AAHPM Selects Institute as Clinical Scholars Program Training Site

The University of Pittsburgh Institute to Enhance Palliative Care has been selected by the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM) as one of eight training sites to host its Clinical Scholars Program beginning in 2008. The program is designed to provide a focused clinical experience in hospice and palliative medicine to physicians. According to the AAHPM, the sites were chosen based on their outstanding reputation, superior service, and well regarded expertise in the field. The other sites include Capital Hospice in Falls Church, Virginia; Hospice of the Bluegrass in Lexington, Kentucky; Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Midwest Palliative & Hospice CareCenter in Glenview, Illinois; San Diego Hospice & Palliative Care in San Diego, California; Stanford University/VA Palo Alto Hospice and HPC Program in Palo Alto, California; University of Alabama at Birmingham/VA Medical Center Palliative Care Program in Birmingham, Alabama. More information is available at www.aahpm.org/education/clinicaltraining.html.

Educational Facility Available at New Center

Family Hospice and Palliative Care is opening its new Center for Compassionate Care. In addition to a 12-bed inpatient hospice unit and administrative offices, the Center also houses an Education/Conference Wing. The Education/Conference Wing is a unique resource for those in the community confronting end-of-life issues. It will provide space for learning to health care professionals, caregivers, families, volunteers, and community groups. Much of the training of health care professionals and medical student/residents will be in collaboration with the Institute. Caregiver support groups and bereavement support groups will be offered to Family Hospice and Palliative Care's families as well as to the community-at-large. More information about the Center is available at 412-572-8800 or www.familyhospice.com.

Third Annual Amdur Social Work Fellow

The Third Annual Amdur Social Work Fellow completed her fellowship this summer and is preparing to present the results of her fellowship project benchmarking bereavement programs of hospital based palliative care services across the country. Olivia Awad is a graduate student at the University of Pittsburgh in the School of Social Work, completing her masters in social work and certificate in gerontology. Prior to University of Pittsburgh, Olivia attended Elizabethtown College, in Lancaster PA, in which she received a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work. Olivia’s interest is in medical and hospital social work. She believes that the philosophy and perspective that palliative care utilizes is essential in working in any area of the medical field. She hopes to implement the knowledge and experience she gained during the fellowship in her future career.

2008 Amdur Fellow, University of Pittsburgh Social Work student, Olivia Awad with Mentor Charlene Amato

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