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Palliative Care Current Practice and Future Perspectives

Edited by Georg Bollig and Erika Zelko



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About the book

The need for Palliative Care is increasing around the world due to demographic change, the extension of the lifespan in general and the advances of medical and oncological treatment. In Palliative Care quality of life and family-centred care are paramount. The book, entitled *Palliative Care - Current Practice and Future Perspectives*, offers an insightful introduction to different concepts and approaches, presenting a multidisciplinary perspective and diverse ways of insights provided by a team of authors from various disciplines and regions across Europe, Asia, and Africa. The different chapters divided into five sections provide an insight into current practices from different fields and countries. It highlights current knowledge and experiences and discusses ideas for the future development of Palliative Care.



This book aims at increasing awareness and promoting scientific research in support of the global United Nations Sustainable Development Goals programme. IntechOpen is a member of the UN SDG Publishers Compact

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CHAPTER HIGHLIGHT

Perspective Chapter: Last Questions – How Philosophical Practice Contributes to Developing Death Literacy

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Dealing with existential questions is a constitutive part of palliative care. Interestingly, if we admit that borderline situations at the end-of life give rise to philosophical questions, in the contexts of practice, these questions are perceived (nearly) without any reference to explicit philosophical traditions or to Philosophical Practice. Philosophical Practice is a modern movement for a non-elitist philosophy. It aims to enable people—in the Socratic tradition—to reflect on their experiences in a philosophical way in everyday life. In the recently launched research project *Philosophical Practice in Palliative Care and Hospice Work*, we are investigating the opportunities and limits of Philosophical Practice for the development of death literacy. Building on previous theoretical work, we analyse, discuss, and illustrate concrete models of Philosophical Practice in this chapter. Our conclusions refer to practical indications for relating Philosophical Practice productively to relevant contexts of death literacy development, such as caring communities, Last Aid courses, and everyday ethics.

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