

OTTO WOLFF & INAUGURAL LECTURE

FRIDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2023

Leonlin Price Lecture Theatre, UCL Great Ormond Street Hospital Institute of Child Health

13:30-13:40

Prof Claire Thorne

Introduction

13:40-14:30

Prof Ulrika Kreicbergs

Paediatric Palliative Care: From naïve to professional

Ulrika's research in paediatric palliative care will be presented. Her work can be summarized as exploration, prevention, and intervention. She has focused on identifying factors in health care and family that can be modified or avoided to reduce suffering. These factors have provided the basis for the development and implementation of interventions to support children with a life-limiting or life-threatening illness and families during care and beyond. She has carried out nation-wide studies in Sweden and Denmark on bereaved parents' and siblings' psychosocial health. Her studies exhibit high participation rates. A key factor has been close partnership with patients and family members.



14:30-14:45

Break

Catherine Peckham Symposium: Paediatric Palliative Care: Expertise road map

SPEAKERS:

Prof Suellen Walker



Suellen Walker is Professor of Paediatric Anaesthesia and Pain Medicine, UCL GOS Institute of Child Health, and Honorary Consultant, Great Ormond Street Hospital, London. Following her medical degree, she completed a Masters in Pain Medicine, Msc in Neuroscience, and PhD in developmental pain neurobiology. She was a Foundation

Diplomate of the Faculty of Pain Medicine, Australian New Zealand College of Anaesthetists in 1999, and was elected to Fellowship, Faculty of Pain Medicine Royal College of Anaesthetists UK in 2016. Her clinical activities include acute and chronic paediatric pain management, and her research interests include long-term effects of early life pain and injury, and neuropathic pain.

Ruth Kennedy Dundas



The death of her son Louis inspired Ruth Kennedy to raise money for children's palliative care. Ruth Kennedy founded a worldwide resource – the Louis Dundas Centre for Children's Palliative Care – to undertake research, training and practice in her son's name for the benefit of very sick children.

Dr Eduard Verhagen



Eduard Verhagen, is a pediatrician at the University Medical Center Groningen (Netherlands). Dr Verhagen worked for 5 years in Curaçao (Caribbean) before he came to Groningen to work as the clinical director of the Beatrix Children's Hospital/UMCG, where he is now a professor of pediatrics and the Department Chair. He received his MD and JD from the University of Utrecht (Netherlands) and completed his pediatric specialty training in Amsterdam. His PhD thesis (University of Groningen) was on neonatal end-of-life decisions in Dutch NICU's. He has written numerous scientific papers about ethical decision-making and end-of-life care and he was one of the authors of the 'Groningen Protocol' for newborn euthanasia. He leads several national research and palliative care initiatives and functions as a member and chair of several national and governmental medical-ethical and legal advice councils.

Catherine Peckham Symposium: Paediatric Palliative Care: Expertise road map

Chair: Professor Sir Terence Stephenson, Nuffield Professor of Child Health

Prof Suellen Walker

1445-15:15 Acute and chronic pain following cancer treatment.

Chemotherapy-induced oral mucositis is a frequent and often debilitating side effect of cancer treatment in children. Cells in the gastrointestinal mucosa are susceptible to anti-neoplastic drugs, and ulceration in the mouth results in pain and difficulty swallowing, while more generalized gastrointestinal involvement can be associated with abdominal pain, diarrhea and inability to absorb oral medications or nutrients. As a result, management of severe mucositis pain can require prolonged intravenous opioid therapy. I will discuss data from 7 years of consecutive cases of mucositis managed with patient-controlled or nurse-controlled intravenous analgesia (PCA/NCA) by the inpatient pain service at GOSH. This highlighted the variability in analgesic requirements, and the need for regular review and titration, and individualised management.

Advances in cancer treatment have increased survival for children with leukaemia and lymphoma, but this has not always been matched by improvements in subsequent self-reported health, and there is an increasing focus on also optimizing the quality of survival. Chronic pain reduces quality of life and may be related to prior treatment (e.g. chemotherapy induced peripheral neuropathy and neuropathic pain) or be associated with other conditions and co-morbidities. Our collaboration between the Haematology/Oncology Late Effects clinic and the Paediatric Pain Research Group has identified chronic pain, impaired quality of life, and marked fatigue in a proportion of adolescents over 5 years following treatment, and identified targets for future interventions.

Catherine Peckham Symposium: Paediatric Palliative Care: Expertise road map

Chair: Professor Sir Terence Stephenson, Nuffield Professor of Child Health

15:15-15:45 **Ruth Kennedy Dundas**
Paediatric Palliative Care: A Parent's Story

15:45 - 16:15 **Prof. Eduard Verhagen**
The developing landscape of palliative care
and its impact on children and families

Pediatric Palliative Care (PPC) is a relatively new clinical discipline that has developed rapidly in many countries. Supported by new research, the landscape of pediatric palliative care (PPC) changes and PPC teams are challenged to include new elements such as advance care planning and individual care plans in their 'toolbox'. At the same time, new ethical issues arise, demanding our attention and skills. As a result, the focus of PPC shifts from talking about death and dying, to talking about life. This challenges the process by which parents and care providers make decisions together and the way PPC teams provide care. An overview of these developments will be presented along with some thoughts about the impact on children and their families.

16:15-16:30 **Q&A**

16:30-17:30 **Drinks in winter garden**

Book here:

