



Workshops Instruct Osteopathic Medical School Faculty on End-of-Life Care

Training osteopathic physicians in end-of-life care

SUMMARY

In 2002 and 2003, project staff at the [American Osteopathic Association](#), Chicago, conducted two workshops to train faculty of osteopathic medical schools in high quality end-of-life care.

The project was part of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's (RWJF) national program *Targeted End-of-Life Projects Initiative*.

From 1997 to 2001, RWJF supported the development of Educating Physicians in End-of-Life Care (EPEC), a comprehensive train-the-trainer program designed to equip physicians with the knowledge and skills to provide high quality care for dying patients (Grant ID#s 030204, 036767, 039301, 039847, 040507).

Key Results

- Using the EPEC curriculum, project staff trained 45 faculty members from 17 of the 19 osteopathic medical schools in the United States at its first End-of-Life Care-National Osteopathic Workshop (ELC-NOW) held in June 2002.
- Project staff conducted a survey of the schools one year after the first training and found increased interest in end-of-life training. Several schools had integrated teaching tools recommended by the Association and modules from the EPEC curriculum into the osteopathic curriculum.
- A second workshop, ELC-NOW II, held June 2003, trained an additional 80 osteopathic physicians, including 34 postdoctoral educators, 29 state and specialty leaders, and 17 practicing physicians in the Northwest region (see the [Bibliography](#) for details about the workshops).

Funding

RWJF provided \$76,900 for the project, from October 2001 to June 2003.

THE PROBLEM

Most physicians practicing today received little or no education or training on how to care appropriately for dying patients. As a result, palliative care has traditionally been provided in hospice and outside of mainstream medicine. In early 2000, the American Osteopathic Association began an initiative to bring palliative care education to every osteopathic physician.

CONTEXT

From 1997 to 2001, RWJF supported the development of Educating Physicians in End-of-Life Care (EPEC), a comprehensive train-the-trainer program designed to equip physicians with the knowledge and skills to provide high quality care for dying patients (Grant ID#s 030204, 036767, 039301, 039847, 040507). This grant was awarded under RWJF's *Targeted End-of-Life Projects Initiative*. The Foundation has three strategic objectives to improve care at the end of life:

- To improve the knowledge and capacity of health care professionals and others to care for the dying.
- To improve the institutional environment in health care institutions and in public policies and regulatory apparatus to enable better care of the dying.
- To engage the public and professionals in efforts to improve end-of-life care.

Grant ID# 042259 was issued in support of the first of these objectives, to support further dissemination of the EPEC training to osteopathic physicians.

THE PROJECT

Using the EPEC curriculum, project staff trained 45 faculty members from 17 of the 19 osteopathic medical schools in the United States at its first End-of-Life Care-National Osteopathic Workshop (ELC-NOW) held in June 2002.

At the Association's annual convention in October 2002, these educators discussed their progress and presented suggestions for modifying the EPEC curriculum for osteopathic medicine. Project staff conducted a survey of the schools one year after the first training and found increased interest in end-of-life training; several schools had integrated teaching tools recommended by the Association and modules from the EPEC curriculum into the osteopathic curriculum.

A second workshop, ELC-NOW II, held June 2003, trained an additional 80 osteopathic physicians, including 34 postdoctoral educators, 29 state and specialty leaders, and 17 practicing physicians in the Northwest region (see the [Bibliography](#) for details about the workshops).

AFTERWARD

In July 2003, the American Osteopathic Association elevated End-of-Life Care to a standing committee from its status as advisory body in its policymaking efforts. At the Association's national convention in October 2003, the Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (the Association's equivalent of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations) announced that it is considering strong new end-of-life care guidelines to add to its accreditation requirements. In addition, the association has assembled a database of 152 expert speakers on end-of-life care.

A Web-based version of the EPEC curriculum, adapted for osteopathic physicians, is in the final stages of development with an expected launch in the summer of 2004. The association is seeking funding to support a third training workshop in its ELC-NOW series.

Prepared by: Kelsey Menehan

Reviewed by: Janet Heroux and Marian Bass

Program Officer: Rosemary Gibson

Grant ID# 42259

Program area: Quality/Equality

BIBLIOGRAPHY

(Current as of date of the report; as provided by the grantee organization; not verified by RWJF; items not available from RWJF.)

Articles

The American Osteopathic Association dedicated the October 2001 issue, 101(10), of the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association* to end-of-life care. Articles included:

- Cooper JK, Weber JA, Evans P and Juozapavicius K. "End-of-life Decisions: Physicians as Advocates for Advance Directives," pp. 571–575.
- Cavalieri T. "Good and Compassionate Care for Dying Patients," pp. 585.
- Nichols K. "Approach to Optimal Care at End of Life," pp. 586–593.
- Chopra A. "Communicating Effectively at the End of Life," pp. 594–598.
- Simon K and Miller S. "Pain Management at the End of Life," pp. 599–607.
- Paolini C. "Symptoms Management at the End of Life," pp. 609–615.
- Cavalieri T. "Ethical Issues at the End of Life," pp. 616–622.

Additional articles have been published in the *D.O.*, which is the news magazine of the American Osteopathic Association.

- Vitucci N. "AOA Workshop Tackles End-of-Life Education." *D.O.*, 43(8): 21–25, 2002.
- Vitucci N. "DOs Learn to Talk About Death with Patients' Families." *D.O.*, 44(1), 47–48, 2003.
- Goetz J and Spalding J. "Convention Speaker, Attendees Demystify Organ Donation." *D.O.*, 44(1), 50–51, 2003.
- Vitucci N. "Camp offers counseling and fun for children in mourning." *D.O.*, 44(2): 24–27, 2003.
- Goetz J. "AOA to host second end-of-life care workshop." *D.O.*, 44(4): 65–66, 2003.
- Byock I. "Allowing patients to 'die well'." *D.O.*, 44(10): 42–47, 2003.

Reports

Advance Care Planning. Chicago: American Osteopathic Association, 2002.

The Truth about Organ Donation. Chicago: American Osteopathic Association, 2002.

Support for Caregivers. Chicago: American Osteopathic Association, 2002.

Survey Instruments

"AOA End-of-Life Care Follow-Up Curriculum Survey." Fielded in April 2003 to 19 colleges of osteopathic medicine.

Audio-Visuals and Computer Software

"Osteopathic EPEC on CD" (Draft Redesign of EPEC with Osteopathic Modifications). Draft version was presented at the "End-of-Life Care — National Osteopathic Workshop (ELC-NOW) II in Portland, OR, June 12–14, 2003. The projected launch date is Summer 2004.

"End-of-Life Care Workshop Highlights", an 8-minute informational video. Chicago: American Osteopathic Association, 2002. Approximately 100 copies distributed to osteopathic leaders and educators to further end-of-life care education in the osteopathic medical profession. Video is not available.

Grantee Websites

www.osteopathic.org/osteopathic-health/about-your-health/health-conditions-library/seniors-health/Pages/end-of-life-care.aspx. The newly designed website for the Association contains information about end-of-life initiatives and activities.

Sponsored Workshops

"End-of-Life Care-National Osteopathic Workshop," June 6–9, 2002, Oak Brook, IL. Approximately 45 osteopathic medical educators attended, including faculty from Michigan State University - College of Osteopathic Medicine, University of New England - College of Osteopathic Medicine and University of North Texas Health Science Center - Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine. The EPEC curriculum's 12 modules and 4 plenary sessions were presented. The workshop also included 3 additional plenary panels.

"End-of-Life Care — National Osteopathic Workshop (ELC-NOW) II," June 12–14, 2003, Portland, OR. Approximately 80 postdoctoral educators, physician leaders and practicing physicians from the Northwest attended. The program included a first-time presentation of the EPEC curriculum with proposed osteopathic modifications. The workshop included a keynote address and three presentations.