



Nurturing Partnerships. Reimagining Palliative Care

## 2024 All Together Symposium Backgrounder

### **About the Symposium:**

The [2024 All Together Symposium \(ATS\)](#) is part of the BC Centre for Palliative Care's (BCCPC) efforts to galvanize collaborative work aimed at fostering compassionate communities, advance palliative care practices, and nurture partnership initiatives between the health system and community approaches to palliative care. This is the second provincial event to bring together palliative care partners from across BC, including palliative care leaders and educators, and attracting delegates from across Canada. This one-day, in-person event enlightens and educates all participants through informative discourse, networking and educational sessions. These presentations and conversations showcase innovative community, research and healthcare programs and approaches.

### **Why this Symposium is Important:**

This year's theme, *Nurturing Partnerships. Reimagining Palliative Care*, builds on the successes of our inaugural 2022 symposium. The event includes inspiring presentations, innovative ideas and engaging activities, featuring internationally renowned keynote speakers in the field, Dr. Kelli Stajduhar and Dr. Hsien Seow. 2024 ATS showcases compassionate communities in action, with grassroots initiatives from across British Columbia demonstrating ways to complement and link to the care provided by the formal healthcare system. The symposium is a continuation of BCCPC's work to help bridge the gap between the health system's approach and the compassionate communities' approach to palliative care to highlight successful system-community partnership initiatives. This event is dedicated to focusing on re-envisioning palliative care within Indigenous and underserved communities.

### **Keynote Speakers Biographies:**

**Dr. Kelli Stajduhar**, RN, PhD, FRSC, FCAHS, FCAN Professor & Canada Research Chair (Tier 1) in Palliative Approaches to Care in Aging and Community Health School of Nursing and Institute and Aging and Lifelong Health University of Victoria. Her clinical work and research have focused on health service needs for those at the end of life and their families, and on the needs of people who experience structural inequities at the end of life.

*Connect with Dr. Kelli Stajduhar:*

Website: [palliativeapproaches.uvic.ca](http://palliativeapproaches.uvic.ca)

Email: [palliative\\_approaches@uvic.ca](mailto:palliative_approaches@uvic.ca)

X/Twitter: @KStajduhar @access2care

YouTube: @palliative\_approaches

Instagram: @palliativeapproaches

**Dr. Hsien Seow**, PhD, is the Canada Research Chair in Palliative Care and Health System Innovation and a Professor in the Department of Oncology, McMaster University. He publishes health care and policy research focused on improving care for patients with serious illness. He is the co-author of *Hope for the Best, Plan for the Rest: 7 keys for navigating a life-changing diagnosis*, and the co-host of *The Waiting Room Revolution* podcast.

*Connect with Dr. Hsien Seow:*

X/Twitter: @HSeowPhD

@waitingroomrev

**Jordan and Kerena Letcher** are parents of five boys and live in Victoria, BC. They were faced the unimaginable when their middle son was diagnosed with Sanfilippo Syndrome (MPS IIIA), a rare and devastating genetic disease. In this inspiring presentation, Jordan and Kerena will share a deeply personal journey of parenting their son from diagnosis to palliative care, providing valuable insights for those in the medical and palliative care fields. They will walk through their experiences, highlighting the support from their community and healthcare providers that has had a profound impact on their family.

*Connect with the Letcher Family:*

[letcher@shaw.ca](mailto:letcher@shaw.ca)

## **Key Facts:**

The 2024 ATS attracts delegates and organizations from the community and healthcare sectors spanning across Canada, underscoring the provincial and national significance of the symposium.

ATS galvanizes collaborative efforts to advance palliative care and foster the adoption of the compassionate communities' concept across British Columbia.

The symposium emphasizes that the important role of community in supporting patients and families to live well thrive through recognition and partnerships, and by sharing knowledge and inspiring ideas.

## **Quotes:**

*“At BCCPC, we envision a future where equitable access to high-quality palliative care and community support are readily available to all British Columbians in need, irrespective of their diagnosis or location.”* Dr. Eman Hassan, Executive Director, BC Centre for Palliative Care

*“In palliative care, we are never giving up hope because hope evolves. People are more resilient and able to change what they’re hoping for when it’s matched with the reality of their illness. You can hope and you can plan.”* Dr. Hsien Seow

*“We must work alongside communities to ensure equity for all populations who are at the end of life or are living with a life-limiting illness and in need of palliative care.”* Dr. Kelli Stajduhar

## **About the BC Centre for Palliative Care:**

At the BC Centre for Palliative Care (BCCPC), we envision a future where equitable access to high-quality palliative care is readily available to all British Columbians in need, irrespective of their diagnosis or location. In just 10 years, the Centre has become a trusted partner and nationally recognized best-practice leader in palliative care in British Columbia and beyond. Since its inception, BCCPC has remained committed to working with partners to translate research into evidence-informed policy, capacity building programs and culturally adapted education resources for the public, healthcare professionals and community sector.

BCCPC is a provincial organization primarily funded by the BC Ministry of Health and located within the governance structure of the Institute for Health System Transformation and Sustainability (IHSTS). Through our collaboration with palliative care leaders, partner organizations, researchers, healthcare providers, funders and individuals with lived experience, we’ve witnessed a significant collective impact. Our [5-year Impact Report](#) celebrates these collective accomplishments and serves as a heartfelt expression of gratitude to all those who have supported or collaborated with us to affect meaningful change in people’s lives.

*The BCCPC team acknowledges that we are living and working with humility and respect on the unceded and traditional territories of the First Nations peoples of British Columbia. We also recognize the Metis and Inuit Indigenous peoples living across the province on various traditional territories.*

## **For more information**

For further information about the BC Centre for Palliative Care or the 2024 All Together Symposium visit [www.bc-cpc.ca](http://www.bc-cpc.ca) or contact:

Dr. Eman Hassan, Executive Director of the BC Centre for Palliative Care  
at [ehassan@bc-cpc.ca](mailto:ehassan@bc-cpc.ca)

### **Media Contact:**

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### **2024 All Together Symposium Details:**

Friday, October 4, 2024  
8:00am to 5:00pm  
Pinnacle Harbourfront Hotel  
1133 West Hastings Street  
Vancouver, British Columbia