

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



All Together Symposium: October 4, 2024

VANCOUVER, British Columbia – September 25

The BC Centre for Palliative Care (BCCPC) is proud to announce the upcoming [*2024 All Together Symposium \(ATS\): Nurturing Partnerships and Reimagining Palliative Care*](#). The symposium will be held on Friday, October 4, 2024, at the Pinnacle Hotel in Vancouver, British Columbia, and is expected to bring together attendees from across the healthcare sector, community, and academia.

This one-day, in-person event promises a lineup of inspiring presentations, innovative ideas, and engaging conversations and activities, featuring internationally renowned keynote speakers in the field, Dr. Kelli Stajduhar and Dr. Hsien Seow.

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 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 popular podcast, *The Waiting Room Revolution*. Despite years of education, research and advocacy, Dr. Seow continued to hear patients and families say, ‘Why didn’t anyone tell me that sooner?’ Dr. Seow says, “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.” His two resources offer 7 keys to unlock a better illness experience for people who have been diagnosed with a life-changing illness. They also reveal stories, tips and practical tools that empower people to live well, be hopeful in the face of uncertainty, and be prepared at every step along the way.

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. Dr. Stajduhar's research offers invaluable insight into health service needs for those at the end of life and their families. Specifically, her work focuses on the needs of people who have been marginalized in society and whose experiences have been marred by distrust and stigma. In Victoria, she pioneered an initiative in which teams of physicians, nurses and outreach workers deliver mobile and street-based palliative care. Dr. Stajduhar says, “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. Stajduhar’s influence has spanned well beyond Vancouver Island, reaching nationally and internationally.

Additionally, the symposium will amplify the voices of people with lived experiences by featuring the inspiring and powerful story of Jordan and Kerena Letcher, the parents of five boys from Victoria, BC. They faced the unimaginable when their middle son was diagnosed with a rare and devastating genetic disease. Mr. And Mrs. Letcher will share their deeply personal story with honesty and hope, providing valuable insights for palliative care practitioners, highlighting the profound impact of community and healthcare provider support throughout their experience.

Dr. Eman Hassan, Executive Director for the BC Centre for Palliative Care says, “I am filled with excitement about the many unique opportunities the symposium presents for enlightening conversations coupled with a cross-sector opportunities for networking and sharing of the excellent work that is underway that will undoubtedly shape a better future for palliative care in our province.”

The symposium’s theme, *Nurturing Partnerships. Reimagining Palliative Care*, underscores the central thread that binds BCCPC’s work. Through the Centre’s collaboration with palliative care leaders, partner organizations, researchers, healthcare providers, funders and individuals with lived experience, BCCPC has made significant strides in palliative care in BC, enhancing its integration into routine care and availability of support to individuals and families impacted by serious illnesses across various care settings.

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).

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.

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To register for the 2024 All Together Symposium or for further information, visit ccevent2024.bc-cpc.ca/registration

For further information, please call Dr. Eman Hassan, Executive Director of the BC Centre for Palliative Care (778) 788-7767 or email: ehassan@bc-cpc.ca

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