

# **Palliative Care in Neurology and Neuro-Oncology**

**April 10-16, 2022**

**Schloss Arenberg | Salzburg | Austria**

Organized by the Open Medical Institute (OMI) in collaboration with the Open Society Foundations (OSF), the aim of this course is to provide practicing clinicians, including Neurologists, Internists, Hospice & Palliative Care Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Primary Care Physicians, Social Workers, and other allied health professionals up to date, evidence-based strategies in caring for patients with advanced disease of the nervous system and their families. This course will be presented in English.

## **The learning objectives of this course include:**

- a) Competent care of patients with brain tumors and other neurologic illnesses at all stages of disease – from diagnosis to death & bereavement.
- b) Recognition, assessment and treatment of pain and other symptoms due to cancer and its treatment – including common complications of chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and surgery.
- c) Management of major psychiatric comorbidities in advanced cancer patients.
- d) Competency in delivering serious news and in building an effective, compassionate communication skill set according to internationally accepted standards and guidelines.
- e) Up to date, state of the science pharmacologic management of cancer pain, pain syndromes, neuropathic pain, and headache.
- e) Identification, assessment, and management of common complications faced by neuro-oncologists in caring for patients with brain tumors.
- f) Develop an understanding of the pathophysiology of brain cancer, including an up-to-date review of evolving standard of care guidelines including essentials of immunotherapy, genetics, and molecular targets.
- g) Define compassion fatigue, burn-out, and the risks faced by health care professionals and caregivers in meeting the complex needs of patients near end of life and their families.
- h) Understand the competent care of patients with advanced neurologic disease as a basic human right and develop the tools necessary to advocate on behalf of your patients when meeting with hospital administrators, government officials, and other stakeholders.

**Course Faculty:****Alan Carver, MD, Course Director, Co-Creator**

Dr. Carver is an Attending Neurologist at MSKCC and Associate Clinical Professor of Neurology, Weill Cornell Medical College. Dr. Carver's career is focused upon establishing competency standards for the symptomatic management of patients with brain tumors and their families at every stage of illness.

**Allison J. Applebaum, PhD**

Dr. Applebaum is an Associate Attending Psychologist in the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC), and Associate Professor of Psychology in Psychiatry, Weill Cornell Medical College. As the Founding Director of the Caregivers Clinic at MSKCC, Dr. Applebaum's clinical work focuses upon the care of family members and friends of patients with cancer who experience high burden and distress.

**Elena Pentsova, MD**

Dr. Pentsova is an Associate Attending Neuro-oncologist in the Department of Neurology, MSKCC, and Assistant Professor of Neurology, Weill Cornell Medical College. Born in Ukraine, Dr. Pentsova's research and clinical interests include the early diagnosis and treatment of patients with leptomeningeal metastases. She has received numerous awards for her work on cerebrospinal fluid biomarkers among other leading topics in neuro-oncology.

**Andrew J. Roth, MD**

Dr. Roth is an Attending Psychiatrist at MSKCC and is joining this course for the third time. He is a well-recognized expert in a variety of topics in psycho-oncology, including anxiety disorders in cancer patients and the role of psychotherapy in the geriatric cancer population.

**Support:**

All participants need to make their own travel arrangements. Travel will be covered according to the OMI travel and reimbursement guidelines. Participants from countries that are not listed will be reimbursed on a case-by-case basis. Accommodation at Schloss Arenberg and all meals will be provided. Visa costs, in-country transportation costs, insurance, and per diems are not covered and are the responsibility of each participant.

**COVID-19 Vaccination:**

Effective December 20, 2021, anyone who enters Austria needs to be vaccinated at least twice (the second shot not older than 270 days) with an authorized vaccine by the Austrian government and bring a negative PCR test (not older than 72 hours).

**Application Process:**

The application deadline is **January 30, 2022**. Applications must be submitted via the **OMI application platform**: [portal.openmedicalinstitute.org](https://portal.openmedicalinstitute.org).