Press Release

Pre-Conference Press Release for the 1st ICPCN Conference to take place in Mumbai India from 10 – 12 February 2014

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TATA MEMORIAL CENTRE TO HOST HISTORICAL CONFERENCE ON CHILDREN’S PALLIATIVE CARE

Mumbai’s Tata Memorial Centre is gearing up to host the very first Children’s Palliative Care Conference to be held in India from 10 -12 February. Delegates from India and over 20 countries around the world will gather in Mumbai for “The 1st ICPCN Conference”, to be presented in partnership with Tata Memorial Hospital, with the theme ‘Transforming Children’s Palliative Care – from ideas to action’.

“This conference provides all those attending the chance to make history through their participation in the very first conference of its kind on the Indian continent,” says Joan Marston, Conference Co-Chair from the International Children’s Palliative Care Network (ICPCN). “Through this conference we are proud to be able to bring some of the most distinguished researchers and practitioners in the field of children’s palliative care into India. It is our wish that as many medical and related professionals will make the most of this unique opportunity to learn from the best.” Key speakers at the conference
include such luminaries as Sister Frances Dominica, who started Helen House, the very first children’s hospice, back in 1982 and Professor Myra Bluebond Langner, Professor and True Colours Chair in Palliative Care for Children and Young People at University College London, Institute of Child Health.

Other key speakers include:

- Professor Maryann Muckaden, Professor and Head of Dept. of Palliative Medicine at the Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai, India
- Dr James Cleary, Associate Professor of Medicine and Director of Palliative Medicine in the United States
- Dr John Collins, Head of Service at the Department of Pain Medicine and Palliative Care Service at the Children’s Hospital at Westmead (NSW) Australia
- Dr Richard Hain, Consultant and Lead Clinician in Paediatric Palliative Medicine in Wales, UK
- Dr Rut Kiman, Head of the Paediatric Palliative Care Team at the Professor A. Posadas Hospital in Argentina
- Dr Stephen Liben, Associate Professor of Paediatrics in the Faculty of Medicine of McGill University and Medical Director of The Montreal Children’s Hospital Pediatric Palliative Care Program.

Resources to provide palliative care for children are scarce in the developing world, which is where most children needing palliative care live. “In India we have been working successfully with the Indian Association of Palliative Care and the Tata Memorial Hospital’s Department of Palliative Medicine to increase services and palliative care for children in Maharashtra, promote changes in regional and national policy, and strengthen the child’s voice in their care,” says Prof Maryann Muckaden, Conference Co-Chair from Tata Memorial Hospital. “We hope that this conference will build on the foundations already built to enable us to move forward and sustain the momentum of this project,” she says.

Alongside the normal plenary and presentation sessions, conference delegates will also be given the opportunity to participate in Applied Workshops aimed to provide in depth information and discussion on such topics as Leadership, Advocacy, Spirituality, Communication and Pain Management. Certificates of attendance will be provided to those who attend all workshop sessions.

On a lighter note, the conference organisers plan to immerse delegates in Indian culture and traditions. The formal dinner, planned for the second night of the conference, will take the form of a traditional Indian Wedding, with delegates dressing up appropriately.

Organisers believe that those who attend will leave this conference as “Champions” for children with life limiting and life threatening conditions.

People wishing to find out more about the conference and to register can do so through the ICPCN website at www.icpcn.org
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Notes for Editors

The International Children's Palliative Care Network (ICPCN) is a worldwide network of individuals and agencies working with children and young people with life-limiting conditions.

ICPCN’s Vision
To live in a world where children’s palliative care is acknowledged and respected as a unique service, and every child and young person with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions and their families can receive the best quality of life and care regardless of which country they live in.

The International Children’s Palliative Care Network (ICPCN) shares a vision that the total need of life-threatened or life-limited children should be met to encompass physical, emotional, spiritual and developmental aspects of care.

ICPCN’s Mission
Our mission is to achieve the best quality of life and care for children and young people with life-limiting conditions, their families and carers worldwide, by raising awareness of children's palliative care, lobbying for the global development of children’s palliative care services, and sharing expertise, skills and knowledge.

ICPCN’s Aims
1. To help services across the world to develop and meet the total care and support needs of life-limited children and their families.
2. To advocate and raise awareness of children’s palliative care and the specific needs of life-limited or life-threatened children and their families.
3. To develop a strong ICPCN membership from children’s palliative care services across the globe.
4. To facilitate communication and sharing of resources, information and research worldwide, and to provide a ‘one stop shop’ for information relating to children’s palliative care.
5. To campaign for the global development of children’s palliative care services.
6. To enable the sharing of expertise and information between children's palliative care practitioners.
7. To increase the international evidence base for children’s palliative care through education and research.
8. To maximise ICPCN's resources by developing its fundraising activities in order to discharge its mission.