11th ANNUAL SUE MACRAE LECTURE ON ETHICS AND PATIENT-CENTRED CARE

Wednesday, May 30, 2018, 4:10-5:30 pm
Fitzgerald Building, 150 College Street, Room 103

This event will be webcast:
https://jcb.adobeconnect.com/bioethicsseminars/

Reframing Social Justice: Towards Palliative Care Equity in Our Communities

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About the lecture: How do we value dignity at the end-of-life? Is it the same for everyone? There is growing recognition that what makes Canadians sick, is more than just biology or genetics. In fact, it is estimated that up to 60% of what causes us illness, is related to how we live, learn, work and play. These factors, known as the social determinants of health, are often overlooked in our Palliative Care delivery systems. Meanwhile, it is well known that Canada’s marginalized populations, including the homeless and vulnerably housed and communities with mental illness and addictions, suffer from higher morbidity and mortality due to illnesses often stemming from social and societal circumstances. All the while, dying in social isolation, falling through the cracks, with few people and supports around them, and often, with a lack of dignity. Through a health equity and human rights lens, this keynote address will highlight the unique challenges faced by Canada’s most vulnerable communities when dealing with life-limiting illnesses, and will describe innovative approaches to Palliative Care delivery at the micro, meso and macro levels and challenge our thinking around traditional care models. By dissecting the way poverty, housing insecurity, isolation and other social ailments impact the palliative journey in our communities; we may be able to actualize our full potential, flipping conventional approaches on their head, to provide equity for individuals from all walks of life. In our society, it is clear that we live differently. But, should we really die differently?

The lecture is free and open to the public.