



School of Social Work alumna and philanthropist Lynn Behar with Professor Taryn Lindhorst

OUR MISSION: Drawing on the world-renowned resource for cancer and palliative care in Seattle, we aim to be the globally recognized leader in training a diverse new generation of culturally adept social work practitioners and researchers focused on health equity in oncology and palliative care services.

Center for Integrative Oncology and Palliative Care Social Work

Our current model for care

Every day, approximately 10,000 people turn age 65 with an increasing risk for serious health problems. With an aging population, the number of people with a cancer diagnosis is expected to increase by 45 percent by the year 2030. Current cancer treatments are effective in helping about 70 percent of people with the disease live longer. However, cancer remains the leading cause of death for individuals after age 45.

In our current medical model, the focus is on technical interventions and the overarching need for social and emotional care is largely overlooked. Despite the fact that an estimated 80 percent of people would prefer to die in their own homes, 75 percent of all deaths in the United States occur in hospitals and nursing homes.

How social work is changing this model

Research shows that social care is as important as medical care when it comes to improving patients' quality of life and their ability to tolerate and respond to treatment. Trained to focus on communication, social workers help patients identify their priorities on a continuum that ranges from active treatment to comfort care.

Poverty and discrimination are additional risk factors for illness and premature death. Social workers approach human health with a social justice lens—assessing the family, social and cultural context of the individual. As patient advocates, they work to help ensure access to high quality medical care, culturally-sensitive interventions, and family-centered support.

And when palliative care is needed, social workers are skilled at initiating and leading conversations that prepare patients for death—creating a sacred space for individuals and their families as the end of life approaches.



UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

UW SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Box 354900
4101 15th Avenue NE
Seattle, WA 98195-4900
Tel: 206.543.5640

socialwork.uw.edu



THE CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS OF CANCER

Advances in medical treatment have helped more people live longer with cancer. But cancer remains the second leading cause of death in the United States, and more services are needed to bridge medical treatment with long-term social and psychological care.

PROJECTED INCREASE IN U.S. CANCER INCIDENCE, 2010–2030

67%

FIVE-YEAR SURVIVAL RATE FOR ALL CANCERS

69% Caucasians

59% African Americans

CANCER DIAGNOSED IN PEOPLE OVER AGE 55

77%

CANCER SURVIVORS LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES

15.5 million in 2016

20.3 million in 2026 (projected)

OVERVIEW

The Center for Integrative Oncology and Palliative Care Social Work at the UW School of Social Work is a national leader in educating oncology social work scholars and practitioners.

Established in 2018 with a substantial gift from Lynn Behar (MSW '86, PhD '99) and her husband Howard, the Center takes a social justice approach to oncology and palliative care that addresses disparities in cancer and end-of-life care based on race and ethnicity, disability, gender and sexual identity, geographic location, income and education.

THE CENTER HAS THREE MAJOR COMPONENTS:

Carol LaMare Endowed Fellowship in Integrative Oncology and Palliative Care Social Work

Named for Lynn Behar's mother, who died of cancer in 2005, this fellowship program supports MSW students specializing in oncology social work as well as some undergraduate and doctoral students. Fellowship recipients receive intensive mentoring as well as practicum placements in local cancer centers.

Behar Professorship for Social Work Practice and Women's Health

This professorship is held by a faculty member with expertise in a core field of health—especially oncology, palliative care and/or hospice care—who is a key contributor to the Center for Integrative Oncology and Palliative Care Social Work. Taryn Lindhorst, the Center's director, currently holds this endowed professorship.

Behar Integrative Oncology and Palliative Care Social Work Endowed Research Acceleration Fund

This fund supports oncology and palliative care social work research by students and faculty and is intended to help cover expenses related to research, publication, travel, and equipment and supplies.

“The center envisions a world where people with cancer and those at the end of life receive the care they want from compassionate, competent and family-centered practitioners.”

LYNN BEHAR, SCHOOL ALUMNA AND PHILANTHROPIST

HOW YOUR SUPPORT CAN MAKE AN IMPACT

Our current endowment of \$2.5 million allows us to award six MSW student scholarships at \$5,000 per year, fund two quarters of PhD scholarship and research on oncology and palliative care, and support other scholarly activities.

Our goal is to increase the number of specially trained BASW, MSW and PhD students able to respond to the needs of people with cancer and at the end of life in the Seattle area, Washington state and beyond.

To learn more about the center and named scholarship funding opportunities by contacting:

Julie Sun, Assistant Dean of Advancement, 206-616-9504,
Email: jsun33@uw.edu