

## **Task Force on Palliative Care**

The Palliative Care Task Force (TF) officially came into being on July 21, 2015 when a conference call was called to introduce the background and goals. The TF rapidly grew in its representation from experts in palliative care in the fields of hematopoietic cell transplantation, hematology, and oncology. The TF currently comprises 32 members and professional societies including ASH, ASCO, AAHPM (American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine) and MASCC (Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer).

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Palliative Care TF is to promote the delivery of high-quality patient and family-centered care that optimizes the quality of life of patients undergoing hematopoietic cell transplantation.

### **Current Goals**

The short-term goals are to promote the delivery of high-quality patient and family-centered care. The TF identified many important research questions that will be addressed including patient goals and values, patient symptomatology, timing and process of delivering palliative care, optimal health care delivery models and infrastructure. The TF is currently developing questionnaires to collect data in these areas. The questionnaires will be distributed with the support from personnel within the NMDP Health Services Research Program, and funded by the ASBMT.

### **Ongoing Objectives**

The TF will complete the first series of questionnaires and distribute them to patients, caregivers and providers. The data will be collected and analyzed. Initial survey items will focus on topics related to patient, caregiver, and clinician understanding of palliative care, barriers to earlier concurrent care, and exploring associations between knowledge/experience with palliative and perceptions.