MICHAEL GARRON HOSPITAL
TORONTO EAST HEALTH NETWORK

19TH ANNUAL MICHAEL GARRON HOSPITAL
PALLIATIVE CARE SYMPOSIUM

Evolving Palliative Care: Meeting Changing Needs with Compassion

NOVEMBER 12, 2026
8:00 AM–4:30 PM

THE ISMAILI CENTRE
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MICHAEL GARRON HOSPITAL
TORONTO EAST HEALTH NETWORK

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

THE ISMAILI CENTRE
TORONTO

Michael Garron Hospital's 19th Annual Palliative Care Symposium

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AGENDA

DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 2026 **TIME: 8:00AM - 4:30PM**

8:00 - 8:30AM	Breakfast and Registration - provided by Home Instead
8:30 - 8:45AM	*Welcome - Melanie Kohn, President and CEO, MGH*
8:30 - 9:30AM	Keynote: Where to from here? Perspectives on the promise of palliative care - *Susan Blacker*
9:45 - 10:15AM	Beyond the Tumour: A Medical Oncologist's Perspective on Palliative Care *Dr. Melody Emamian*
10:15 - 10:30AM	*Refreshment Break*
10:30 - 11:30AM	Palliative Care Rounds: *When I Would Choose Differently* Caring for patients whose choices challenge our own values, beliefs, and sense of what is best. *Panelists - Sarah More, RN, Dr. Patricia Disperati, Andrew Chunoo,SW*
11:30 - 11:45AM	Wellness Activity - *faciliated by Christine Devine*
11:45AM -12:45 PM	Lunch
12:45- 1:30 PM	Beyond Dementia Care: Reimagining Palliative Care on the MGH – Memory Care Unit. What If the Environment Could Care Too? - *Rosie Sears*
1:30- 2:15 PM	An update in Medical Assistance in Dying - *Dr. Noam Berlin, Sandra Marche, RN Palliative Care Specialist*
2:15-2:30 PM	Refreshment Break
2:30- 4:00 PM	Serious Illness Communication Interactive Session - *Dr. Nadia Incardona*
4:00-4:30 PM	Closing remarks and Raffle Prizes - *Dr. Aaron Harris and Adriana Palma, SW*

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SPEAKERS

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Susan Blacker, MSW, RSW, *Senior Director, Community Partnerships, Cancer and Palliative Program Planning and Performance at Sinai Health, Lecturer (status only) with the Division of Palliative Care, Adjunct Professor, Factor Inwentash Faculty of Social Work at the University of Toronto.*
Susan has taught in a broad range of interprofessional palliative care training programs in both Canada and the United States. Over the past decade Susan served as the regional and then provincial clinical co-lead for the Ontario Palliative Care Network and palliative care program at Ontario Health. She brings more than 30 years of experience, as a social worker, educator, health system leader and a caregiver.

Dr. Melody Emamian, *Medical Oncologist,Michael Garron Hospital*
Dr. Emamian completed her medical degree at the University of Ottawa, followed by Internal Medicine residency at the University of Toronto, and subspecialty training in Medical Oncology at McMaster University. In her practice, she works closely with patients and their families to navigate the complexities of cancer care. She believes in the importance of early integration of palliative care alongside cancer-directed treatment to improve symptom management, preserve quality of life, and ensure that care reflects each patient's goals and priorities.

Andrew Chunoo, SW, *Cardinal Ambrozic Houses of Providence LTC*
Andrew was born and grew up in Toronto. He completed his Masters of Social Work at the University of Toronto Faculty of Social Work and has been practicing for the past 5 years.

Dr. Patricia Disperati, *Hematologist, Head of Hematology-Oncology Division, MGH*
Dr. Disperati is originally from Brazil, where she completed medical school. She subsequently trained in internal medicine at Queens Universityand completed her hematology training at Universit of Toronto. She has practised as a hematologist for 15 years, with a focus on hematological malignancies, and is currently Head of the Hematology-Oncology Division at Michael Garron Hospital and a Lecturer at the University of Toronto.

Sarah More, RN, *Palliative Care Nurse, MGH*
Sarah's experience includes community nursing, medicine, and post-operative surgical nursing as well as supporting individuals experiencing homelessness and cared for patients with sarcoma before transitioning to palliative care. Sarah is passionate about providing compassionate care and advocating for her patients and their families throughout their palliative care journey.

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Dr. Nadia Incardona, *Emergency Physician, MGH, Associate Professor, University of Toronto*
Dr. Incardona integrates bioethics into emergency medicine practice, focusing on aligning care with patient values and goals. Her research and education work centers on communication skills for serious illness and end-of-life care.

Dr. Noam Berlin, *Palliative Care Physician, MGH, NYGH*
Dr. Berlin is palliative care physician at Michael Garron Hospital supporting the palliative care on call team and serving as a MAiD Assessor and Provider since 2022. He is also a Staff Palliative Physician at North York General and the current Interim Medical Director of Palliative Care there. He is a faculty member of the Canadian Association of MAiD Assessors and Providers.

Sandra Marche, *RN, Palliative Care Specialist , MGH*
Sandra is an RN with 18 years' experience in Hospice Palliative Care at Princess Margaret Hospital, Dorothy Ley Hospice and Kensington Hospice. She has been the Palliative Care Specialist at MGH for the last 5 years and in her role on the MaiD response team she supports patients requesting MaiD throughout the process of assessment to provision and bereavement.

Rosie Sears, *PT, SW, Behavioural Specialist, and Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP) Co-Lead, MGH*
As a global consultant with an extensive interdisciplinary background in geriatrics, rehabilitation, dementia care, and education, Rosie brings a holistic, compassionate, and deeply person-centred perspective to her work in the Memory Care Unit, helping guide and support an interprofessional team dedicated to enriching the lives of individuals living with dementia and their families.

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RAFFLE PRIZES

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Estate Planning Package (valued at $3000)
Donated by Halo Law

F45 Upper Beaches, 10 class pass (valued at $326)
Donated by F45 Upper Beaches

Aga Khan Museum, 2 admissions (valued at $40)
Donated by Aga Khan Museum

$100 Tim Hortons Gift Card
Donated by Roshad Family

3x Jugo Juice Prize Package (includes $50 gift card, 1 tumbler, 1 keychain)
Donated by Jugo Juice

3x Book Bundle: Pallium Palliative Pocketbook,
Caregiver's Guide,
Hope for the Rest- Plan for the Best
Provided by Ontario Health Palliative Care Initiative

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