

# Focus on Compassion

Enhancing Access to Palliative Care Worldwide

## Driving Innovation in Palliative Care through Compassionate Partnership

The partnership between the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Hospice and Palliative Care team and Shirati Hospital Palliative Care began in 2012. What started with a compassionate desire to support communities across the world in palliative care has grown into a collaborative partnership that has improved palliative care provision in the United States and Tanzania.

### Relationships at the heart of partnership

Since establishing the partnership, the partnership leaders – Dr. Alex Nesbitt from UPMC and Dorothy Kawira at Shirati Hospital – have kept relationship-building at the core. Through this, they have collaborated on numerous projects. Furthermore, this has allowed the partnership to continuously evolve as new needs arise and their respective organizations change.



The Shirati palliative care team at a UPMC interdisciplinary team meeting.

This focus on relationships has also provided unique buy-in to the partnership. All funding provided by UPMC to Shirati comes entirely from supporters within the Williamsport, Pennsylvania community. During exchange visits, the UPMC team has ensured that the Shirati team meets local community members and provides opportunities to build deeper friendships, which helps recruit additional champions to engage in the partnership's work.

[Continue reading this story](#)

## Meet our Newest Team Members!

We are excited to welcome three new members to the Global Partners in Care team to support our work with current projects!



Lydia Thomas is a consultant supporting our partnership with Elea Institute and related projects. She earned her Master of Public Health from Saint Louis University in 2022 and interned with us that year as part of her practicum. Since then, she has expanded her experience working in global health program management, stakeholder engagement and donor relations. We are excited to be working with her on this project.

Callie Daniels-Howell is a global health professional and PhD candidate at University College London. She has extensive experience in qualitative research, monitoring and evaluation, and program management in non-profit and academic sectors. She has a passion for advancing the work of children's palliative care. In her consulting role with GPIC, she will assess the GPIC partnership program and support the partnership with Elea Institute.

Aarushi Bute is a sophomore Hesburgh-Yusko Scholar at the University of Notre Dame studying neuroscience and behavioral studies. She has experience and interest in supporting public health work and non-governmental organizations. She will work in our office to support our operations and various projects.

## World Hospice and Palliative Care Day 2025

Mark your calendars for World Hospice and Palliative Care Day on 11th October 2025.



**ACHIEVING THE PROMISE:  
UNIVERSAL ACCESS  
TO PALLIATIVE CARE**  
**11 OCTOBER 2025**  
WORLD HOSPICE AND  
PALLIATIVE CARE DAY

The theme for this year's advocacy is, *"Achieving the Promise: Universal Access to Palliative Care."* This theme builds on last year's campaign, which marked 10 years since the World Health Assembly passed the resolution calling for all countries to "strengthen palliative care as a component of comprehensive care throughout the life course."

The aim of this year is to continue building upon the momentum generated last year to work towards achieving universal access to palliative care. Check the [Worldwide Hospice and Palliative Care Alliance website](#) for updates, including this year's toolkit and informational webinars.

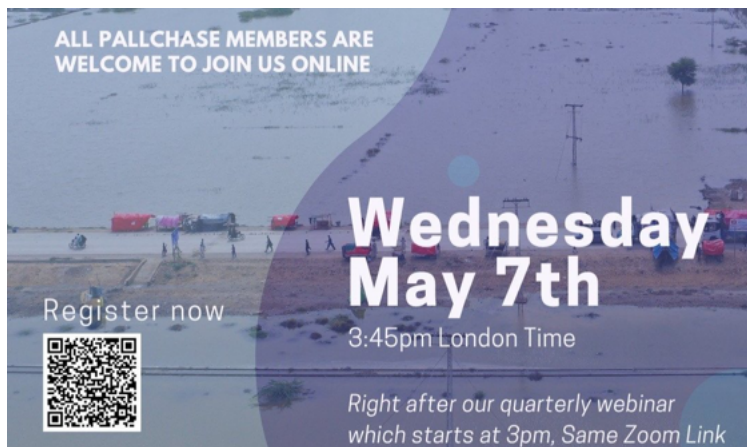


### Unheard, unseen, under-served: Placing lived experiences at the heart of palliative care reform

This webinar will explore ways to engage those with lived experience in palliative care, ensuring their participation, exploring gaps in their unmet needs and helping inform people-centered policies. [Register Here.](#)

### Save the Date: PalICHASE Annual General Meeting

[Register here.](#)



### Upcoming Global Palliative Care Conferences

2025 is a big year for global palliative care conferences. Here are a few upcoming conferences happening this year:

[16th Asia Pacific Hospice and Palliative Care Conference](#) | 23-26 April | Kuching, Sawawak, Malaysia

[19th World Congress on the European Association for Palliative Care](#) | 29-31 May | Helsinki, Finland

[2025 South African Palliative Care Conference](#) | 18-21 June | Durban, South Africa

[5th Uganda Conference on Palliative Care and Cancer](#) | 10-12 September | Kampala, Uganda

[8th International African Palliative Care and Allied Services Conference](#) | 23-26 September | Gaborone, Botswana

[4th ICPCN Conference: Milestones and Horizons](#) | 12-15 November | Manila, Philippines

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## Support the GPIC Partnership Program

Through the Global Partners in Care partnership program, organizations engage in innovative bidirectional learning that improves access to quality palliative care in the US and abroad. By supporting this program, you can promote innovation in palliative care across the globe.

**Support our  
Partnership Program**



Drs. Alex Nesbitt and Steve Biko on the way to visit a patient in Tanzania

**Our Contact Information**  
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