



Australian
Centre for
Health Law
Research

A photograph of a city skyline at dusk, with buildings illuminated and reflected in the water. The sky is a mix of blue and purple. The foreground shows some green foliage.

International Conference on Assisted Dying and Other End of Life Care (ICEL5)

8-11 April 2026

**Queensland University of Technology
Brisbane, Australia**

Welcome

On behalf of the Australian Centre for Health Law Research, we would like to warmly welcome you to the fifth **International Conference on Assisted Dying and Other End of Life Care (ICEL5)**.

This conference brings together people internationally from a wide range of disciplines who have an interest in the law, ethics, policy, and practice of assisted dying. Previously known as the International Conference on End of Life: Law, Ethics, Policy and Practice, for its fifth iteration the conference has an explicit focus on assisted dying. This reflects the rapidly changing landscape in which assisted dying is increasingly permitted internationally; and the need for a forum in which to share evidence and insights about ever-evolving experiences, data, practice, and models. At the same time, we recognise that assisted dying is situated within broader end-of-life and healthcare contexts, and should not be separated from them.

As you will see from this conference handbook, ICEL5 features six plenary sessions highlighting insights from 16 experts on assisted dying law, policy and practice. These and the concurrent sessions will explore emerging issues and cutting-edge practice and insights from across the globe. The program includes over 130 presentations from presenters spanning 15 countries.

The Australian Centre for Health Law Research has been working with the Scientific and Organising Committees to bring this conference to fruition. We hope this conference presents new ideas and stimulates discussion on these important issues. We also hope this conference provides you with an opportunity to renew old friendships and forge new ones.

Madeleine Archer and Ben White

Brisbane, April 2026



Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

QUT acknowledges the Turrbal and Yugara, as the First Nations owners of the lands where QUT now stands. We pay respect to their Elders, lores, customs and creation spirits. We recognise that these lands have always been places of teaching, research and learning.

QUT acknowledges the important role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people play within the QUT community.

| Contents | | Conference Committee | |
|-------------------------|----|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Conference Information | 5 | Conference Chairs | Organising Committee |
| Registration | | Madeleine Archer | Tina Cockburn |
| On-Campus Activities | | Ben White | Shih-Ning Then |
| Social Functions | | | Carrie Te Wani |
| Inclusion | | Scientific Committee | Paul Mills |
| Getting Around the City | | Lindy Willmott | Katherine Waller |
| Dining Out | | Agnes van der Heide | Katrine Del Villar |
| Conference Dinner | | Constance MacIntosh | Rachel Feeney |
| QUT Campus Map | 8 | James Downar | Eliana Close |
| Brisbane CBD Map | 9 | Jocelyn Downie | Jessica Setefano |
| Plenary Speakers | 10 | Kenneth Chambaere | |
| | | Luc Deliens | |
| | | Bregje Onwuteaka-Philipsen | |
| | | Thaddeus Pope | |

Sponsors



**Faculty of Business and Law,
Queensland University of Technology**



**Canadian
Blood
Services**

Canadian Blood Services
<https://www.blood.ca/en>



**Australian
Centre for
Health Law
Research**

**Australian Centre for Health Law
Research, Queensland University of
Technology**

About the Australian Centre for Health Law Research

The Australian Centre for Health Law Research (ACHLR) was established in 2012. ACHLR's research critically evaluates the legal, ethical, policy and regulatory frameworks, both conceptual and practical, which support and regulate the delivery of health services in diverse contexts. Our research explains for academic, professional and community audiences why the law takes its current form, how it can be critiqued, and how it might be reformed.

End of life care and decision-making are key areas of focus for ACHLR. Our End of Life Research and Education Program considers:

- Voluntary assisted dying (VAD)
- Withholding or withdrawing life-sustaining treatment
- Advance care planning
- Palliative care
- Organ and tissue donation

Our research projects include:

- Optimal Regulation of Voluntary Assisted Dying
- Assessing the Operation of Voluntary Assisted Dying Laws in Australia
- Voluntary Assisted Dying and Dementia in Australia: An Exploratory Study
- Healthcare Worker Survey on Voluntary Assisted Dying in Queensland
- Survey of Queenslanders' Views on Voluntary Assisted Dying
- Review of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019 (WA): Research Project

Our education resources include:

- Mandatory Voluntary Assisted Dying Practitioner Training
- Voluntary Assisted Dying Education Module for Healthcare Workers
- End of Life Law for Clinicians
- End of Life Law Toolkit: End of Life Directions for Aged Care
- End of Life Law in Australia

More information on the Centre is available: <https://research.qut.edu.au/achlr/research-expertise/end-of-life/>



Conference Information

Registration

All delegates must register at the registration desk when they first arrive at the conference to collect their name badge and other related materials. Please visit the registration desk located in the foyer of Z Block, QUT Gardens Point Campus on the 8th April. The registration desk will operate during the following times:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Wednesday 8th April | 3.00pm - 5.00pm |
| Thursday 9th April | 7.30am - 8.30am |
| Friday 10th April | 7.30am - 8.30am |
| Saturday 11th April | 7.30am - 8.30am |

Mobile Phones

As a courtesy to fellow delegates and speakers, please ensure your phone is switched off or is on silent during all conference sessions.

Name Badges

It is requested all delegates wear their name tags at the conference. This will help other attendees identify who you are, and also provide a visual security check for the venue. Catering may be refused if you are not wearing your name tag.

Internet Access

To access the QUT Public Wi-Fi network, you will need to create an account and verify it using an email address. To create an account, simply go to the [login page](#) and select 'Register for WiFi access'.

ATMs

Commonwealth Bank and Rediteller
Level 3, P Block (Food Court, QUT)

Suncorp
Level 3, V Block (Library, QUT)

Commonwealth Bank, Bankwest and St George
Located on both George and Turbot Streets

Smoking

The QUT campus, conference and social functions are all non-smoking.

On-Campus Activities

Food and Retail

There are plenty of eating options at Gardens Point campus including a food court, cafes and bars.

Activities and Tours

Drop in to the historical house museum and the William Robinson Gallery at Old Government House. Admission is free and Old Government House is open to the public:

- Tuesday to Friday 10.00am - 4.00pm
- Sunday 10.00am - 2.00pm

Visit the Cube at P Block and play on one of the world's largest touch-screen systems. Admission is free and the Cube is open to the public every day. [Check what's on before you visit.](#)

Social Functions

Welcome Reception

Date: Wednesday 8th April 2026

Time: 6.35pm - 8.00pm

Venue: The Cube, P Block, Queensland University of Technology, Gardens Point, Brisbane City

The Power of Choice Photographic Exhibition and Networking Event hosted by Go Gentle

Date: Thursday 9th April 2026

Time: 6.00pm - 8.00pm

Venue: Brisbane Powerhouse, 119 Lamington St, Brisbane, Queensland, 4005

Conference Dinner

Date: Friday 10th April 2026

Time: 6.30pm - 9.30pm

Venue: Brisbane City Hall, 64 Adelaide St, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000

Inclusion

Access to QUT Facilities

Please check in with a QUT staff member if you need access to a:

- Parents' room. This room includes an armchair, fridge, sink and change table.
- Sensory space. This room features multi-sensory resources and is designed for individuals who require a multi-sensory experience to regulate.
- Prayer room.

The ICEL5 dinner will be held at City Hall located in Brisbane City. Free City Loop buses run every 10 minutes and are a quick alternative way to travel from QUT to the conference dinner (which is around a 15 minute walk).

QUT's Ally Network

Several staff in attendance for the duration of ICEL5 are Ally representatives. Allies are trained to understand sexuality and gender issues and to provide 'safe zones' and support for individuals who identify as lesbian; gay; bisexual; transgender; intersex; queer or questioning; asexual, agender or aromantic; and those with other diverse genders and sexualities (LGBTIQ+). Allies will be identifiable by their rainbow-coloured lanyards/pins.

Hidden Disability Sunflower Network

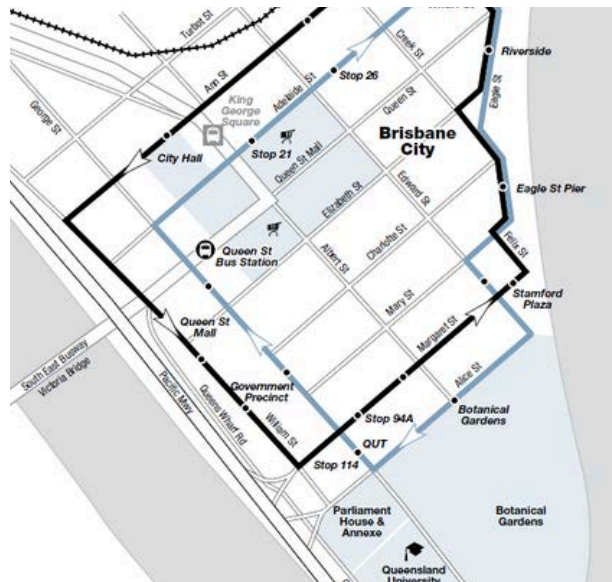
The Hidden Disability Sunflower Network is an internationally recognised initiative that helps raise awareness and understanding of non-visible disabilities. Not all disabilities are immediately apparent, and the sunflower symbol provides a discreet way for individuals to indicate that they may require additional support, understanding or patience. Attendees with non-visible disabilities who already have a Hidden Disability Sunflower Network lanyard are encouraged to wear their lanyard at ICEL5 if they wish to do so. Others who do not already have a lanyard may elect to receive a Hidden Disability Sunflower Network lanyard for use at the conference upon request (please email

icel5@qut.edu.au). QUT staff who have completed the Hidden Disability Sunflower Network training will be identifiable at the conference by their sunflower supporter pins.

Getting Around the City

City Centre Free Loop Buses

Operating every 10 minutes from Monday to Friday (7.00am - 6.00pm), the City Loop service has a clockwise (Route 40) and an anti-clockwise route (Route 50). You can easily spot City Loop buses and stops by their purple colour. This service is free and its stops include Brisbane City Hall, City Botanic Gardens, Queen Street Mall and QUT.



Taxi

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Black & White Cabs | 13 32 22 |
| 13cabs | 13 22 27 |

Rideshare

| | |
|------|---|
| Uber | Available via app or 13-UBER (13 82 37) |
| Didi | Available via app |

E-Bikes and E-Scooters

| | |
|------|-------------------|
| Lime | Available via app |
| Beam | Available via app |

Other public transport options (including buses, ferries and trains) are available with a contactless credit or debit card. All fares on Translink services are 50c per journey.

Dining Out

For the ICEL5 organising committee's specific recommendations, please see the ICEL5 [website](#).

Brisbane Dining Precincts

Brisbane City – On campus, a food court is available Wednesday - Friday. For easy reference the two main areas to eat out in the CBD are:

- **Queen Street Mall** – Offers numerous food courts for quick, casual meals, open air cafes for those who prefer to take their time or a number of different restaurant & bars spread from one end of the mall to the other.
- **Riverside/Eagle Street Pier** – Is the heartland of the city's dining precinct. In this prime riverfront location, there are dozens of places to eat with many of the restaurants making the most of the stunning river views for alfresco, relaxed dining.

Fortitude Valley – This vibrant dining locale offers everything from quality Asian to distinctive European and Middle Eastern cuisine. The main dining precincts are the Brunswick Street precinct (Brunswick Street, the Brunswick Street Mall, Central Brunswick and Chinatown), the James Street precinct and the Emporium precinct.

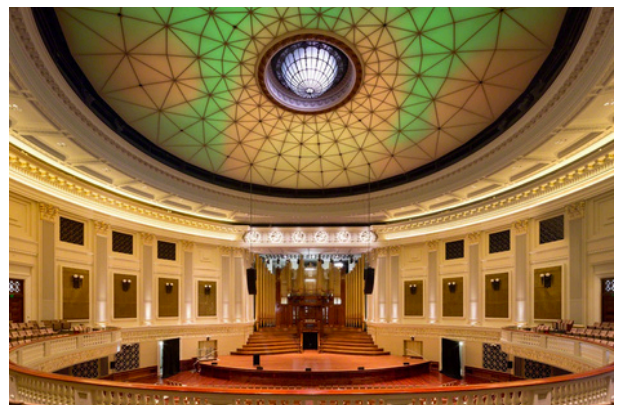
South Bank – This is a one of Brisbane's most diverse dining scenes, offering cuisines from around the world and for all budgets. There are restaurants and cafes in South Bank Parklands but the precinct also extends to nearby Little Stanley Street and Grey Street.

West End – West End has numerous dining options on Boundary Street, Vulture Street and Melbourne Street. West End is known as the place to cruise the cafes, rather than dine in formal restaurants. There are always footpaths overflowing with patrons and all-night eateries to buy pizza or kebabs and there are great spots for coffee in the morning.

Conference Dinner

The Conference Dinner will be hosted at Brisbane's historic City Hall. Located in King George Square, the heritage-listed building was built in the 1920s and remains a culturally, historically and architecturally significant building. Many events including local government functions, exhibitions and concerts are held at this building making it a prominent public place.

Dress code: Smart attire



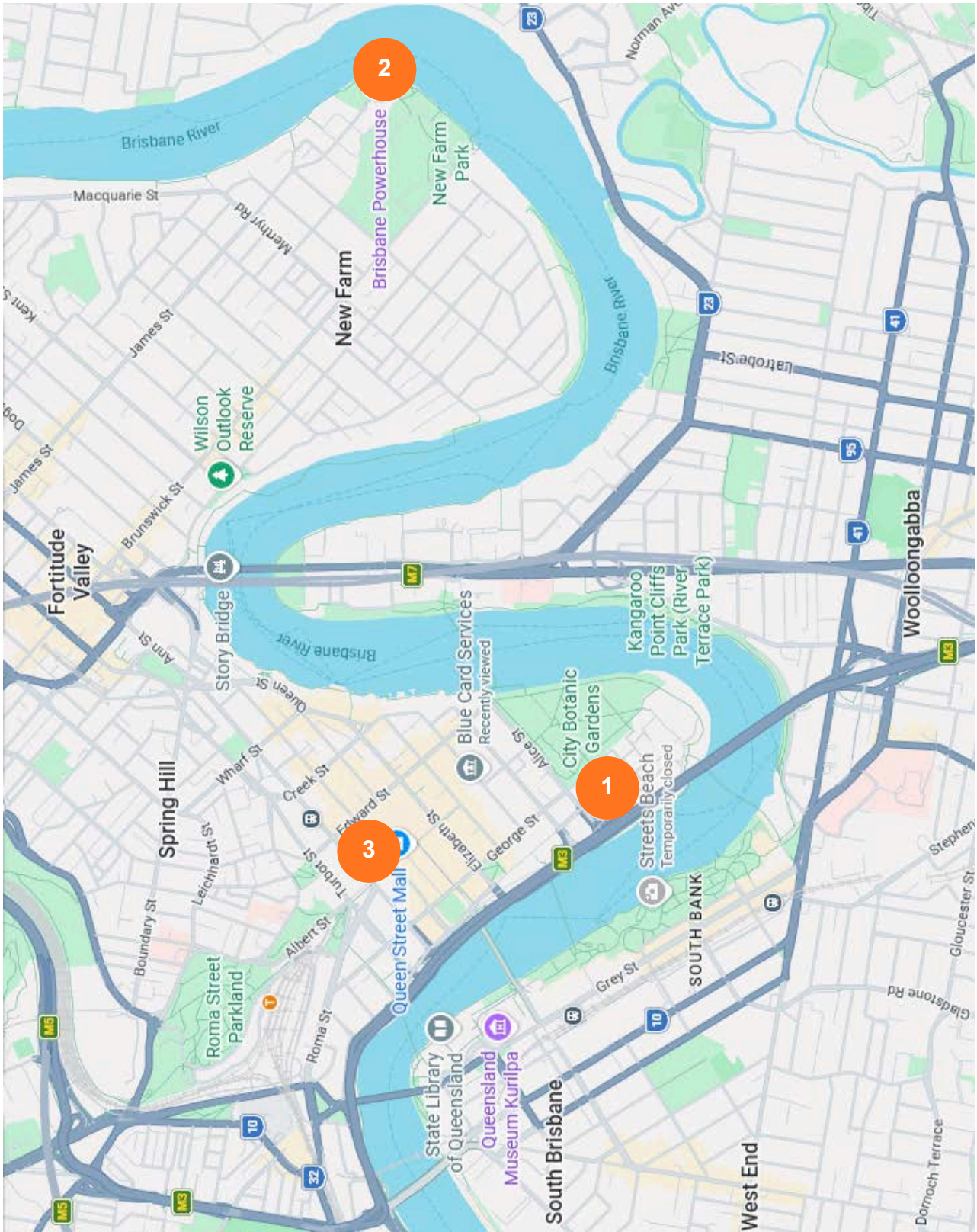
QUT Gardens Point Campus Map

- 1 Conference Registration - Z Block
- 2 Traditional Indigenous Cultural Welcoming Dance - Kidney Lawn
- 3 Welcome Reception - The Cube (P Block)
- 4 Entrance to QUT from Brisbane City
- 5 Entrance to QUT from South Bank



Brisbane Map

- 1 Welcome Reception and location of ICEL5 - QUT, Gardens Point campus
- 2 *The Power of Choice* Photographic Exhibition and Networking Event hosted by Go Gentle - Brisbane Powerhouse
- 3 Conference Dinner venue - Brisbane City Hall



Plenary Speakers

Marie-Ève Bouthillier

Université de Montréal

Marie-Ève Bouthillier is Associate Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Emergency Medicine in the Faculty of Medicine at the Université de Montréal (UdeM), and a regular researcher at the Centre de recherche du Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CRCHUM).



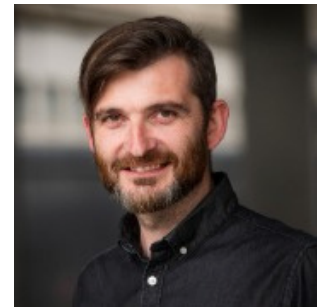
Initially trained in psychology, she holds a PhD in applied human sciences, with a bioethics option, from UdeM. Prior to obtaining her PhD, she completed a DESS in Bioethics at UdeM, as well as a Master's degree in Medical Ethics and Law at King's College London (England). Her research interests focus on the ethical issues raised by palliative and end-of-life care (EOLC), including medical assistance in dying. She co-directs the Consortium interdisciplinaire de recherche sur l'aide médicale à mourir (CIRAMM), a research team that aims to better understand the use of medical assistance in dying in the Quebec context. This project is financed by the Fond de recherche du Québec.

Plenary session: *Dementia and Assisted Dying: International Perspectives on Advance Requests*

Kenneth Chambaere

Ghent University

Professor Kenneth Chambaere is Interdisciplinary Professor of Public Health, Sociology & Ethics of the End of Life at the End-of-Life Care Research Group at Ghent University & Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Belgium. He obtained an MSc in Sociology in 2004 and a Postgraduate in Logic, History and Philosophy of Science in 2005, before obtaining a PhD in Medical-Social Sciences in 2010.



From 2010 to 2016 he was a Postdoctoral Fellow of the Research Foundation Flanders (FWO), researching slippery slope phenomena in countries with assisted dying legislation. As part of the group's Public Health research program, Prof. Chambaere's current research focusses on three main themes: (1) end-of-life practices, (2) palliative care in and by the community and (3) end-of-life care for people in vulnerable positions. He conducts and is involved in projects on following topics: assisted dying/euthanasia; palliative sedation; palliative care and end-of-life decision-making in the perinatal period; tiredness of life in older people; Compassionate Communities; palliative home care for difficult-to-reach groups; volunteerism in palliative care provision. To date he has published more than 140 international peer-reviewed papers and contributed several book chapters, including a chapter on the ethics of end-of-life practices in the Springer Textbook of Palliative Care.

Plenary session: *Past Present and Future of Assisted Dying: A Long-Term Evolutionary Lens*

Eliana Close

**Australian Centre for Health Law Research
Queensland University of Technology**

Dr Eliana Close is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Law at Queensland University of Technology and a member of the Australian Centre for Health Law Research. Her research examines end-of-life law, policy, and clinical practice, with a particular focus on voluntary assisted dying and non-beneficial treatment.



From 2020 to 2025, she led a Canadian case study on medical assistance in dying as part of Professor Ben White's Australian Research Council Future Fellowship project, Optimal Regulation of Voluntary Assisted Dying. Her work has contributed to voluntary assisted dying law reform in Australia and to improving health professionals' understanding of how end-of-life law operates in practice.

Plenary session: *Global Reflections on Local Issues in Assisted Dying*

James Downar

University of Ottawa

James Downar is a Critical Care and Palliative Care physician in Ottawa. He graduated from McGill Medical School and completed residency training in Internal Medicine, Critical Care and Palliative Care at the University of Toronto. He has a Master's degree in Bioethics from the Joint Centre for Bioethics at the University of Toronto.



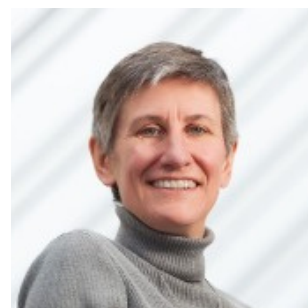
He is currently Professor and Head of the Division of Palliative Care at the University of Ottawa, where he holds a Clinical Research Chair in Palliative and End of Life Care. He is an adjunct professor at the Australian Centre for Health Law Research at the Queensland University of Technology. He is the current President of the Canadian Critical Care Society and co-chair of the Pan-Canadian Palliative Care Research Collaborative. He has authored more than 160 peer-reviewed publications and was the principal investigator on more than 30 peer-reviewed grants on topics such as medical aid in dying; communication and decision-making for serious illness; palliative care in the critical care setting; grief and bereavement; and the treatment of psychological and existential distress in advanced illness. In 2025, he received the King Charles III Coronation medal for contributions to Palliative Care in Canada, and in 2021 he received the Award of Excellence from the Ontario Medical Association's Section on Palliative Medicine.

Plenary session: *Exploring the Relationship Between Assisted Dying and Palliative Care*

Jocelyn Downie

Dalhousie University

Jocelyn Downie is Professor Emerita in the Faculties of Law and Medicine at Dalhousie University and an Adjunct Professor at the Australian Centre for Health Law Research. Her work on end-of-life law and policy includes: author of *Dying Justice: A Case for the Decriminalizing Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide in Canada*; and member of the Royal Society of Canada Expert Panel on End-of-Life Decision-Making, the plaintiffs' legal team in *Carter v. Canada* (Attorney General), the Provincial-Territorial Expert Advisory Group on Physician-Assisted Dying, and the Canadian Council of Academies Expert Panel on Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD).



She is currently a member of the legal teams in a Charter challenge to institutional religious obstruction of access to MAiD and a Charter challenge to the exclusion from eligibility for MAiD of persons with mental illness as their sole underlying medical condition. She is a Fellow of both the Royal Society of Canada and the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. She was named a member of the Order of Canada in part in recognition of her work advocating for high-quality, end-of-life care.

Plenary session: *Keeping Watch: Reflections on Oversight and Monitoring of Assisted Dying from the Shores of Australia and Canada*

Luis Espericueta

Universidad de Granada

Luis Espericueta is a PhD candidate in bioethics at the *Universidad de Granada* (Spain), supported by a nationally competitive fellowship and affiliated with the *Cátedra Youngner de Bioética Empírica*. He is the PI of the Ariadna Project on grief associated with euthanasia in Spain. He is also a member of the research group *Ética Salubrista para la Acción, Cuidados y Observación Social* and of the *Laboratorio Iberoamericano de Salud Pública*.



He has held teaching positions at the *Université Le Havre–Normandie* and the *Université du Littoral Côte d'Opale* in France, and has been invited as a visiting lecturer at the *Universidad de Costa Rica*. His background also includes experience in legal advocacy for Indigenous communities involved in socio-environmental conflicts in his home country of Mexico. He has provided bioethical advice to governmental bodies. In 2025, he was consulted by the United Kingdom Parliament during the drafting process of its Assisted Dying Bill, and his reports were published as part of the deliberative process. In the same year, he received first prize in Spain's national science communication competition in medicine and health for a piece on euthanasia and Alzheimer's disease. Alongside his academic work, he engages in literary writing.

Plenary session: *Global Reflections on Local Issues in Assisted Dying*

Claudia Gamondi

University of Lausanne

Graduating in Medicine and Surgery in 1996, Claudia Gamondi obtained a specialization in medical oncology at the University of Pavia (Italy) in 2000. In 2013, she completed a Master's in Palliative Medicine at the University of Bristol (UK), followed by an advanced training diploma in palliative medicine (ISFM/FMH) in 2016 and a PhD at Lancaster University (UK) in 2022.



After working as an assistant physician and later as director at the Palliative Care Service of the Oncology Institute of Southern Switzerland, she continued her career between Biella and England. In 2014, she became the Medical Director of the Palliative Care and Support Service at the Oncology Institute of Southern Switzerland. In 2020, she was appointed as an affiliated professor at the Faculty of Biomedical Sciences of the University of Southern Switzerland. Since October 2023, she has been the head of the Palliative Care and Support Service at CHUV and a full professor at UNIL. She is the president of SwissEduc (a palliative care training group) and has been a member of the Palliative CH committee (Swiss Society of Palliative Medicine and Care) for over ten years.

She is highly committed to advancing research in palliative care both nationally and internationally. She has conducted research on various topics related to palliative care and looks forward to strengthening research in the field of assisted suicide. Her particular focus is on the clinical, social, and institutional factors that can influence the experiences of patients, family members, and professionals in the assisted suicide process. She also pays close attention to the barriers and facilitators in accessing early palliative care.

Plenary session: *Exploring the Relationship Between Assisted Dying and Palliative Care*

Clément Meier

University of Lausanne

Clément Meier, PhD, is a senior researcher in Public Health at the University of Lausanne. His research focuses on end-of-life health literacy, caregiving, and decision-making, particularly among older adults. He contributes to the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), where he works on harmonizing end-of-life questionnaires and analyzing population-based data to understand how people prepare for and experience the final phase of life.



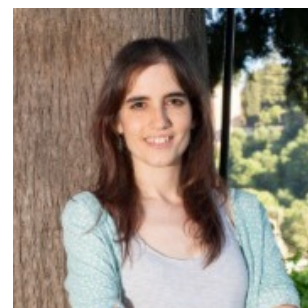
Clément's work bridges public health, behavioral science, and palliative care, combining quantitative and qualitative methods to explore how individuals, families, and systems engage with dying, death, and bereavement. He is also a member of the Swiss Young Academy and an editor at the International Journal of Public Health. Through his research and public engagement, Clément seeks to foster more compassionate, equitable, and informed approaches to end-of-life care and planning.

Plenary session: *Global Reflections on Local Issues in Assisted Dying*

Iris Parra Jounou

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Iris Parra Jounou is an early career researcher and a part-time professor at the Autonomous University of Barcelona. She holds a PhD in Philosophy (UAB) on Care Ethics and the social and political dimensions of end-of-life, with a special focus on euthanasia and assisted suicide. She is also trained in Nursing and in Liberal Arts including a PGDip in Prehospital Emergency Care and a MA in Classical and Contemporary Philosophy.



Her research is focused on Feminist Care Ethics, end of life, social determinants of health, public health ethics, and the interrelation between health and the arts. She is the co-founder of JAINEOL (Junior Academics International Network on End of Life) as well as a member of different research groups and networks, including POYETICAS, INEDYTO III, ESPACYOS, LIBERESP, and CERC.

Plenary session: *Global Reflections on Local Issues in Assisted Dying*

Nancy Preston

Lancaster University

Nancy Preston is a Professor of Supportive and Palliative Care. Her research focuses on the interplay between service provision and the experiences of those both running and experiencing services.



She is Co-Director of the International Observatory on End of Life Care at Lancaster University. This is a world leading research institute with international collaborations and PhD students. She is part of the Department of Health/NIHR funded Policy Research Unit for Palliative Care with four other university departments and was recently inducted as a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, UK. She has been part of eight European studies – the UK lead on half – which have underpinned developments in integrated palliative care internationally. She is part of the Lancet Commission on the Human Crisis in Cancer which reports next year.

Professor Preston's research on experiences of family members and health care workers on assisted dying led to oral presentations to the British government's Health and Social Care Select Committee on Assisted Dying in 2023 and the Irish Parliament Select Committee in 2024. She is the UK's leading researcher on assisted dying with over 20 publications alone. To make her research more accessible she created a short film about assisted dying as part of the ESRC Festival of Social Science which she has also shown at international palliative conferences in the Netherlands, Italy, US and Canada.

With over 150 publications Professor Preston is recognised for her research expertise and is often invited to speak at international conferences, the radio and TV. She has supervised over 20 PhD students to completion, with much of this work leading to joint publications and follow on grants.

Plenary session: *Updates from Recently Legalised and Legalising Jurisdictions*

David Rodríguez-Arias

University of Granada

David Rodríguez-Arias is a Full Professor of Bioethics in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Granada, Vice-Director of the FiloLab Scientific Unit of Excellence, Adjunct Professor at Case Western Reserve University (USA), and Director of the Cátedra Youngner de Bioética Empírica (CYBE).



His academic career has included visiting positions at leading international institutions such as The Hastings Center (Garrison, New York), the Joint Centre for Bioethics at the University of Toronto, the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, and Case Western Reserve University. His main areas of research are bioethics, clinical ethics, and biomedical research. He leads the research group INEDyTO, an interdisciplinary team that focuses on ethical issues related to end-of-life care, death determination, and organ transplantation. He has authored over 50 scientific publications in top-tier international journals such as *The Lancet*, *PLOS One*, *PNAS*, *American Journal of Bioethics*, *Journal of Medical Ethics*, and *Hastings Center Report*, contributing to normative debates and public policy.

Plenary session: *Updates from Recently Legalised and Legalising Jurisdictions*

Cornella Visser-Mol

Sociedade de Cuidados Especializados em Nefrologia

Born in a small village in the west of the Netherlands with one GP. I was one of four children. After secondary school I studied Medicine at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam. After I got my degree I worked in a nursing home for two years. Later on I worked in Public Health with young children, which was very interesting, but I had other ambitions.



I went back to work in Nursing Home Care and became a specialist in geriatric medicine, which I did for more than thirty years. I enjoyed many aspects of the job but I was mainly interested in care of patients with dementia and patients with palliative care needs. I have trained young doctors during this period and I decided to apply for a position as a SCEN doctor and I was accepted. It required a three day training course which equipped me with the skills necessary to carry out this work professionally. I am member of the Dutch Policy Committee for SCEN of the Dutch Association of Medicine, which is called “KNMG” in Dutch. My specialism is Home Assessments by requests for euthanasia due to dementia. I am also a moderator for moral deliberation and I lead a review group for young doctors, working in nursing homes. Finally, to my surprise I have been made an Honorary Member of the Professional Association of Specialists in Geriatric Medicine, which is called “Verenso” in Dutch. With my presentation on the subject ‘Dementia and Assisted Dying: International Perspectives on Advance Requests’ I hope to contribute to increase knowledge of international approaches to access via advance requests. I would like to share my experience with you about persons with dementia and a wish for euthanasia. They have taught me that human beings with dementia remain mentally competent with regard to their wish to die by euthanasia during the course of their illness for a very long time.

Plenary session: *Dementia and Assisted Dying: International Perspectives on Advance Requests*

Katherine Waller

**Australian Centre for Health Law Research,
Queensland University of Technology**

Kat Waller is a project manager and researcher at the Australian Centre for Health Law Research, Queensland University of Technology. She managed the development and delivery of the mandatory training for health practitioners participating in voluntary assisted dying (VAD) in Victoria, Western Australia and Queensland.



Kat was a member of the QUT team which prepared drafting instructions for model VAD legislation in the Northern Territory. She currently manages an ARC Linkage project which aims to assess the operation of VAD laws across Australia. Kat's research focus is on the regulation of VAD in Australia.

Plenary session: *Global Reflections on Local Issues in Assisted Dying*

Bettina Weisser

University of Cologne

Prof. Dr. Bettina Weisser, Dr. iur. (Konstanz), Dr. iur. habil. (Cologne), is Professor of Law at the University of Cologne where she holds a Chair for Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure and International Criminal Law and is Director of the Institute for Comparative Criminal Law. Before she accepted the offer to join the law faculty in Cologne, she used to hold a Chair for German and International Criminal Law at the University of Muenster (2011-2017); she has rejected offers to join the law faculties of the University of Konstanz (2014) and of Humboldt-University, Berlin (2021).



Her teaching and research interests are in Comparative Criminal Law, European Criminal Law and German Criminal Law and Procedure. She has written extensively and from a comparative perspective on the role of criminal law in the context of euthanasia and assisted suicide, as well as on abortion laws. She has served at a government expert committee on a future reform of the German criminal law on abortion. Bettina chairs the Criminal Law section of the German Association for Comparative Law and is a member of the Scientific Committee of the Association Internationale de Droit Pénal.

Plenary session: *Updates from Recently Legalised and Legalising Jurisdictions*

Ben White

**Australian Centre for Health Law Research,
Queensland University of Technology**

Ben White is Distinguished Professor of End-of-Life Law and Regulation and an Australian Research Council Future Fellow in the School of Law, Queensland University of Technology. He was a foundation Director of the Australian Centre for Health Law Research and still co-leads its End-of-Life Research Program.



Ben has been researching end-of-life law, policy and practice for over 20 years and been part of interdisciplinary teams awarded \$A66 million in the field of end-of-life decision-making, including from the Australian Research Council, the National Health and Medical Research Council, Commonwealth and State governments and philanthropic organisations. Ben's research now focuses on voluntary assisted dying (VAD). Current projects include an Australian Research Council Future Fellowship on 'Optimal Regulation of Voluntary Assisted Dying' in Australia, Canada and Belgium; a national Australian Research Council-funded study of VAD in practice, and an exploratory study of dementia and VAD. He (with colleagues) developed the mandatory training in Victoria, Western Australia and Queensland for clinicians providing VAD. Ben is the editor of *Research Handbook on Voluntary Assisted Dying Law, Regulation and Practice* (Edward Elgar, 2025), a 36-chapter collection which aims to analyse the field of VAD globally.

Plenary session: *Keeping Watch: Reflections on Oversight and Monitoring of Assisted Dying from the Shores of Australia and Canada*

Jessica Young

Victoria University of Wellington and University of Auckland

Dr Jessica Young is a Senior Research Fellow at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington and Waipapa Taumata Rau—University of Auckland, and an Adjunct Senior Lecturer at the Australian Centre for Health Law Research, Queensland University of Technology. She is a sociologist specialising in death, dying, and assisted dying.



Dr Young completed her PhD in 2020 at the University of Otago and was awarded a prestigious postdoctoral fellowship from the Cancer Society of New Zealand. Since the introduction of the End of Life Choice Bill in New Zealand, Dr Young has developed a comprehensive research programme exploring multiple facets of assisted dying. She leads and contributes to several projects, including the Health Research Council-funded study Exploring the Early Experiences of the Assisted Dying Service in Aotearoa. To date, she has secured over \$3 million in competitive funding. Dr Young is the founder and co-chair of New Zealand's Assisted Dying Research Network and was appointed by the Director-General of Health to the Support and Consultation for End of Life in NZ (SCENZ) Group from 2021 to 2023. Her research has directly influenced national policy, with 13 of her team's recommendations adopted in the Ministry of Health's 2024 End of Life Choice Act Review. She has published over 40 peer-reviewed articles, six editorials, and three book chapters. Passionate about improving end-of-life experiences for patients, whānau/families, and health practitioners, Dr Young is committed to ethical, inclusive, and culturally responsive research. She actively engages with media and community organisations, and seeks to involve tangata whenua (indigenous people), stakeholders, and diverse communities in her research.

Plenary session: *Updates from Recently Legalised and Legalising Jurisdictions*



Australian
Centre for
Health Law
Research