The Institute’s 5th Amdur Social Work Fellow

The Institute’s Fifth Amdur Social Work Fellow has completed her fellowship this summer and is preparing to present her final project based on her fellowship experience. Katie Guardino is a graduate student at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work. Prior to University of Pittsburgh, Katie attended Slippery Rock University of PA where she received her Bachelor of Science in Psychology. "I applied for the Evelyn Amdur Fellowship because I wanted to expand my knowledge base about this fellowship gave me the opportunity to work with other professionals in the field and to learn how the role of social work impacts end of life care.” Her project included research on compiling a resource tab on long-term care and skilled nursing facilities for CQEL (Coalition for Quality at the End of Life) and for the Institute’s upcoming Palliative Care Resource website for Southwestern PA which is due to soon launch. Katie is committed to specializing in geriatrics and in the issues facing the terminally ill and their families and believes in the importance of incorporating palliative and hospice care into treatment of the terminally ill.

The Institute and The Coalition for Quality at the End of Life (CQEL) Present Compassion Sabbath Pittsburgh’s First Production

The Coalition for Quality at the End of Life (CQEL) in cooperation with the Institute to Enhance Palliative Care, is bringing Compassion Sabbath to the Pittsburgh area for the first time on October 13, 2009 from 12:30 - 8:00 pm at the Family Hospice and Palliative Care in Mt. Lebanon. Compassion Sabbath is a program that offers resources and support to clergy of all faiths, lay leaders and others, who wish to increase awareness about end-of-life care and also improve the spiritual care of the seriously ill and dying.

A special feature will be a staged reading of Vesta, a remarkable play that captures with humor, poignancy, and honesty one family’s struggles with the challenges of aging, sickness, and loss. Vesta is staged in cooperation with Rita Gregory & Company and produced by the Coalition for Quality at the End of Life. For more information, please contact:

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Institute Student Researcher Wins Award for Outstanding Clinical Research

A student researcher from the Institute has been awarded the Arthur Mirsky Award for outstanding clinical research and is preparing to present the results of her research project focusing on the availability of opioids for HIV-positive palliative care patients in South Africa. Wynne Lundblad is a second year medical student at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Prior to University of Pittsburgh, she attended Wellesley College where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in American Studies. Wynne’s research was supported by the Institute’s Alan Gleitsman Student Research Fund in Palliative Care, which provides financial support of $3,000 for a medical student’s summer learning in the Palliative Care Program. Students may work with faculty of the Institute on a research project, and/or see hospital patients with the Palliative Care Team in the hospital to gain a better understanding of the nature of palliative care, the therapies associated with it, and the benefits it can provide to patients and families. Wynne is interested in expanding access to palliative care both here and abroad, and in the promotion of health as an essential human right.

For more information on The Alan Gleitsman Student Research Fund or to request an application, please contact: Monica Ceraso at iepctemp@pitt.edu or Amy Slade at aes72@pitt.edu

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, 623-3008, beeper 263-9041, Perioperative/ Trauma Pain 647-7243, beeper 7246, UPCI Cancer Pain Service, beeper 644 –1724, Interventional Pain 784-4000, Magee Women’s Hospital, 641-2108, beeper 917-9276, VA Palliative Care Program, 688-6178, beeper 296. 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.