



## Palliative care in neuro-oncology

We are so pleased to introduce this series of the *Annals of Palliative Medicine* about Palliative Care in Neuro-Oncology. Patients with primary or metastatic tumors affecting the nervous system present a tremendous and sometimes overwhelming array of challenges in all aspects of palliative care. Patients and their caregivers face symptoms and side effects from neurosurgical, radiation, chemotherapy and neurological issues, requiring a coordinated effort from all these disciplines, and specialist centers are mainly concentrated in large urban areas, leaving a huge population of patients deprived of multidisciplinary specialty care. Fortunately, palliative care providers are uniquely enabled and prepared to address the wide spectrum of issues that may arise across the time from initial diagnosis through treatment and its complications, neurologic decline and bereavement.

This series focuses on a broad range of topics in neuro-oncology including oncological management, death and dignity, mental health, care-giver bereavement, and religious/spiritual concerns. We are so grateful for our many colleagues across disciplines who assist our patients (and ourselves) in providing this care. Many of them are represented in this series (and we only wish there was room for more!): like the articles from neurologists Dr. Sharma and Drs. Ironside and Perry on prognostication and management of gliomas; radiation oncologists Drs Nguyen and Soliman, Drs. Chow, Drs. Lo and Tseng, and Drs. Vellayappan and Sahgal on the benefits and consequences of radiation therapy; and the psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers and chaplains like Drs. Gibson, Korman, Ellis, Fitchett, Isenberg-Grzeda, Morris, Nurse Practitioner Claire Moroney, and LCSW Sofie who guide our patients and families to manage distress and find meaning and dignity when facing and surviving their disease.

We trust these articles, from the many perspectives represented, will help guide our patients and families, and ourselves, as we all work and hope together to improve care for neuro-oncology patients and their caregivers.

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Jerome J. Graber



Hany Soliman

**Jerome J. Graber, MD, MPH.**

*Associate Professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery, University of Washington, Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, Alword Brain Tumor Center, Seattle, Washington, USA.*

*(Email: jgraber@uw.edu)*

**Hany Soliman, MD, FRCPC.**

*Assistant Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, University of Toronto, Sunnybrook Odette Cancer Center, Toronto, Canada.*

*(Email: Hany.soliman@sunnybrook.ca)*

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