

32nd International Conference on
ONCOLOGY NURSING AND CANCER CARE
September 13-14, 2017 Singapore



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Cultural and ethical challenges in the delivery of palliative care for Egyptian cancer patients at the end-of-life

End-of-life care presents many challenges both for clinicians, as well as for patients and their families. Moreover, the care of the dying patient must be considered within the context of the psychological, physical and social experiences of a person's life. Foremost among those who require end-of-life care are cancer patients at the end of life. Unfortunately, clinicians who are responsible for the treatment of patients at the end of life commonly lack adequate training to help guide end-of-life decisions and to deliver bad news to patients and families. They must also face their own discomfort with discussions about death and deal with poor compensation for the time spent discussing end-of-life care with patients and families. Given the unique process of each person's death, strategies are often inadequate to guide patients, their families and the clinicians who care for them through this complex and emotionally challenging process. It would stand the clinician in good stead to be aware of these challenges and have an approach toward dealing with such problems. In addition, organizations have a responsibility to ensure that systems are in place to minimize its occurrence and ensure that staffs are supported through the process of resolving issues and conflicts that may arise.

Biography

Karima Elshamy has a doctorate degree in nursing science from Cairo University, Egypt (DNSc). She is a professor of Medical Surgical Nursing, Faculty of Nursing, Mansoura University, Egypt. She is AORTIC Vice President of North Africa. Prof. Karima is Vice President of International Federation of African Women for North Africa and chair of health committee. Prof. Karima is a member of Egypt Scholars Association Council.

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