

**7th Annual  
Carrie Falk  
Memorial Lecture**

**May 6, 2021  
10:00 am (cst)**

**Virtual Lecture**



**Carrie Falk, D.O.**



*Celebrating a Life*

**Falk Lecturers**

- 2014—Mark Rosenberg, DO**  
*Making a case: Emergency Department Palliative Care—Is it Possible?*
- 2015—David Weissman, MD**  
*The courage to start a difficult conversation: setting goals of care in the acute setting*
- 2016—Tammy Quest, MD**  
*Mortals Caring for Mortals: Why Caring for the Serious Ill is So Hard*
- 2017—Jean Abbott, MD**  
*The POLST Paradox: Opportunities and Challenges in Honoring Patient Wishes in the ED*
- 2018—Ashley Shreves, M.D.**  
*Communicating With Patients at the End of Life: Saying What You Mean*
- 2019— Ira R. Byock, M.D.**  
*What Are Doctors For? Therapeutic Relationships Through the End of Life*
- 2020—** Lecture not held (COVID-19)

**Registration Information**

**Please scan the QR code  
below to register.**

The Zoom link will be  
emailed to all registered  
participants



**2021  
Carrie Falk  
Memorial Lecture**

**VJ Periyakoil, M.D.**

Professor of Medicine  
Associate Dean of Research  
(Geriatrics and Palliative Care)

Founding Director  
Stanford Palliative Care Education &  
Training Program and Stanford Hospice  
& Palliative Medicine Fellowship  
Program



**That's  
Unconscionable!  
Unconscious Bias in  
Palliative Care**



The Medical College of Wisconsin  
designated this live activity for up  
to 1.5 hours of participation for  
continuing education for allied  
health professionals

## VJ Periyakoil , M.D.

VJ Periyakoil, MD , Professor of Medicine; Associate Dean of Research (Geriatrics and Palliative Care), Founding Director, Stanford Palliative Care Education & Training Program & the Stanford Hospice & Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program.

A nationally recognized leader in geriatrics and palliative care, Periyakoil founded and directs Stanford Aging, Geriatrics and Ethnogeriatrics Transdisciplinary Collaborative Research Center (SAGE Center) and mentors numerous junior faculty members. She founded and directs the Ethnogeriatrics & the Successful Aging Project, the Palliative Care portal and the Letter Project

She has won many research awards including an young investigator award by the American Association of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, a plenary research paper award by the American Geriatrics Society (2014), Ethnogeriatrics Research poster award (2015) and a research award by the American Association of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (2015) and an Innovator award from the American Medical Association (2015)

In the clinical realm, she co-founded the Palliative Care Services and serves as the Director of Out-Patient Palliative Care at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System. Her research focuses on various aspects of aging and especially using technology to improve the life course and aging experience for patients and families. She has multiple research projects in ethno-geriatrics, palliative & end-of-life care. She has presented in numerous national meetings including the plenary of the American Geriatrics Society, American Academy of Hospice and Palliative medicine and the National Hospice & Palliative Care Organization.

## “That’s Unconscionable! Unconscious Bias in Palliative Care”

### Educational Objectives

- Define unconscious (implicit) bias
- List types of unconscious bias
- List common clinical effects of unconscious bias on seriously ill patients
- Identify micro-aggressions and micro validations
- Identify three strategies to reduce unconscious bias in the care of seriously ill patients.

### In Memory of Carrie Falk

We have gathered here today, my friends  
to recall recent days of our friend Carrie.  
The laughter, the smiles, the compassion she  
shared, we carry with us in her memory.

Her time with us seemed too brief,  
A career so young, so honest and true.  
Her healing hands, warm heart and words  
So much she hoped for, so much still to do.

But now she is home, in the arms of the angels,  
a life full of grace in every way.  
We promise to carry out the work that remains,  
her memory alive in each good deed, every passing  
day.

I do not know what tomorrow holds,  
or when we will sweetly embrace her again.  
But when that day comes, I know we will say,  
Her memory lives on, without end.

## Carrie Falk, DO

A native of Wisconsin, Dr. Carrie Falk joined the Medical College of Wisconsin Affiliated Hospitals in 2011 as a Resident in the Department of Emergency Medicine. She was smart, funny, energetic, and incredibly caring. During her second year of residency she was diagnosed with metastatic melanoma. Following an incredible journey of courage and humility, Dr. Falk passed away on July 14, 2013 at the age of 31. She is recognized as a posthumous member of the Class of 2014.

Carrie’s all too brief life touched so many, and the department wanted to find a way to keep her memory and her legacy alive. Attending a “Block Melanoma” event in her final days, Carrie was sitting with a group of her residency classmates, family, and friends. She said that if she were to somehow survive this cancer, she would want to give back; to help physicians understand what cancer patients go through; and to help the health care team provide compassion and empathy to their patients.

In honor of Carrie’s wishes, and with the support of the family, we have created the Carrie Falk Memorial Lecture. Contributions to this lecture series help us bring national speakers to our campus every year. The lecture series will focus specifically on end of life, empathy, and courage.

The Department of Emergency Medicine and the entire campus community laments the loss of our friend, colleague and an incredibly talented and caring physician. While our hearts are heavy with grief over Dr. Falk’s passing, her spirit and compassion will continue to inspire us long into the future through this memorial lecture series.