

Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare – Schwartz Center Rounds

Dedicated to promoting compassion and understanding between patients and caregivers, the Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare is a non-profit organization founded in 1994 by the family of Kenneth Schwartz, a successful Boston lawyer who was unexpectedly diagnosed with terminal cancer in his early 40s. The Center is dedicated to honoring Ken's memory and encouraging the kind of compassionate and patient-centric healthcare which was of great comfort to him during his final days.

Three hundred and twenty healthcare facilities in more than 35 states are now offering Schwartz Center Rounds on a regular basis. These programs offer healthcare providers regularly scheduled breaks from their difficult and stressful work lives to talk about the social and emotional issues that arise from caring for patients in a safe and supported environment. Unlike usual grand rounds, the focus of Schwartz Center Rounds is the human dimension of healthcare. Caregivers have an opportunity to share their experiences, thoughts, and feelings on thought-provoking topics drawn from actual patient experiences. The rounds are based on the understanding that healthcare professionals are better able to connect with colleagues and patients when they have broader understanding of their own feelings and emotional responses.

Perhaps the most important feature of the program is interdisciplinary dialogue. Diverse disciplines make up the panelists who participate in the sessions. These include physicians, nurses, social workers, psychologists, allied health professionals, and chaplains. After listening to a panel's brief presentation on an identified case or topic, caregivers in the audience are invited to share their own perspectives on the case and broader related issues.

Schwartz Center Rounds invite caregivers to reconnect with why they entered their profession to begin with. One might say these rounds connect "the knowing with the doing". Healthcare organizations could use Schwartz Center Rounds as a venue to discuss specific bullying and incivility cases.

For more information on Schwartz Center Rounds please see: <http://www.theschwartzcenter.org>

