PA House of Representatives Holds Hearing on 2007 End-of-Life Care Report

The PA House of Representatives Committee on Aging held a hearing on November 18, 2009 about the State Task Force’s End-of-Life Care report, *Improving End-of-Life Experiences for Pennsylvanians*. This report was co-authored by several members of the Institute and CQEL. John Michael Hall, Secretary of Pennsylvania Department of Aging, and Ann Torregrossa, Director of the Governor’s Office of Health Care Reform, gave testimony regarding the state of end-of-life care in Pennsylvania. The hearing covered the need to address barriers to accessing palliative care. These barriers include lack of awareness and education about end-of-life care among members of the public and health professionals and insufficient or limited health insurance coverage outside of hospice coverage. The transcript from the November 18th hearing is available on the Pennsylvania House of Representatives website: [http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/tr/transcripts/2009_0200T.pdf](http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/tr/transcripts/2009_0200T.pdf).

Dr. Susan Hunt to Present at Dying Workshop March 2010

The Institute’s Dr. Susan Hunt will be a guest speaker at a local workshop titled, *Being with Death and Dying*. The workshop is suited for medical professionals working with dying and illness, those who are ill, and those who would like to look deeply into the meaning of death and dying within the framework of a spiritual path. The workshop faculty will teach practices to support the dying and present compassionate care from a spiritual perspective. For more information or to register, please visit: [http://www.olmoling.org/](http://www.olmoling.org/)

The Institute Welcomes Visiting Palliative Care Physician

Dr. Ioseb Abesadze, Chief of the Palliative Care Institute of the Republic of Georgia, in Tbilisi, and Medical Director of the Palliative Care Unit of Cancer Prevention, recently visited Pittsburgh and the Institute to Enhance Palliative Care on January 8-14, 2010. Palliative care is a very young discipline in Georgia, as it is in most of the East European states of the former Soviet Union with Dr. Abesadze being a leader in the effort to enlarge and improve palliative care in his country. He has participated in international educational programs at San Diego Hospice where he will return after visiting the Institute. During his visit Dr. Abesadze learned clinical, administrative, and educational aspects of our program and those of palliative care in our region. He met with members of the Institute, as well as the Coalition for Quality at the End of Life to discuss the state of palliative care in Georgia as well as the roles both organizations play in improving palliative care in our region. He spent time at UPMC and Family Hospice and Palliative Care to learn about palliative care delivery in these institutions.

For palliative care consultations please contact the Palliative Care Program at PUH/MUH, 647-7243, beeper 8511, Shadyside Dept. of Medical Ethics and Palliative Care, beeper 412-647-7243 pager # 8513 or call 412-623-3008, Perioperative/ Trauma Pain 647-7243, beeper 7246, UPCI Cancer Pain Service, beeper 644-1724, Interventional Pain 784-4000, Magee Women’s Hospital, beeper 412-647-7243 pager #: 8510, VA Palliative Care Program, 688-6178, beeper 296, Hillman Outpatient: 412-692-4724. For ethics consultations at UPMC Presbyterian-Montefiore, and Children’s page 958-3844. With comments about “Case of the Month” call David Barnard at 647-5701.