

Session 1: Finding Our Place: Identity Formation for Palliative Care Social Workers on the Interprofessional Team

Presenters:

Nina Laing, LICSW, APHSW-C, HEC-C, Staff Clinical Ethicist, Medical Affairs, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Georgetown University School of Medicine, Medstar Washington Hospital Center



Nina Laing is a trained clinical social worker and clinical ethicist at the John J. Lynch Center for Ethics at MedStar Washington Hospital Center. She joined MedStar Washington Hospital Center in 2017, initially serving as both an ICU-based social worker and a palliative care social worker, where she also directed the Palliative Social Work Fellowship. Nina is deeply committed to enhancing patient care through the integrated perspectives of clinical ethics and palliative care, with particular interest in complex communication and health equity.

Jill Farabelli, LCSW, APHSW-C, Coordinator, Palliative Care Psychosocial & Spiritual Care Palliative Care Social Worker



Jill Farabelli is a licensed clinical social worker at the University of Pennsylvania Abramson Cancer Center who specializes in the psychosocial care of individuals living with serious or life-limiting illness, as well as support for their caregivers. Her extensive background in pediatrics, hospice, and palliative care has fueled her deep commitment to improving quality of life for patients and families navigating complex medical journeys. She is board certified in hospice and palliative care social work and currently serves as the lead palliative care social worker at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. She is also an alumni of the Zelda Foster Leadership Fellowship.



Christina Rothans, LCSW, APHSW-C, Palliative Care Social Worker



Christina Rothans is a licensed clinical social worker in UCLA's outpatient palliative care program, wherein she provides psychosocial support, facilitate goals-of-care discussions and advance care planning, and collaborates with an interdisciplinary team to support patients living with serious illness. Her background includes over six years as the designated social worker on an inpatient palliative care team at a Providence hospital. Christina is board certified in palliative care social work (APHSW-C), holds a Post-MSW Certification in Palliative Care from the CSU Institute for Palliative Care, and completed a palliative care social work leadership fellowship through NYU. She is passionate about advancing psychosocial care for patients and families and educating and mentoring the next generation of palliative care clinicians.