



Collaborative for Palliative Care
*Supporting your journey through serious illness:
 Education, research and advocacy*



Interdisciplinary Aging, Public Health, and Palliative Care Certificate Program

Enhancing the Health and Social Services Workforce

FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES



DIRECTOR: Mary Beth Quaranta Morrissey, PhD, MPH, JD

Mary Beth Quaranta Morrissey, PhD, MPH, JD, holds a research fellow appointment at Fordham University’s Global Healthcare Innovation Management Center, Gabelli School of Business. Dr. Morrissey also holds adjunct faculty appointments at Fordham’s Graduate School of Social Service and Graduate School of Business, and Yeshiva University’s Wurzweiler School of Social Work. She is past president of Division 24 of the American Psychological Association and the State Society on Aging of New York. Dr.

Morrissey’s work is interdisciplinary and cuts across law and policy, public health, social work, psychology, and gerontology. Dr. Morrissey also serves as senior advisor for health policy and ethics, Finger Lakes Geriatric Education Center (FLGEC), University of Rochester Medical Center. Under the joint sponsorship and support of the Collaborative for Palliative Care, the FLGEC, and the Westchester County Public Private Partnership for Aging Services, Dr. Morrissey directs a post-graduate certificate program with concentrations in public health and palliative care.



CO-DIRECTOR: Thomas V. Caprio, MD, MPH, MS, CMD, HMDC, FACP, AGSF, FAAHPM

Thomas Caprio is Professor of Medicine/Geriatrics, Psychiatry, Dentistry, Clinical Nursing, and Public Health Sciences at the University of Rochester (UR). He serves as director of the Finger Lakes Geriatric Education Center which oversees the federally funded Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program, providing education and training related to geriatrics, palliative care, and dementia care for health care professionals and family caregivers across New York State. He is the Chief Medical Officer of UR Medicine Home Care and the Medical Director for the UR Medicine Hospice program. Dr.

Caprio received his MD from the State University of New York at Buffalo, completed his residency, fellowship, and postdoctoral training at the University of Rochester Medical Center, then completed his Master of Public Health degree from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, and his Master’s in Health Professions Education from the University of Rochester Warner

Graduate School of Education. He is a fellow of the American College of Physicians, fellow of the American Geriatrics Society, and fellow of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

PROGRAM FACULTY (alphabetical)



Beverly D. Carter, DM

Dr. Carter works with The Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services to identify, and prioritize the needs of the elderly, then to create comprehensive and coordinated plans to meet those needs through advocacy for responsive policy, actions, resources, and legislation. She has expertise in organizational leadership, program development and design with a strong international background including extensive world travel and alumnus status with Harvard University's Center for International Development (WorldTeach ~ Kenya); medical missions with EJAYES Charities to Nigeria (Nasarawa, Kano, Abuja, Umuahia), Haiti (post-earthquake) and Educational missions in Kenya (Western Province) and Nigeria (Umuahia). Her

travels prepared her well for her presentation at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women Conference (March 2012) addressing the challenges to empowering rural women from the perspectives of educating young girls, leadership, global literacy, diversity, and social responsibility. Dr. Carter is the founder of A Renewed Life Global! LLC which is dedicated to alleviating the impact of oppression in human rights and social justice related life events and enhancing emotional health and wellness in our global communities. She presented The One question that will change the impact of your leadership and your life, at the Westchester Women's Summit (September 2020).

Christopher Comfort, MD

Christopher Comfort is currently the chief operating officer at Calvary Hospital, Inc, a palliative care system offering palliative inpatient hospital services, inpatient hospice services, home hospice services, and community-based palliative and case management services. He served as the Medical Director of Calvary Hospital, Calvary Hospice, and the Palliative Wound Care Center for the past twenty years.



Bruce Jennings, MA

Bruce Jennings is Adjunct Associate Professor of Health Policy at Vanderbilt University Medical School. He is also Senior Advisor at The Hastings Center, where he served from 1991 through 1999 as Executive Director. He has been active in the development of the field of public health ethics and taught one of the first courses on that subject in the country at the Yale School of Public Health from 1995-2014. From 2003-2009 he served as member and Chair of the Ethics Advisory Committee at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). From 2017-2019 he was chair of the American Public Health Association task force charged with writing a new code of ethics for Public Health. In 2020 he received a Distinguished Career Award from the American Public Health Association for his work in public health ethics. He is

currently editor of a book series on Public Health and Health Policy Ethics published by Springer-Nature. A political scientist by training, Mr. Jennings has written and edited twenty-nine books and numerous articles on bioethics and public policy issues.

Melissa Lang, DrPH, MPH, MPA, MA

Melissa Lang has extensive experience in community-based non-profit health services and currently serves as President and CEO of the Agency on Aging of South Central Connecticut (AOASCC) -- an independent non-profit that provides services and supports to older adults, individuals with disabilities, and caregivers. AOASCC is also an access agency for several Medicaid waiver programs that help older adults remain in the community and avoid institutionalization, including the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (CHCPE), Money Follows the Person (MFP), PCA waiver, and Community First Choice (CFC). Her background includes several years of experience in hospice and palliative care, long-term care and disabilities, and cancer care. Dr. Lang is committed to the dual focus of quality of care and quality of life affecting older adults; her research interests focus on aging in place and community-based models for health services and supports. She actively engages in advocacy and policy development on issues related to long term care, family caregiving, palliative and end-of-life care, access to healthcare, and medical ethics. She serves as President-elect State Society on Aging, and formerly as a New York State Long-Term Care Ombudsman; President of The Center for Aging in Place; and as Vice Chair for the Westchester Public/Private Partnership.



Frederick J. Wertz, PhD

Frederick Wertz earned his Ph.D. at Duquesne University in clinical psychology and currently he is Professor Emeritus, Department of Psychology, Fordham University. His career has featured psychotherapy with older adults, teaching of psychology, university administration, scholarship, editing, and service to his profession and communities. He has taught and supervised doctoral students in clinical psychology, chaired three academic departments including Psychology, and served as Interim Dean of Fordham College at Lincoln Center.

Dr. Wertz's scholarship has addressed critical perspectives on theory, history, research methodology, cultural context, and philosophical foundations of psychology. He has written on psychoanalysis, cognitive psychology, psychometrics, and qualitative research. He has developed phenomenological research methods and written on research methodology, e.g., Five Ways of Doing Qualitative Analysis... (2011, Guilford Press). He has served as editor of the *Journal of Phenomenological Psychology* and as guest editor of *The Humanistic Psychologist*. He edited *The Humanistic Movement: Recovering the Person in Psychology* (Gardner Press). Dr. Wertz served as president of the American Psychological Association's Society for Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology, Society for Humanistic Psychology, and Society for Qualitative inquiry in Psychology and is an APA Accreditation Site Visitor. He currently serves on the Community Relations Board of the Milan MI Federal Correctional Institution.