



Oxford Textbook of Palliative Medicine

By Geoffrey Hanks, Nathan I. Cherny, Nicholas A. Christakis, Marie Fallon, Stein Kaasa, Russell K. Portenoy

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Following publication of the first print edition in 1993, the *Oxford Textbook of Palliative Medicine* rapidly established itself as the definitive textbook on the subject. Each edition has received widespread critical acclaim, and the book is used across the world by a wide range of health care professionals involved in the care of patients with a terminal illness, or chronic, progressive conditions. Existing readers who automatically turn to the textbook will welcome this new fourth edition of their familiar reference; whilst it will prove invaluable to a new generation of palliative care professionals.

The *Oxford Textbook of Palliative Medicine* has continually evolved, keeping pace with the rapidly changing face of palliative care. Geoffrey Hanks and Nathan Cherny - the original editors of the textbook - are now joined by four new editors: leaders in the field from the US, UK, and Norway who give the textbook an increased global perspective. The content of the textbook emphasises the multi-disciplinary nature of palliative care throughout, and the 100 chapters cover all areas of palliative care, including: individual professional roles; ethics; communication, psychiatric, spiritual, and psychosocial issues; research in palliative care; the treatment of symptoms; and the role of palliative care in non-malignant diseases and conditions.

The online version of the *Oxford Textbook of Palliative Medicine* contains the full text of the print edition (which can be browsed by the contents list or searched), links from references in the text to external sources (via PubMed, ISI, and CrossRef), and all figures and illustrations from the print edition, downloadable into PowerPoint.

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Editorial Review

Review

A developing specialty requires a reference textbook that develops with it, and the Oxford Textbook of Palliative Medicine is just that. Its fourth edition demonstrates the textbook's responsiveness to changing times and an emerging evidence base, capturing the multidisciplinary aspects of palliative care well with its wide editorship - comprised of key clinicians in the field. *European Journal on Palliative Care*, Jan 2013 My opinion remains, given the presentation and the depth of coverage to be found in OTPM 4e, that it deserves its position as the gold standard in palliative medicine. IAHPC Ever since the first edition in 1993, [Oxford Textbook of Palliative Medicine] has been the reference work in the field. There is little doubt that this new edition consolidates its position as the standard work in palliative medicine. *Tidsskrift for Den norske legeforening*

About the Author

Geoffrey Hanks graduated from University College London with a BSc in anatomy and qualified in medicine in 1970. He has been working in palliative medicine since 1979, initially as a research fellow with Robert Twycross in Oxford. For almost 10 years he was consultant physician in charge of the palliative care units at the Royal Marsden Hospitals, London and Sutton, and honorary senior lecturer at the Institute of Cancer Research, University of London, and St Bartholomew's Hospital Department of Clinical Pharmacology. He was appointed to the first Chair of Palliative Medicine in the UK in the United Medical and Dental Schools of Guys and St Thomas' Hospitals, University of London, and was appointed Professor of Palliative Medicine in the University of Bristol in 1993. Positions held include Chairman of the Palliative Care Clinical Studies Development Group of the National Cancer Research Institute in the UK and Chairman of the National NHS Cancer Research & Development Commissioning Group.

Nathan Cherny is an Australian born, Israeli oncologist and palliative medicine physician. He holds the Norman Levan Chair of Humanistic Medicine at Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem Israel. Prof Cherny graduated in medicine at Monash University Medical School in 1983 and then completed a Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of Physicians attaining specialist recognition in both Oncology and Palliative Medicine. He subsequently completed a fellowship in Cancer Pain and Palliative Medicine at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. In 1994 Dr Cherny moved to Israel where he helped establish the Oncology and Palliative Medicine Unit at the Shaare Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem. He continues to head that Cancer Pain and Palliative Medicine Service, and, in addition, he continues to practice general oncology. Since 2008 he has been the chairman or the ESMO Palliative Care Working Group.

Nicholas A. Christakis is an internist and social scientist who conducts research on social factors that affect health, health care, and longevity. He is a Professor of Medical Sociology in the Department of Health Care Policy at Harvard Medical School; Professor of Sociology in the Department of Sociology in the Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences; and an Attending Physician in the Department of Medicine at the Harvard-affiliated Mt. Auburn Hospital. Dr. Christakis received his BS from Yale University in 1984, his MD from Harvard Medical School and his MPH from the Harvard School of Public Health in 1989, and his PhD from the University of Pennsylvania in 1995. He was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences in 2006. His current research focuses on health and social networks, and specifically how ill health, disability, health behavior, health care, and death in one person can influence the same phenomena in others in a person's social network.

Marie Fallon completed her Palliative Medicine Higher Specialist Training at St Thomas' Hospital London and in Bristol and was appointed to the St Columba's Hospice Chair of Palliative Medicine at the University of Edinburgh in 2006. She is based in the Edinburgh Cancer Research Centre and the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh. Her research background is in opioid analgesia, complex cancer pain and barriers to symptom control. She is a founder member of the University of Edinburgh's Translational Research in Pain Group, which has a particular interest in cancer-induced bone pain. She is the Chief Investigator on a portfolio of Cancer Research UK funded multi-centre trials investigating various aspects of cancer pain. She leads a team of several Research Fellows working on various aspects of cancer-induced bone pain. She is a member of the Advisory Board for Dimpleby Cancer Care and chairs the Pain Sub Committee of the NCRI Palliative Care Clinical Studies Group.

Stein Kaasa is considered to be the leading figure in European palliative care. He is a specialist in medical oncology, radiotherapy, and palliative medicine. Since 1993, he has been the Director of the Palliative Medicine Unit at Trondheim University Hospital, Norway, and Professor of Palliative medicine at the Faculty of Medicine, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). He is also chairman of the Unit for Applied Clinical Research and the Institute of Environmental Medicine at NTNU, and Chairman of the Program for Research on Alternative Medicine of the Norwegian Research Council. He was responsible for the development of the core curriculum at the medical school of the NTNU. He is the current President of the European Association for Palliative Care (EAPC) and serves on the editorial board of several journals including Progress in Palliative Care, Palliative Medicine, and the Journal of Pain and Symptom Management.

Russell Portenoy is Chairman of the Department of Pain Medicine and Palliative Care, and the Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman Chair in Pain Medicine and Palliative Care at Beth Israel Medical Center in New York. He is Chief Medical Officer of Beth Israel's Continuum Hospice Care/The Jacob Perlow Hospice, and Professor of Neurology and Anesthesiology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Dr. Portenoy is president of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine and a past president of the American Pain Society. He is the recipient of the Wilbert Fordyce Award for Lifetime Excellence in Clinical Investigation and the Distinguished Service Award from the American Pain Society, the Founder's Award from the American Academy of Pain Medicine, and the Bonica Award from the Eastern Pain Association. He serves on the Board of Directors of the American Pain Foundation and chairs various other forums and committees.

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