**Academic visit to McGill Palliative Care Congress, Canada.**

**October 2022**

Thank you for the substantial grant of £1500 toward attending the conference and understanding palliative care practice in Quebec province. The conference was of excellent quality.

My learning objectives:

* Attend the 4-day conference, learning about practice in Canada and North America
* Meet Dr Golda Tradounsky, education lead for McGill University, learning about approaches to undergraduate and postgraduate medical education
* Meet Dr Justin Sanders, professor of palliative medicine, learning about his vision for palliative care clinical care, education and research
* Meet Dr Anna Towers, consultant in palliative medicine to observe clinical practice

850 delegates attended in person from 48 countries with a further 100 delegates attending virtually. This provided an opportunity to learn from practice across the globe, both from delegates and speakers.

It was an excellent conference. I have worked as a specialist in palliative medicine for 25 years and in the field for 30 years and it is rare to learn from almost every speaker. This conference provided that opportunity.

Key (and exciting learning):

* US approach to advance care planning conversation
* Frailty cycle
* Platform trials and Bayesian approaches to statistics
* US approach to managing medication in the community
* The majority of research papers presented
* Ageism and functionalism
* The Waiting Room initiative looking at public education
* Medically assistance in dying and the impact on palliative medicine in Canada
* And much more….
* Slides from presentations and video recordings will be made available to delegates in due course

I will capture my learning and disseminate it to colleagues as a podcast. I will also share my reading list.

I met all 3 doctors, fulfilling my learning objectives. It was interesting to understand that palliative medicine is not a specialty in Quebec province, draws staff from a family medicine background (GP), has a 2 year residency training programme (GPs do one year) and is mainly delivered to oncology patients. The model is very different to the current British and European model.

With thanks,

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