

Monday 23 February 2026

10:00-11:30: Opening Session

10:00 Welcome to the 2026 Marie Curie Research into Practice Conference - Sarah Holmes and Annette Weatherley
10:05 Men's Sheds in Hospices - John MacArtney, Rachel Perry
11:00-11:30 Presentation of Conference Prizes - Sarah Holmes

12:00-13:00 - A Spotlight on: Namaste Care: teaching a multi-sensory intervention for advanced dementia

This spotlight session will also provide insight into the process of creating a fully online course to support the implementation of Namaste Care and will share the impact of implementing in care settings.

Nicola Jacobson-Wright, Lorna Reid, Min Stacpoole, Diane Bushell. Chaired by Nicola Jacobson-Wright

13:30-14:30 - A Spotlight on: Death in ED – is this good care?

This session will discuss the challenges and highlight successes around caring for patients at the end of life in the Emergency Department (ED) and explore the intersectionality between palliative and emergency care.

Sarah Wilson, Liza Keating, Mary Miller, Douglas Findlay. Chaired by Amelia Hollywood

15:00-16:00: A Spotlight on: From Partnerships to Practice: Addressing Inequities in Palliative and End-of-Life Care

Drawing on examples from research, practice, and ongoing doctoral work, the session will highlight the challenges faced by minority ethnic groups and examine community-centred strategies that can help address barriers to access and engagement.

Jodi Emma Wainwright, Elaine Tolliday, Ashleigh Lois. Chaired by Jodi Emma Wainwright

Tuesday 24 February 2026

10:00-11:00 - An insight into homecare-workers' experiences of supporting people at the end of life with actionable recommendations for improving the working lives and wellbeing of staff

Learn about the SUPPORTED study findings based on 133 interviews (homecare workers, their managers, people receiving homecare and their family carers, and healthcare staff), a policy document review, and training resources co-designed with homecare workers and managers. Learn how you might take these findings, recommendations and resources forward into relevant areas of practice.

Liz Walker, Paul Taylor. Chaired by Ben Gadd

11:30-12:30 - A Spotlight on: The end of life information needs of people with a learning disability and those who support them

In December 2025, Marie Curie's Information and Support team launched a new suite of free resources for people with a learning disability, including videos, Easy Read books, a photo book, and guidance for professionals. Each resource was developed with inclusivity and accessibility at its core.

Amy Matthews, Nadia El Gazar, Sue Taylor. Chaired by Kate Maitland

13:00-14:30 - Abstracts Session 1 - Closing the Gap, Chaired by Richard Harding

A Rapid Review of Advance Care Planning Interventions, Strategies, and Communication Approaches in Dementia Care Tharin Phenwan

Influence of primary and community care service use on hospitalisation among people with dementia in the last three months of life Rebecca DeBruyn

Equitable Bereavement Care for All: Co-Designing and Implementing Anti-Racist and Culturally Safe Bereavement Support with Ethnically Diverse Communities Sabrina Bajwah, Catriona Mayland

Unreached – A study of Advanced Illness and Financial Insecurity

Caroline Mogan, Jo Williams, Sam Quinn

15:00-16:00 - Clearing the Way: A Spotlight on: Co-Produced Solutions to Improve Cough and Secretion Management in Motor Neurone Disease (MND)

In this session, you will hear from 4 clinical academics, working in MND care, about their research to understand more about this challenge, and the work they have done alongside people living with MND to co-produce interventions to help with this problem.

Caroline Barry, Charlotte Massey, Dorinda Moffatt, Teresa Clark, Shaan Devnani. Chaired by Caroline Barry

Wednesday 25 February 2026

10:00-11:00 - The benefits of using mixed methods in the evaluation of Palliative Care services

In this session we will hear two case studies of evaluations that have employed qualitative and quantitative methods to bring to life how and why healthcare professionals enable positive outcomes. Then we will explore what the common challenges have been in implementing data collection methods and analysing data, and how to overcome them.

Giles Skerry, Hannah Leach, Susannah Baines, Karen Burfitt. Chaired by Emma Carduff

11:30-12:30 - A Spotlight on: Death Literacy: Evidence, Measurement and Community Practice

The session will explore why death literacy matters and its influence on death, dying and bereavement. It will explore the concept of multiple literacies, a review of international death literacy research, and death literacy in Compassionate Communities.

Stephanie Crawford, Lisa Graham-Wisener, Sharon Williams, Michelle Edwards. Chaired by Stephanie Crawford

13:00-14:30 - Abstracts Session 2 - Community Palliative Care, Chaired by Sam Cheverton

Paramedic decision-making at end of life Natasha Campling

General Practitioners' Perspectives on Palliative and End-of-Life Care Melissa Fielding

Living and Dying in a Care Home – the stories we can tell Julie Watson, Stephen Smith, Tracy Sayle

Systematic review of adult patient and informal caregiver experiences in virtual or remote palliative care Emma Barslund Blackman

15:00-16:00 - A Spotlight on: It takes a village – Understanding the support that children and young people want and need when an adult is dying or has died

This session highlights a collaborative research project centred on children and young people's experiences of bereavement, with insights from academic research translated into practical outputs.

Jess Timperley, Jean Merrylees, Fenella Prior-Smith, Stephen Marshall. Chaired by Alison Penny

Thursday 26 February 2026

10:00-11:00 - Networking Workshop: From Priorities to Partnerships – NIHR JLA Rolling Call

This session will feature presentations from Marie Curie and the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR), highlighting current initiatives and future directions in healthcare and research.

Briony Hudson, Lauren Wileman, Jenni McCorkell, Sabine Best. Chaired by Briony Hudson

11:30-12:30 - A Spotlight on: Supporting people who are lonely in palliative and end of life care: current approaches and future possibilities

This session will explore what we know about loneliness towards the end of life among the terminally ill, carers, families, including prevalence, risk factors and current models of care

Emma Maun, Tracey McConnell, Lisa Graham-Wisener, Lisa Shyalaman, Irene Johnstone. Chaired by Natasha Bradley

13:00-14:30 - Abstracts Session 3 - Novel Approaches to Care, Chaired by Anne Finucane

Enhancing Palliative Care Through Digital Innovation: A Stakeholder-Led Approach Rosina Goldsmith, Azi Doost

Enhancing Early Detection of Oncological Emergencies Through AI: Clinician Insights from the Pal-PCS MSCC

System Rosina Goldsmith, Nara Moripen

Workplace peer support among healthcare assistants providing palliative and end-of-life care at home: a realist review Katarzyna Patynowska

The Limits of Care: Patient, Provider and Systemic Barriers to Addressing Nonphysical Suffering Maxxine Rattner, Cheryl-Anne Cait

15:00-16:00 - A Spotlight on: Shining a light on Nursing, Allied Health Professional and Social Care worker Palliative and end of life care research

This session will explore infrastructure and capacity building, as well as spotlighting multiple NMAHPs who have gained research experience, clinical-academic roles, educational awards and research leadership. It will also explore the offered by the NIHR-supported Palliative and End of Life Care Incubator.

Susie Pearce, Matthew Maddocks, Candy McCabe. Chaired by Susie Pearce