*A Public Health Approach to Palliative Care*

 *Creating Compassionate Communities*

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This talk will commence with some preliminary remarks about the globally widespread clinical, acute-care culture of palliative care before introducing an outline of public health/health promotion approaches to palliative care. A public health approach to palliative care is one that recognizes that many of the social, psychological and spiritual troubles that people living with dying, living with bereavement, and living with long term care are actually amenable to prevention, harm reduction and early intervention. These interventions embrace community development, health promotion, death literacy, and ecological strategies. I will then provide examples of this approach from the compassionate communities and compassionate cities movements from around the world. I argue that the future of palliative care must embrace this approach if it is to successfully achieve greater access for all and provide a meaningful continuity of care at the end of life.