
Doctors die differently from the rest of us. Why?

Why is there so much unnecessary suffering before death?

Can the suffering be relieved?

Additional Resources:
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“How Doctors Die, It’s Not Like the Rest of Us”, by Ken Murray MD November 30, 2011

<http://www.zocalopublicsquare.org/2011/11/30/how-doctors-die/ideas/nexus/>

**IF ONE HEALTH PROFESSIONAL
IN EACH OF 35,122 ROTARY
CLUBS IN THE WORLD
HELPS ONE OTHER ROTARIAN TO
DIE IN PEACE**

**IMAGINE
THE
SUFFERING
RELIEVED**

A TRUE GIFT TO THE WORLD!

HELP US NOW!

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Asking The Tough Questions

A program from the International Fellowship of Rotarian Doctors (IFRD)
WWW.ROTARIANDOCTORS.ORG

John Dugaw MD, FAAFP Vice Chair IFRD

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT THESE QUESTIONS?

- How do you want your life to end?
- Where do you want to be?
- Who do you want to be with?
- How much treatment do you want?



Doctors don't die like ordinary people. Rotarian doctors do not die like the rest of Rotarians. We want to relieve the suffering of our fellow Rotarians and all those we serve in the Rotary world.

FACING DEATH

We are all going to die. In 2011 Dr. Ken Murray, a professor at USC Medical School in California wrote an article entitled "How Doctors Die. It's Not Like the Rest of Us, But It Should Be." A member brought up this article at the IFDR Booth in Lisbon and we all agreed, there was a difference.

In fact, as physicians and healers, all of us had suffered greatly as our Rotary friends, family members and patients were dying horribly because no one had planned, no one would make decisions or was comfortable talking about death. We could not make a difference and we knew that the suffering of the dying person was unnecessary. We all had doctor friends who died much differently. Dr. Murray was right. It was a huge problem. We decided it was up to us to make a difference for our friends, patients and communities by getting Rotarians to ask themselves and their health care

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care providers THE TOUGH QUESTIONS. If they do this, others will follow. Much suffering will be relieved. We all need to face our cultures, fears and our doctors to get this done.

ROTARIANS ARE COURAGEOUS

Rotarians have faced off with polio, HIV, wars, disasters, illiteracy, famine and plagues. There is no reason we cannot face off on this issue. A peaceful death is a gift that everyone should receive when their time comes.

If Rotarians ask their doctors about this issue, the ability for others to ask these questions will spread well beyond the Rotary world.

Rotarians as community leaders can set the example themselves by good planning and with communication and empower the health care providers and others in the community to bring up the topic and discuss it.

THE TOUGH QUESTIONS

When faced with serious, possibly fatal illness you have the right to straight forward answers to these questions!

1. What is the diagnosis?
2. What is the nature, risks, costs and benefits of possible treatments?
3. What are the alternative treatments relative benefits, risks and costs?
4. What is the likely results of no treatment?
5. What is the likelihood of success?
6. What is the recommendation of all those providers involved in your care?

Armed with this information your health care providers need to know, even if they do not ask!

TELL THEM CLEARLY

1. What your goals are for your health care? Would you want suffering relieved possibly at the expense of a longer life?
2. Will all members of your health care team understand what you want them to do for you?
3. Is your care going to be done when, where and how you want it done?
4. Will they stop treatment when you ask and support your decision and see you through the hospice care?
5. Will you be allowed to have your personal physician as the captain of your team if you desire it?