

The HeArt of Medicine is an interprofessional initiative led by students in the Schools of Medicine and Nursing at UVA. We believe that every patient deserves a peaceful and comfortable dying process consistent with their beliefs and wishes. Healthcare providers who are uncomfortable with the science, art and logistics of end of life care can pass their discomfort onto patients. Furthermore, the quality of care delivered suffers when doctors, nurses, and all health professionals do not communicate effectively. Our mission is to improve the quality of end of life care by fostering interprofessional collaboration between students and to expand students' knowledge about end of life care through an arts-based platform.

The HeArt of Medicine currently organizes a number of educational events which are open to students at the University of Virginia. Our Fall Workshop Series, now in its fourth year, consists of three evening-length workshops which use art as a medium to help students explore difficult topics surrounding the end of life. These workshops involve a number of activities, including docent-led art museum tours, didactic lectures by palliative and hospice care leaders, small discussion groups, and simulations. These series have received positive feedback from participants and are effective in helping students to feel more comfortable with delivering end of life care in an interprofessional setting.

New for 2016-2017 is a small group discussion series. These intimate sessions take place frequently throughout the year and are open to UVA nursing and medical students. Led by UVA faculty and community hospice and palliative care leaders, these sessions provide students a unique opportunity to explore and discuss important topics such as: ethical issues at the end of life, depictions of the end of life in art, and caregiver perspectives on the end of life. The diverse array of topics and small group size will allow students to engage deeply with these issues and with one another.

Additionally, we continue to advocate for integration of interprofessional end of life education into the formal curricula of the schools of medicine and nursing. The HeArt of Medicine has successfully created a module which is required of all third-year medical students transitioning into clerkships. We are currently working with faculty leaders in the schools of medicine and nursing to create more interprofessional educational experiences for students.

We are grateful for the support that the HeArt of Medicine has received from the School of Medicine, the School of Nursing, the Gold Humanism Honor Society, the Center for Aspire, the Jefferson Trust, and the Houston Family. Without their generous support, our endeavors would not be possible. To learn more about our program and for upcoming events, please visit our website at:

www.heartofmedicineuva.wordpress.com or contact us at: heartofmedicineuva@gmail.com

Thank you for your interest in our efforts,

The HeArt of Medicine Team

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