

WFRTDS/CONFERENCE

2022

Global Perspectives on End-of-Life Choice



Johannes Agterberg

Italy

After his professional career, Johannes has dedicated his time to initiatives regarding elder people as a volunteer. Among others, he started the study of voluntary end-of-life legislations in the world with a focus on the Netherlands. He published three books, in Italian, regarding the Dutch legislation and the application of euthanasia and medical-assisted dying. He manages a website regarding the development of the legislation on euthanasia in the world. He is a member of the Council of the Associazione Luca Coscioni and is its representative at the WFRTDS. He participated as a speaker in several conferences, both locally and internationally, and promotes meetings at local level Italian end-of-life legislation for older people in Northern Italy.



Felor Javadi Bashar, MSHS

Canada

Felor Javadi Bashar (MSHS) is a Quality Improvement Coordinator and Researcher for the Assisted Dying Program at Vancouver Coastal Health. She was previously ICU Nurse in Iran and has an MScN from Malaya with publications focused on Evidence Based Practice and Infection Control. She also completed her Masters in Global Health and Human Services in Canada in 2020.



Dick Bosscher

Netherlands

Dick Bosscher is a former newspaper journalist and currently a board member of NVVE in the Netherlands and the editor-in-chief of the magazine, Relevant.



Dr. Colin Brewer

United Kingdom

Dr. Colin Brewer is a retired psychiatrist and addiction specialist and has been active in the Right to Die movement since 1978, when he was first a committee member of the U.K. Voluntary Euthanasia Society (VES) in 1978-92. He is currently a board member and convener of My Death, My Decision medical group. He is the author of "O, let me not get Alzheimer's, sweet heaven! Why many people prefer death or active deliverance to living with dementia" (2019) and initiated and co-authored the world's first 'do-it-yourself' deliverance manual, restricted to established VES members, in 1978.



WFRTDS/CONFERENCE

2022

Global Perspectives on End-of-Life Choice

**Jule Briese****Canada**

Jule Briese is a retired educator, poet and songwriter and the author of "The Hot Chocolate and Decadent Cake Society - Alzheimer's and The Choice For MAiD - A Memoir in Poetry and Prose." She has facilitated workshops on Nurturing Grief and Loss as well as Compassionate Support for Those Challenged With Dementia Who Have Chosen MAiD (and for their nurturing companions) through Elder College affiliated with Vancouver Island University in Nanaimo. Jule has been a nurturing companion for her husband who embraced a peaceful MAiD death January 6 of this year, ending his 4-year journey with Alzheimer's. She is currently writing "Conversations With My Best Friend - Glimpses Into Alzheimer's" which she hopes to publish by December.

**Anne Bunning, B.Ag Ec, MA****Australia**

Anne Bunning, B Ag Ec, MA, has been a member of the WFRTDS Committee since 2021, Vice President of Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) South Australia and a member of the national VAD network in Australia. She is an agricultural economist and has worked extensively in Australia, Asia and the Pacific, in poverty alleviation, health, rural development and gender equality, with leadership roles in the public, private and community sectors. With her policy and political advisory experience as a strategist, she was a part of the recent successful campaign to achieve law reform in South Australia. Aside from her work, she has given several presentations at many local, national, and international conferences in health, agriculture, gender poverty alleviation and Parliamentary Inquiries.



WFRTDS/CONFERENCE

2022

Global Perspectives on End-of-Life Choice



Rose M. Carter Canada

Rose Carter is counsel at Dentons Canada LLP (Edmonton) in the Firm's health law field, bringing more than 30 years' experience in health law. She assists various medical practitioners, as well as scientific professionals, in navigating the regulatory requirements of private and public practice. She has provided legal advice on numerous occasions to medical practitioners on medical assistance in dying since its legalization. Throughout her three decades of practice, Rose, as a litigator, has appeared before all levels of courts in Alberta, as well as before various administrative law tribunals.



To complement her law practice, Rose devotes substantial time as an active and valuable member of the legal and medical community. She is an Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Alberta, where she lectures on medical legal issues to faculty members, practicing physicians, residents and students. She serves the medical communities across Canada as Chair of the Appeals Committee of the Medical Council of Canada and as Council member of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. She is a member of the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre, Clinical Service, Edmonton.

Rose has been commended for her extensive knowledge and experience in a variety of respected publications and is the recipient of the Women in Law Leadership Award: Leadership in the Profession (Private Practice).

Lauren Clark, MSW, RSW Canada

Lauren Clark is the President and CEO of Bridge C-14 and a Social Worker at The Ottawa Hospital (TOH) who has worked closely with the TOH MAID Program and the Champlain Regional MAID Network. Lauren was named as one of the OASW Inspirational Leaders for 2019 for her work with MAID. She is deeply passionate about providing families with compassionate support throughout their journey with MAID. She has spoken at many local, provincial and national conferences, and has been a guest instructor with NICE and Wilfrid Laurier University.



WFRTDS/CONFERENCE

2022

Global Perspectives on End-of-Life Choice


Susan Desjardins, B.Ag Ec, MA
Canada

Susan Desjardins is a retired human resources professional with experience in leadership development, organizational change management, talent development, and recruitment and compensation. She is the co-founder and past Chair of the Ottawa Chapter of Dying With Dignity Canada (DWDC).



Susan received a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Anthropology from McGill University and her Master of Arts in International Studies from Carleton University. She holds an MBA from the University of Ottawa. She previously worked for Save the Children Canada before transitioning to a career in human resources at a large telecommunications company. In her role with DWDC, Susan has delivered presentations on access to medical assistance in dying (MAID), liaised with several influential community stakeholders in the Ottawa area, and recruited and trained volunteers while fostering relationships with supporters.

Susan also co-founded a small green energy non-profit, EcoEnergy Ottawa, focused on promoting use of green energy innovations in the Ottawa area. Her role included the development of funding proposals and supporting volunteer efforts. Susan brings her volunteer knowledge to the DWDC Board table to strengthen relations with key partners including DWDC Chapters across the country.

Keri-Lyn Durant
Canada

Keri-Lyn Durant is a bilingual (English/français) educator, applied theatre specialist, and qualitative researcher. She is a PhD candidate at Lakehead University where her research involves exploring experiences of dying, death, and loss through applied theatre and, more specifically, digital storytelling. Keri-Lyn holds a Certificate in Children's Grief and Bereavement from SickKids Hospital and has worked as a Community Grief Support Worker for young people at Hospice Georgian Triangle in Collingwood, ON.



WFRTDS/CONFERENCE

2022

Global Perspectives on End-of-Life Choice



Mary Ewert, PhD **United States**

Mary Ewert is the Executive Director of Final Exit Network (FEN). Her passion for the right to die grew from personal experience as the primary caregiver for her husband who, following a diagnosis of rapidly advancing ALS, traveled to Dignitas in Switzerland where he achieved a peaceful death on his own terms. She earned a PhD in law and an MSc in International and European Politics while studying in England and Scotland. Mary has appeared as a spokesperson for FEN on webinars and podcasts and spoke about her experience at screenings of "The Suicide Tourist," a PBS Frontline documentary about her husband's travel to Dignitas in several Canadian and European cities.



Alicia Freeborn **Canada**

Alicia Freeborn is a Social Service Worker student who supported her mother in 2018 through stage four lung cancer and a medically assisted death. Afterwards, Alicia helped develop the Bridge C-14 10-Week Peer Support Group (formerly known as the MAID Grief Recovery Group). Through this program, she found the connection to others with lived experience to be incredibly helpful in her healing and processing of grief. Since then, Alicia has been a group facilitator with Bridge C-14 where she supported many of their drop-in sessions and 10-week groups and volunteers 1:1 with others in the Bridge4You Program. With her work, she was also the recipient of the 2021 Dr. John D. Morgan Student Scholarship offered by the Bereavement Ontario Network.



Dr. Stefanie Green **Canada**

Dr. Stefanie Green spent 10 years in general practice and 12 years working exclusively in maternity and newborn care before changing her focus in 2016 to medical assistance in dying (MAID). Today, she is a MAID practitioner in Victoria, BC and is a part of the clinical faculty at both the University of British Columbia and the University of Victoria. She is also the co-founder and current President of the Canadian Association of MAID Assessors and Providers (CAMAP), a medical advisor to the BC Ministry of Health MAID oversight committee, a moderator of CAMAP's national online forum, and the author of "This is assisted dying," a memoir about her first year providing assisted dying in Canada. Beyond her clinical practice, she frequently speaks about MAID to a wide range of audiences locally, nationally and internationally.



WFRTDS/CONFERENCE

2022

Global Perspectives on End-of-Life Choice

**Dr. Gord Gubitz****Canada**

Dr. Gord Gubitz became involved with medical assistance in dying (MAID) shortly after federal legislation was passed that legalized MAID in Canada in 2016. He is the Clinical Lead for the MAID Program in Nova Scotia and does assessments and provisions for eligible Nova Scotians. He is involved in MAID-related research, and provides MAID education to medical learners, including medical students, resident doctors, and other health care providers. He is the Chair of the Canadian Association for MAID Assessors and Providers (CAMAP) MAID Curriculum Development Committee and has participated in over 200 national and international presentations and lectures.

**Tekla Hendrickson****Canada**

Tekla Hendrickson is the Executive Director of MAIDHouse, a non-profit organization devoted to providing those eligible to receive medical assistance in dying (MAID) with a supportive, inclusive and home-like setting. She has extensive experience in community-based research and practice. Tekla has co-authored articles on developing processes to engage marginalized women in research, policy, and practice, as well as the issue of homelessness and developing shared solutions.

**Rob Jonquière****The Netherlands**

Rob is currently the Executive Director of the World Federation of Right to Die Societies (WFRTDS). He graduated from Leiden University as MD and went on to be a general practitioner in his own practice in Hengelo where he was involved in a number of requests for termination of life from his patients. Rob then went on to be the Head of Vocational training in Amsterdam (VU) and Leiden and later became the Director at Mental Health for the Elderly in Leiden. After this, he spent years as the Executive Director of NVVE: Dutch Right to Die Society where he was involved in the discussions around Dutch legislation and implementation after 2002.



WFRTDS/CONFERENCE

2022

Global Perspectives on End-of-Life Choice


Willi Kirenko
Canada

Willi Kirenko is a Nurse Practitioner in independent practice within the Erie St. Clair region of Ontario. She has been an RN for over 40 years and is a graduate with both Primary Health Care (University of Windsor) and Adult (University of Toronto) Nurse Practitioner specialties. In June of 2017, she began her role in improving access to medical assistance in dying (MAID) in the community setting. Passionate about improving access to this personal choice, Willi has also taken a leadership role with training and supporting other MAID assessors and providers. She is a NP member with the Ontario College of Family Physicians MAID Collaborative Mentoring Network, a board member of the Canadian Association of MAID Assessors and Providers (CAMAP) and the moderator for the CAMAP Assessor Forum.


Kathy Kortés-Miller, MSW, PhD
Canada

Kathy Kortés-Miller, MSW, PhD has a passion for palliative care and improving end-of-life care for all. She is an associate professor in the School of Social Work and the director of the Centre for Education and Research on Aging & Health at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, ON. Her research is interdisciplinary and collaborative, contributing to a broad range of fields of study, including social work, end-of-life, 2SLGBTQ+, caregiving, and MAID. She was a long-standing member of the board of directors for Hospice Northwest and in 2020 joined the board for Roots to Harvest. In March 2018, Kathy published the book "Talking About Death Won't Kill You" with ECW Press.


Silvan Luley
Switzerland

Silvan Luley is a team member of the Swiss non-profit human rights organisation "DIGNITAS - To live with dignity - To die with dignity."


Dr. Reiko Miyamoto
Japan

Having been a doctor for over forty years now, Dr. Reiko Miyamoto, MD, has been involved in dementia medicine since 2006. As a director of the Dementia Disease Medical Center, she is engaged in dementia treatment and end-of-life care. In addition, she is the Director of the Hokkaido Branch of the Japan Society for Dying with Dignity where she is engaged in the promotion of and enlightenment activities for living wills. Since 2012, she has been searching for ideal end-of-life care methods for the elderly. She gives numerous lectures on dementia and end-of-life care annually to different audiences and is a returning guest expert on an afternoon television program, speaking to the concerns and issues surrounding dementia and end-of-life care. She also published a book on end-of-life care in 2015 and another book called "Dementia: Living with Dignity," in 2018.



WFRTDS/CONFERENCE

2022

Global Perspectives on End-of-Life Choice


Jane Morris
Australia

For decades, Jane has been a staunch advocate for assisted dying. She completed a Nursing Degree in the late 1970's and later completed a Master's of Bioethics. In 2014, her mother was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease. Without the legal option of an assisted death, her death was horrific and traumatic for all. After she died in 2015, Jane became involved in Victorian VAD advocacy with both Go Gentle Australia and Dying with Dignity Victoria. In 2018, she was invited to become a co-editor of a newsletter, VAD-Media Watch, which is distributed to a select list of recipients throughout Australia and overseas and provides a weekly global summary of VAD news articles. In 2019, Jane was asked to join the DWDV Board and, in 2021, became Vice-President.


Dr. Jeff Myers
Canada

Dr. Jeff Myers has been a palliative medicine physician for the past 25 years and is the Bresver Family Chair in End-of-Life Care and Medical Assistance in Dying at the University of Toronto's Department of Family and Community Medicine within the Temerty Faculty of Medicine. He is clinically based at the Hennick Bridgepoint Hospital's Albert and Temmy Latner Palliative Care Unit and is the Academic Development and Innovation lead for the Temmy Latner Centre for Palliative Care. Dr. Myers is an Associate Professor and has held various leadership positions throughout his career including University of Toronto's W. Gifford-Jones Professor in Palliative Care and academic head of the institution's Division of Palliative Care. The area of focus for his education, research and quality improvement scholarship is person & family centred decision-making.


Signy Novak
Canada

Signy Novak is the Founder and Director of the Bridge4You 1:1 Peer Support Program. Signy is also a Nursing Educator in Vancouver, BC. In 2018, she supported her dad in his choice to have MAID and began her mission to enhance 1:1 MAID peer supports. The Bridge4You Peer Support Program was established in 2021 and strives to provide compassionate support and peer connections with trained volunteers who have lived MAID experience.



WFRTDS/CONFERENCE

2022

Global Perspectives on End-of-Life Choice



SPEAKERS & BIOS

Dr. Gary Payinda, MD, MA, DDU, FACEP, FACEM New Zealand

Dr. Gary Payinda works as an emergency medicine specialist in New Zealand with professional interests in helicopter retrieval medicine, ultrasound, and resuscitation. He saw the need some terminally ill patients had for medical help to end unmanageable and often prolonged suffering at the end of their lives. He is a member of the End-of-Life-Choice Society of New Zealand and helped campaign for the New Zealand End-Of-Life Choice Act, which established a legal, publicly-funded assisted dying health service in 2021, with widespread support from the New Zealand public. He has served as a medical practitioner within that service, alongside many other doctors and nurse practitioners, since 2021. He has held a variety of medical, board member, and other leadership roles that provided him with numerous opportunities to speak to groups, including delivering educational lectures.



Dr. Chantal Perrot, AB, MD, CCFP, FCFP, MDPAC(C) Canada

Dr. Chantal Perrot is a family physician and psychotherapist in Toronto. Dr. Perrot has been active in choice in health care for over four decades and has been providing medical assistance in dying (MAID) assessments and procedures to patients since July 2016. She is frequently called upon to speak about MAID to both professional and general audiences. Dr. Perrot is a member of Dying With Dignity Canada's (DWDC) Board of Directors. She is also Chair of the Board of Directors of MAiDHouse. She is a member of CAMAP (Canadian Association of MAiD Assessors and Providers) and moderator of the CAMAP MAID Providers Forum. Dr. Perrot received an A.B. in History from Brown University, after which she graduated from the University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine. She completed a family medicine residency at Mount Sinai Hospital, also in Toronto.



Laurel Plewes, RN, MScN Canada

Laurel Plewes is the Director of the Assisted Dying Program at Vancouver Coastal Health. She was previously an RN in Pediatric oncology, ICU, palliative care and recreational rehabilitation. Laurel served as an expert witness for Canada's Senate when it was debating the changes in the criminal code that were ultimately passed into law in March 2021 as Bill C-7.



WFRTDS/CONFERENCE

2022

Global Perspectives on End-of-Life Choice

IT'S YOUR LIFE. IT'S YOUR CHOICE.
**DYING WITH
DIGNITY**
CANADA

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WORLD FEDERATION RIGHT TO DIE SOCIETIES

SPEAKERS & BIOS

Thaddeus Mason Pope, JD, PhD, HEC-C United States

Thaddeus Mason Pope is a foremost expert on medical law and clinical ethics. He maintains a special focus on patient rights, health care decision-making, and end-of-life options. Pope is a Professor at Mitchell Hamline School of Law in Saint Paul, Minnesota. While he serves in a range of consulting capacities, Pope has been particularly influential through his extensive high-impact scholarship. Ranked among the Top 20 most cited health law scholars in the United States, Professor Pope has over 250 publications in leading medical journals, bioethics journals, and law reviews. He coauthored the definitive treatise "The Right to Die: The Law of End-of-Life Decision-Making," and he runs the Medical Futility Blog, with over five million page-views.



Dr. Erika Preisig Switzerland

Dr. Erika Preisig was born in Basel, Switzerland. She is a mother of three children and has been working as a General Practitioner for 36 years. She worked in palliative care for 21 years and MAID for the last 15 years. Working with palliative care and assisted dying since 2005, she founded her own organization, Lifecircle, in 2011 and has been its president since. Dr. Preisig is a strong promoter of legalization of assisted dying all over the world. She believes that "the trip to Switzerland is not the solution, having the right to assisted dying all over the world is the solution and will stop suicide tourism to Switzerland."



Camila Jaramillo Salazar Colombia

Camila Jaramillo Salazar is a Colombian Lawyer and master's in journalism from the University of the Andes (Bogotá). She is an associate researcher at DescLAB (Laboratory of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), a social laboratory where she advocates the Right to Die in Colombia and Latin America. She has worked in the Mayor's Office of Bogotá and has been an adjunct professor at the University of the Andes Law School (Bogotá). In 2021, she was chosen as one of the people of the year by El Espectador, Colombia's oldest newspaper, for her activism in defense of euthanasia.



Dr. Jessica Shaw, PhD, MSW Canada

Dr. Jessica Shaw is an Associate Professor of Social Work at the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada. Most of her assisted dying research focuses on the experiences of people who have been marginalized in Canadian society, such as homeless people, drug users, and prisoners. In 2021, she was contracted by the Government of Canada to produce a report on assisted dying in prisons. She has presented at over 70 national and international conferences, including as a keynote speaker at the Canadian Association of MAID Assessors and Providers annual conference twice and at "MAID at the Edge: International Research Roundtable" in Vancouver, British Columbia.



WFRTDS/CONFERENCE

2022

Global Perspectives on End-of-Life Choice



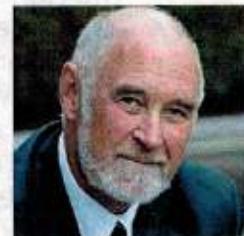
Johan (Hans) PC Sonneveld, MD, PhD **The Netherlands**

Johan (Hans) PC Sonneveld graduated as medical doctor in 1994, has been a consultant in anesthesiology since 2005 and intensive care since 2008. He works as an anesthesiologist-intensivist in the department of anesthesiology and intensive care at Isala Hospital in Zwolle, The Netherlands. He specialized in cardio-thoracic anesthesiology and intensive care, and is chair of the Committee of Tissue- & Organ donation in Isala, and is 24-7 available as a consulting 'donation-intensivist' for Zwolle and the surrounding hospitals as member of the Isala donation team. He also participates in committees of the Dutch National Transplant Organizations (NTS), the Netherlands Society of Intensive Care (NVIC) on issues of organ donation and is a member of the Medical Ethics Committee of the Dutch Transplant Organization (NTV).



Dr. Derryck Smith **Canada**

Dr. Derryck Smith is a psychiatrist in Vancouver, BC and is a past member of the Board of Dying With Dignity Canada. He has provided expert testimony on the Carter case, the EF case, has testified before Parliament on Bills C-14 and C-7 and previously spoke at a few of the WFRTDS conferences.



Dr. Konia Trouton **Canada**

Dr. Konia Trouton has been a clinician in Canada for 30 years. She is currently a Clinical Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at UBC and cross appointed to UVIC and UofC. She is a co-founder of the Canadian Association of MAID Assessors and Providers, and has been assessing for and providing MAID since the law was approved in Canada in 2016. She develops and leads accredited courses for health care professionals, and provides educational seminars on assisted dying through mentoring, lecturing, leading workshops and developing national training programs.



Dr. Mary Valentich **Canada**

Dr. Mary Valentich, Professor Emerita, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary, has long been involved with social justice issues, in particular, relating to women and human sexuality. She has had considerable experience as a social worker with persons who are sick and/or dying. Throughout her career since 1965, she has participated in many conference presentations, keynotes and presentations on Hanne's story to local groups.



WFRTDS/CONFERENCE

2022

Global Perspectives on End-of-Life Choice


Annie Wallet
France

After a career in the nuclear field, Annie Wallet has been involved at the associative level as general secretary of WIN France (Women In Nuclear) and is also a member of the association Women & Science. For more than 20 years, she has been an advisor to Prudhommes; in 2020, she was elected board member and oversees communications.


The Honourable Pamela Wallin O.C., S.O.M
Canada

The Honourable Pamela Wallin has been a journalist, an entrepreneur, a corporate director and an author. In the wake of 9/11, she was appointed Consul General of Canada in New York and was subsequently appointed to the Senate of Canada in 2009 where she still serves as an independent Senator for Saskatchewan. Ms. Wallin is an Officer of the Order of Canada, Canada's highest civilian honour, a member of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, and a former Chancellor of the University of Guelph. She has fourteen Honourary Doctorates and among many other honours, she has been named to the Canadian Broadcasting Hall of Fame. Pamela has, on four occasions, been recognized by Queen Elizabeth II for her public service and achievements. She is the author of three best-selling books. Now, she also hosts a podcast, No Nonsense with Pamela Wallin.


Dr. Ellen Wiebe
Canada

Dr. Ellen Wiebe is a Clinical Professor in the Department of Family Practice at the University of British Columbia. After 30 years of full-service family practice, she now restricts her practice to women's health and assisted death. She is the Medical Director of Willow Women's Clinic in Vancouver and provides medical and surgical abortions and contraception. She developed Hemlock Aid to provide consultations for doctors and patients about aid in dying and provides assisted death.


Dr. Han Yan, MD
Canada

Dr. Han Yan completed her undergraduate studies at Harvard University, attended medical school training at Western University, and is currently a medical resident at the University of Toronto and a graduate student studying clinical epidemiology. She has a keen interest in public policy, health policy, sociology, the measurement of quality of life, and end-of-life care options.

