



### **Dr. Alan Taniguchi: Winner of the 2017 CSPCP Eduardo Bruera Award in Palliative Medicine**

The Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians (CSPCP) is pleased to award the 2017 Eduardo Bruera Award to Dr. Alan Taniguchi, in recognition of his excellence in the field of palliative medicine as recognized by his peers. This award honours the achievements of Dr. Eduardo Bruera, an internationally-recognized palliative care physician and researcher. Dr. Bruera was the director of the University of Alberta's Palliative Care program. The award is co-sponsored by the University of Alberta's Division of Palliative Care Medicine and the CSPCP.

Dr. Alan Taniguchi is a bright light in the field of palliative medicine. Though only at the mid-point of his career, Dr. Taniguchi has already had an enormous impact on palliative patients and palliative care education in Canada. It is not simply the dozens of co-authorships in peer-reviewed journal articles, abstracts and posters he has to his credit, nor the lengthy list of times he has made presentations upon invitation. These are considerable achievements in themselves, but it is his passion for palliative care and his compassion for palliative patients that has earned him the genuine respect and admiration of his peers in the Hamilton, Ontario region, and beyond. Perhaps the highest recognition he receives though are the heartfelt thanks he frequently receives in the obituaries of his patients.

In 1988, Dr. Taniguchi graduated from the University of Alberta Medical School, and by 1991 he had completed his residency in family medicine, specializing in his third year in geriatrics and palliative care at McMaster University's Department of Family Medicine. Two years later he pursued acupuncture education at the Acupuncture Foundation of Canada Institute. Upon certification as a family practitioner, Dr. Taniguchi embarked on his clinical career in the Stoney Creek – Hamilton, Ontario region, initially working in private practice and as a family practice consultant at Chedoke-McMaster Hospital's Combined Outreach Geriatric Service. His career and contributions continued to grow, including both paediatric and adult palliative patients, and he presently provides palliative care in four health care facilities in Hamilton, Ontario. He is also the program director at McMaster University's Department of Family Medicine Palliative Care Residency Program, and is the education coordinator in McMaster's Division of Palliative Care. He is also the medical director at Shalom Village Long-Term Care Facility in Hamilton, Ontario.

Concurrently, Dr. Taniguchi generously dedicates a great deal of time and energy to sharing his

knowledge and his passion for palliative care with medical students, nursing staff, rehabilitative scientists, and the general public. He has written literature, developed e-learning modules, conceived and run immersion programs in palliative care, participated in research, served on the local health region's palliative care education committee, and nurtured the professional growth of numerous new colleagues, among many other educational roles and activities. He consistently logs the highest number of educational hours at McMaster University and is the most in-demand preceptor for postgraduate electives. He has contributed to far more educational initiatives than can be listed here. At McMaster University's medical school alone, he has taught over 2600 medical students. Dr. Taniguchi's commitment to palliative care is far-reaching, serving the dying with excellent clinical care, supporting their loved ones, and sharing that expertise with those who are or will one day be in a position to do the same.