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For More Information:

Rachel French

(312) 741-1291

RFrench@thehapfoundation.org**The HAP Foundation and EPEC Partner to Offer Specialized End-of-Life Education Training**

[The HAP Foundation](#) and The [Education in Palliative and End of Life Care \(EPEC\)](#) Program, based at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, have partnered to create an educational program for rural Illinois practitioners focused on adult palliative care clinical training offered in home and community-based settings. This training cohort will span one year, allowing participants to learn from top palliative care experts from Northwestern Medicine and other medical centers with experience in providing palliative care in rural settings. Together, The HAP Foundation and EPEC will provide specialized training to empower clinicians in rural Illinois to put their knowledge into practice and provide the best care possible for their seriously ill patients and their families. The EPEC leadership team, Joshua Hauser, MD, FAAHPM, and Gordon Wood, MD, MSCI, FAAHPM, will direct this project alongside Sara Dado, LSCW, Executive Director of Clinical Programs at The HAP Foundation.

The one-year program will kick off and conclude with in person daylong conferences in central Illinois. In between, there will be monthly virtual sessions with program leadership for ongoing education and coaching. Curriculum topics will include advance care planning, communicating difficult information, whole patient assessment, pain and symptom management, discussing goals of care, care during the last hours of living, teamwork in palliative care, and more. Nurse practitioners, physician assistants, registered nurses, social workers, community health workers, certified nursing assistants, and emergency service personnel are encouraged to join. Continuing education credits will be available for nurses and social workers. A special reduced launch rate of \$899 is available through March 17, 2026. Standard rate is \$995 after March 17. Group rates are available for organizations that enroll multiple team members. The program is set to begin on April 17, 2026. To enroll, visit our [website](#).

“No seriously ill patient or their family should suffer without access to palliative care,” said Dr. Hauser, EPEC. “We are excited to collaborate with The HAP Foundation to ensure that rural communities in Illinois have access to expert pain and symptom management and the best support and guidance when facing a serious illness.”



“Through our work in rural communities, The HAP Foundation has identified a need for additional palliative care clinical education training for health care professionals of the interdisciplinary team,” said Joseph Matty, President of The HAP Foundation. “We are encouraging healthcare providers to participate in this program to provide the highest quality of care for individuals at the end of life. I am proud to partner with Dr. Hauser and Dr. Wood with their extensive experience in this work and to expand the impact of the EPEC program throughout Illinois.”

The HAP Foundation believes that knowledge is power. Sharing tools and best practices with hospice and palliative care clinicians strengthens our work to ensure that providers are giving the best care possible to their patients.

To learn more about this opportunity, visit the [website](#).

About The HAP Foundation:

The HAP Foundation is an independent nonprofit that provides education, advocacy, workforce development, and research on hospice, palliative care, and grief for all ages. With four decades rooted in direct patient care, it currently focuses on educating communities and professionals on hospice and palliative care; engaging in community-based research to better understand and impact disparities in hospice, palliative care, and grief support; increasing the Community Health Worker workforce to strengthen and share serious illness resources and education in the community; and advancing policies that assist individuals and families during end of life. Learn more at www.thehapfoundation.org.

About EPEC:

The Education in Palliative & End-of-Life Care Program (EPEC) educates healthcare professionals on the essential clinical competencies of palliative and end-of-life care aiming to create a future health care system in which all patients receive the primary palliative care they need. Over its more than 20-year history, EPEC has reached over 200,000 end-learners through its Train-the-Trainer approach. It has been cited in the Institute of Medicine 2015 report on Dying in America as a core educational palliative care program. Learn more about the EPEC program [here](#).

