Speaker Bios

Martha L. Twaddle, MD
FACP FAAHMP

A nationally recognized expert in hospice and palliative medicine, Dr. Martha Twaddle was named JourneyCare’s Senior Vice President of Medical Excellence and Innovation last May.

She is also the Chief Medical Officer and Lead Physician for Aspire Health Partners of Illinois.

Dr. Twaddle’s unique talents and contributions to the field have helped increase the understanding of and access to hospice and palliative medicine locally, regionally and nationally. In 2013, she was named one of the 30 most influential visionaries in hospice and palliative medicine by the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. Dr. Twaddle has served as president of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (on the Board of Directors of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and on the Clinical Advisory Board for the Cancer Wellness Center in Northbrook, Ill.

After graduating summa cum laude from Purdue University, Dr. Twaddle earned her medical degree from the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis. She is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and the American Board of Internal Medicine for Hospice and Palliative Medicine. Dr. Twaddle is currently an Associate Professor of Medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

Dr. Twaddle is active in research and has been published extensively in peer-reviewed articles and other publications on the importance and benefits of hospice and palliative medicine.
David B. Feldman, Ph.D.

David Feldman, Ph.D., is an associate professor of counseling psychology at Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, Calif., where he has been on faculty for the past decade. He holds a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Kansas and completed a fellowship in hospice and palliative care with the VA Palo Alto Health Care System. His research addresses such topics as hope, meaning, and growth in the face of serious medical illness, trauma, and other highly stressful circumstances. He has authored more than 40 articles and book chapters, and presented nationally and internationally on these topics. In addition, he has co-authored three books: The End-of-Life Handbook: A Compassionate Guide to Connecting with and Caring for a Dying Loved One (New Harbinger), Public Speaking for Psychologists (APA Books), and Supersurvivors: The Surprising Link between Suffering and Success (HarperCollins).

www.davidfeldmanphd.com

Allen Klein, MA, CSP

Ever hear of a “Jollytologist”? Well, meet the world’s one and only — Allen Klein. Through his books and his presentations, Klein shows people worldwide how to find and use humor to deal with everything from traffic jams to tragedies.

Klein got into this unusual line of work after his wife died of a rare liver disease at the age of 34. He saw how humor helped her, and those around her, cope. He also saw how humor helped him get through that loss. He now teaches others about therapeutic humor and how to find something to laugh about in trying times.

Klein is a past president of The Association for Applied and Therapeutic Humor, as well as a recipient of their Lifetime Achievement Award. He is also a recipient of a Toastmasters Communication and Leadership Award, a Certified Speaking Professional designation from the National Speakers Association, and an inductee into Hunter College; The City University of New York, Hall of Fame.

Klein's first book, The Healing Power of Humor, is now in a 40th printing and ninth foreign-language translation. It shows readers how to use humor to deal with everyday trials and tribulations. His second book, The Courage to Laugh: Humor, Hope, and Healing in the Face of Death and Dying, documents how people have used humor to triumph over tragedy. A recent book, Learning to Laugh When You Feel Like Crying, shows readers how to embrace life fully again after a loss. Klein’s just-published book, You Can’t Ruin My Day: 52 Wake-Up Call to Turn Any Situation Around, shows readers how to take back their power and not let anyone, or anything ruin their day. Klein has a master’s degree in humor (from St. Mary’s College in Minnesota — and that’s no joke!) And he is well-suited to his subject. Years before becoming a “Jollytologist,” Klein was nicknamed the “King of Whimsy” because he designed all the children’s shows at CBS television in New York City. Among those productions was one you probably remember — the Captain Kangaroo show.

And finally, comedian Jerry Lewis has said that Allen Klein is “a noble and vital force watching over the human condition.”
Louise Aronson, MD, MFA

Louise Aronson, MD, MFA, is a geriatrician, writer and associate professor at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). At UCSF, she directs the Northern California Geriatric Education Center and UCSF Medical Humanities, and sees patients in the Care at Home Program. Her scholarly work focuses on geriatrics education, reflective learning, and the use of writing to harness the expertise and unique experiences of clinicians and patients in service of health and health care. Dr. Aronson has received the California Homecare Physician of the Year award, the AOA Edward D. Harris Professionalism Award, a Gold Foundation Professorship for Humanism in Medicine, and the American Geriatrics Society Clinician-Teacher of the Year award, as well as numerous awards for her teaching and writing. Her writing appears in literary and medical journals and in the lay press, including the New York Times, Narrative Magazine, the New England Journal of Medicine, and the Lancet. Her first book, A History of the Present Illness, was published by Bloomsbury in 2013.