Death gives life meaning, and infuses all forms of communication with heightened symbolism and significance. All of us will die, and in fact, humans are the only creatures with the knowledge of our own death. Understanding death has intrigued scholars, artists, writers, philosophers, scientists, and medical professionals throughout time. Using a multidisciplinary panel of scholars to explore ideas of what it means to be mortal, and, perhaps, immortal, we will look at death from the cellular to the present danger of losing it which helps to bring home the fear of life. (Popper, 1977, p. 148).

COST: Free but registration is required. Register HERE.

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

8:30 am – 9:00 am: Continental Breakfast
9:00 am – 9:30 am: Welcome and Introduction: Dr. Christine Davis
9:30 – 10:00 am: “Frontiers of Resuscitation and Reanimation: When is dead really dead?” Dr. Mark Cane
10:00 – 10:30 am: “Quality of Life at End of Life” Dr. Amy Peterman
10:30 – 11:00 am: BREAK
11:00 – 11:30 am: “Dealing with Grief Before and After Loss” Dr. Diane Zablotsky
11:30 am – 12:00 noon: “Searching for George Clooney” Dr. Deborah Breede
12:00 – 1:30 pm: LUNCH
1:30 – 2:00 pm: “Nationalist mythologies of sacrifice: What’s worth dying for?” Drs. Deborah Breede and Christine Davis
1:30 – 3:00 pm: “Vertigo: Death as an Unknown” Drs. Jonathan Crane and Christine Davis
3:00 – 3:15 pm: BREAK
3:15 – 3:30 pm: “Introduction to the Community Conversation” Dr. Christine Davis
3:30 – 4:45 pm: “Community Conversation: Practice, Ethics, and Compassion at End of Life” Pediatric Palliative Care Team (PACT), Levine Children’s Hospital, Carolinas Healthcare System and Hospice and Palliative Care of Cabarrus County.

Death, Dying, and Beyond: Understanding Ourselves at the End

One-Day Colloquium at UNC-Charlotte Center City

If there was no end to life, life could have no value. It is the ever-present danger of losing it which helps to bring home the fear of life. (Popper, 1977, p. 148).

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

8:30 am – 9:00 am: Continental Breakfast
9:00 am – 9:30 am: Welcome and Introduction: Dr. Christine Davis
9:30 – 10:00 am: “Frontiers of Resuscitation and Reanimation: When is dead really dead?” Dr. Mark Cane
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Cost: Free but registration is required. Register HERE.

Join the Conversation! We will have live Tweeting throughout the event!
PRESENTERS:

Christine Davis, Ph.D., is Professor of Communication Studies at UNC Charlotte. Her teaching and research areas are patient-family-provider communication at end-of-life, and in disability and mental health contexts.

Mark G. Clemens, PhD is Professor of Biological Sciences at UNC Charlotte and a faculty fellow in the Center for Professional and Applied Ethics. He is an internationally recognized expert in liver biology including organ preservation and reanimation for transplantation.

Amy Peterman, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in the UNC Charlotte Health Psychology doctoral program. Her research has focused on the understanding of spiritual well-being and quality of life among people with cancer and HIV/AIDS.

Diane Zablotsky, Ph.D., is Director of the Levine Scholars Program and Associate Professor, Department of Sociology. She has been teaching courses in Gerontology and Sociology of Death and Dying at UNC Charlotte for more than twenty years. Prior to joining the faculty she worked as a nursing home administrator and social science analyst at the National Institute of Aging.

Deborah Breede, Ph.D., is Professor of Communication, Languages, and Culture at Coastal Carolina University. Her research areas are in the development and sustenance of community within diverse contexts.

Janna Shedd, M.A., is Lecturer in the Religious Studies Department. She specializes in South and East Asian religious traditions and teaches an undergraduate course on Death and the Afterlife in the Summer semesters.

Jonathan Crane, Ph.D., is Associate Professor in the Department of Communication Studies. His primary research interest is in the relation between communication technologies, cultural form and shared meaning.

Dr. Laurie Hicks, M.D., is Director of Palliative Care, Levine Children’s Hospital, Pediatric Palliative Care Team, Carolinas Healthcare System. She graduated from Medical College of Georgia in 1986 and specializes primarily in Pediatric Medicine.

Lynná King, MSN, RN, is Director of Nursing with Hospice and Palliative Care of Cabarrus County. Lynná has been a nurse for 17 years in pediatrics, palliative care and hospice and a member of the Carolinas Medical Center Ethics committee for 7 years.

Allison Shukraft, LCSWA, is Palliative Care Social Worker at Levine Children’s Hospital, Pediatric Palliative Care Team, Carolinas Healthcare System.

Jim Sonda, M.Div., is the Staff Chaplain at Levine Children’s Hospital. A Board Certified Chaplain, Jim earned his Masters of Divinity at Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville, TN and completed his clinical training as a Chaplain at University Medical Center, in Tucson at the U. of Arizona. Over the past 20 years, Jim has walked beside and offered spiritual and emotional support to thousands of children and adults facing their own or someone else’s injury, illness, or death. Jim loves his work, and feels privileged that people allow him to be part of their journey.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY:

Discovery Place, Charlotte’s science museum, is offering discount coupons to all colloquium attendees for their exhibit *BODY WORLDS & The Cycle of Life*. Gunther von Hagens’ *BODY WORLDS & The Cycle of Life* showcases the human body through all stages of development. Discovery Place visitors will witness the body through time – as it changes, grows, matures and finally wanes. Featuring more than 100 real human specimens preserved through Plastination, guests will discover the complexity, vulnerability and resilience of the human body and will leave with a greater understanding of how lifestyle choices can impact our overall health and longevity.

You can use the coupon to attend the exhibit after the colloquium or another time.

HOTEL INFORMATION FOR OUT-OF-TOWN ATTENDEES:

The Holiday Inn Charlotte-Center City 230 N College St., Charlotte, NC 28202