tarris Rosell, Program Associate, Center for Practical Bioethics and Associate Professor, Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

For more information and to register please contact:
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APPEAL (A Progressive Palliative Care Educational Curriculum for the Care of African-Americans at Life’s End), an acclaimed training program for health professionals, will be offered in our region on April 18-19, 2008 at the Herberman Conference Center next to Shadyside Hospital in the UPCI Cancer Pavillion. The Institute and CQEL are collaborating with the Duke University Institute on End-of-Life Care to present APPEAL in Pittsburgh.

This two-day educational program was designed by African American faculty and palliative care experts to help health professionals provide state-of-the-art, culturally appropriate end-of-life care to African Americans. It was created in response to persistent racial disparities in utilization of palliative care services, and the observation that leading educational offerings for health providers fail to acknowledge important cultural and social factors affecting many African Americans’ perceptions of hospice and palliative care. Recent press reports and research studies, as
well as Governor Rendell’s Task Force on Quality at the End of Life in Pennsylvania, have been calling attention to the urgent and serious problem of racial disparities in the treatment of pain and access to state-of-the-art disease management.

The training stands apart from other nationally recognized palliative care training programs by offering technical palliative care expertise hand-in-hand with insights into caring for African Americans. It is designed to increase participants’ palliative care knowledge and skills as well as their confidence and ability to communicate with the African American patients and families to whom they provide care. APPEAL is being held at the Herberman Conference Center next to Shadyside Hospital on the second floor of the UPMC Cancer Pavilion, 5230 Center Avenue.

Questions can be directed to the following:

For information on conference location, directions, parking or hotel accommodations:

Center for Bioethics and Health Law at the University of Pittsburgh
1-412-647-5700
aes72@pitt.edu

For Registration:

Duke Conference Services
1-919-660-1760
confserv@notes.duke.edu

For APPEAL curriculum and continuing education:

Duke Institute on Care at the End of Life
1-919-660-3553
iceol@div.duke.edu

Vesta, a play written by Spokane, WA playwright Bryan Harnetiaux, will be produced three times in 2008. The first production will be incorporated in the APPEAL conference. The subsequent public performances will be announced.