

## **Speaker biographies**

### **Dr. Faith Mwangi-Powell**

#### **Executive Director, African Palliative Care Association (APCA)**

Dr. Faith Mwangi-Powell is currently the Executive Director of the African Palliative Care Association, a post she has held for one year, after joining APCA in January 2005. Prior to APCA, Faith worked for two and half years with the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, London, UK as an International Advocacy Officer for Palliative Care, and for three years before that as the Director for the Foundation for Women's Health, Research and Development (FORWARD), a London based international NGO specializing in gender issues.

Faith comes from a community health background, with expertise in gender issues, sexual reproductive health, fundraising and international advocacy. She holds a master's degree in population policies and programmes from Cardiff University and a PhD in women's economic development and fertility-related behavior from the Exeter University in Devon, UK.

She is married to Richard Powell and has a five year old son called Jake.

### **Dr Richard Harding**

#### **Lecturer, King's College London**

Dr Richard Harding is a Lecturer in the Department of Palliative Care, Policy & Rehabilitation at King's College London. Following his qualification in social work and practice as an HIV/palliative care social worker, he has been a full time academic in palliative care teaching and research. His academic interests are in non-cancer palliative care, palliative care provision in Sub-Saharan Africa, and family/carer outcomes. His research focuses on pain and symptoms in HIV/AIDS, the development and testing of complex interventions, outcome measurement development and validation in Africa, and the design of international palliative care needs assessments. He is currently collaborating with centres across Sub-Saharan Africa, with additional partnerships in Latin America.

### **Dr Elizabeth Gwyther**

#### **Chairperson, Hospice Palliative Care Association of South Africa**

Dr Liz Gwyther graduated from University of Cape Town in 1979 with MB ChB (MD). She worked as a GP in Zimbabwe and Somerset West and completed the MFGP in 1993. She started in hospice care on a voluntary basis in 1993 and obtained the Diploma in Palliative Medicine from University of Wales, College of Medicine (UWCM) in 1998 and the MSc in Palliative Medicine (UWCM) in 2003. She has been active in palliative care training and education and in hospice development programmes. She is currently a director of Hospice Palliative Care Association of South Africa (HPCA), Chairperson and Education and Research Co-ordinator for Hospice Palliative Care Association of South Africa, a director of the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care and chairperson of the education focus group of the Worldwide Palliative Care Alliance.

She is a senior lecturer at the University of Cape Town where she is convener for the postgraduate programmes in Palliative Medicine and has presented a number of conference papers and research studies in women's health and palliative care.

**Sharon Baxter**  
**Executive Director, Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association**

Sharon Baxter holds a Masters of Social Work degree in Public Policy and Administration and has worked in the field of Canadian national health policy for fourteen years. In 1992, Sharon began work in the HIV/AIDS field, first with Health Canada then as a private consultant. Sharon coordinated the Canadian Association of Social Workers HIV project for three years as well as completed contracts for the Laboratory Centre for Disease Control, Health Canada and many community-based AIDS organizations.

In 1995 Sharon was hired by Canadian AIDS Society as Manager, National Programs. This work included coordinating a national HIV and Women's project, and an ethnocultural AIDS project. The Canadian AIDS Society also hosted the first national Aboriginal AIDS project that has subsequently led to the launching of the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network. Sharon was also responsible for developing and coordinating the first Canadian HIV/AIDS Conference in 1998.

In 1998, Sharon became the Executive Director of the Canadian AIDS Society. In that capacity Sharon worked closely with the federal government regarding its national response to HIV/AIDS. Sharon attended the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on HIV/AIDS in 2001 as part of team Canada. Sharon co-facilitated the community-based non-governmental session at the UNGASS with delegates from more than 100 countries delegates attending.

Sharon has worked at the international level as a Board member of the International Council of AIDS organizations (ICASO). Sharon also worked on a CAS twinning project with the Christian Children's Fund in Belarus. Sharon has co-hosted two international satellites specifically dealing with issues of HIV/AIDS and palliative care.

Sharon Baxter joined the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA) as their Executive Director in December 2001. Sharon was instrumental in making sure CHPCA was well represented at the Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada and that hospice palliative care issues continue to be at the forefront of health care reform. Sharon is the co-chair of the National Strategy on Palliative and End-of-Life Care Committee on Public Information and Awareness and co-chairs the Coordinating Body of the National Strategy on Palliative and End-of-Life Care with a representative from Health Canada.

Sharon works with the federal government both at the bureaucratic and political level regarding health policy and is a keen observer of government processes.

Sharon has become more involved with international hospice palliative care issues in the last few years and currently chairs the Advocacy committee of the Coalition of National Hospice and Palliative Care Association.

Sharon is often invited to speak on advocacy, health policy, HIV/AIDS and hospice palliative care issues. Sharon continues to be a strong advocate on health and social policy issues at the national and international levels.