



The Schwartz Center announces
Compassion in Action Healthcare Conference

Compassion: Transforming the Future of Healthcare

BOSTON (April 11, 2019)—The Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare, a national leader in the movement to make compassion a vital element in every patient-caregiver interaction, has announced that registration is open for its [Compassion in Action Healthcare Conference](#) to take place September 8-10, 2019 at the [Westin Boston Waterfront](#). This conference, presented in partnership with the American Hospital Association (AHA), the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE) and the AHA Physician Alliance, will bring together healthcare professionals, system leaders and others who are committed to making compassionate healthcare a priority in their organizations and communities.

Through interactive experiential sessions with experts from diverse care settings and communities, this innovative conference will focus on fostering compassionate leaders across all professions and roles within healthcare. Conference participants from around the world will share best practices in advancing and sustaining cultures of compassion.

“As an organization singularly focused on keeping compassion at the center of healthcare, the Schwartz Center offers this vital forum for sharing our expertise and that of our speakers, panelists and attendees,” said Schwartz Center CEO Matt Herndon. “The Compassion in Action conference will provide innovative ways to promote the well-being of caregivers, care teams and healthcare organizations at a time of intense disruption and change in the industry.”

Built on the [Compassionate Collaborative Care Framework](#), conference topics focus on advancing cultures of compassion, communication, interprofessional teamwork and interpersonal skills. Participants will learn to apply those techniques towards initiatives and strategies that achieve the [quadruple aim](#) of improving patient experience, population health and workforce well-being while lowering costs.

Conference Themes are:

- Workforce resilience, well-being and engagement
- Creating compassionate organizational cultures
- Compassionate responses to social challenges
- Communicating with patients, families and each other
- Engaging patients, families and their communities to support health
- Compassion science and practice

Keynote Speakers Include:

- **Tim Cunningham, RN, DrPH**, Director, Compassionate Care Initiative, and Assistant Professor at the University of Virginia School of Nursing
- **Amy C. Edmondson**, the Novartis Professor of Leadership and Management at the Harvard Business School, a chair established to support the study of human interactions that lead to the creation of successful enterprises that contribute to the betterment of society
- **Shekinah N. C. Elmore, MD, MPH**, a resident in the Harvard Radiation Oncology Program who is dedicated to pursuing equity and empathy in oncology care, and a cancer survivor who has written about her experience treading the line between patient and provider
- **Susan B. Hassmiller, RN, PHD, FAAN**, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Senior Adviser for Nursing. In partnership with AARP, Hassmiller also directs the Foundation's Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action
- **Michael Hebb**, author of "Let's Talk About Death Over Dinner," and founder of Death Over Dinner, who explores how we can use the power of home, hearth, and meaningful conversation to change healthcare
- **Helen Riess, MD**, Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and Founder of Empathetics, Inc. She has devoted her career to teaching and research in the art and science of the patient-doctor relationship.
- **Peter L. Slavin, MD**, President of Massachusetts General Hospital and Professor of Health Care Policy at Harvard Medical School where he teaches internal medicine and healthcare management.

Participants will leave the conference having gained inspiration, knowledge/skills and partners to improve care quality and outcomes, patient experience and workforce well-being through compassion and collaboration.

"As the pace of change in healthcare accelerates, it's clear that people need compassion and support now more than ever, whether you're a patient or a clinical caregiver. We need to work together to sustain organizational cultures that make this possible," said Beth Lown, MD, Chief Medical Officer at the Schwartz Center. "This conference will bring together experts and innovators who have implemented programs and strategies to sustain compassion, support caregivers' wellbeing and ultimately improve care for patients and families."

Through a partnership with Charlotte AHEC, this conference will be accredited for continuing education credits for healthcare providers.

Early bird rates are available to those who register prior to May 8, 2019. To learn more and register, please visit compassioninactionconference.org.

About the Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare

Established in 1995, the Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare, a leader in the movement to make compassion a vital element in every patient-caregiver interaction, was founded on the belief that

greater compassion and more meaningful collaboration are fundamental to the kind of care clinicians want to deliver and patients want to receive.

The Schwartz Center is a non-profit organization, with more than 640 organizational members in the U.S., Canada, U.K., Ireland, Australia and New Zealand supporting 301,000 healthcare professionals each year. Schwartz Center members rely on our programs, education and resources to support clinician well-being, enhance the quality of care, enable better outcomes and create a more positive and rewarding experience for all members of the care team, patients and their families. The innovative Schwartz Rounds[®] unites caregivers from a range of disciplines to share experiences, learn from each other and focus on the human dimension of medicine.

The Center's Compassion in Action Healthcare Conference (compassioninactionconference.org) brings together clinicians, patients and families, health system leadership and others to advance a common goal of delivering more compassionate, collaborative care. To help patients and family members acknowledge their caregivers who epitomize the qualities of compassionate care the Schwartz Center established the Honor Your Caregiver program.

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