

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
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Café scientifique encourages community discussion on palliative care

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WATERLOO – The Laurier Faculty of Social Work, in conjunction with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), has organized a “Café scientifique” around the issues of pediatric palliative care. The event, titled “Pediatric Palliative Care: What is it? What can research teach us?” will take place November 20 at the Matter of Taste coffee bar in Waterloo Town Square from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

“Café scientifiques provide a comfortable atmosphere for the general public to discuss the health and science issues that affect them,” says Dr. Susan Cadell, a professor in Laurier’s Faculty of Social Work who is part of a pediatric palliative care research team. “Pediatric palliative care is a relatively narrow topic but the ripple effect is enormous – family members, schools, neighbours and communities are all affected by the death of a child.”

Pediatric palliative care addresses the needs of children and their families when a child lives with progressive, life-threatening conditions. These are conditions where there is a high likelihood of death prior to reaching full adulthood.

Cadell will be one of five panel members at the event, along with Dr. Rose Steele from the Faculty of Nursing at York University, Dr. Christine Newman, a physician from the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, and Ceilidh Eaton Russell, a child life specialist at the Max and Beatrice Centre for Children’s Grief and Palliative Care at Mt. Sinai Hospital in Toronto. A parent who has experienced pediatric palliative care services will also join the panelists.

The Café scientifique is free and members of the community are encouraged to attend. The Matter of Taste coffee bar is located in the Waterloo Town Square at 75 King St. S. in Waterloo. No registration is necessary but if you plan to attend you may R.S.V.P. to Kathleen Wilson at kwilson@wlu.ca.