

**Call for Papers**

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
AGING AND DYING : RELEVANCE OF  
INDIC PERSPECTIVES TO END-OF-LIFE CARE**

**Dates : 4-6 November 2005**

**Venue : IIT Kharagpur**

**A Multidisciplinary Conference**

**Organised by**

**Department of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur  
Kharagpur-721 302**

**In collaboration with**

**The Infinity Foundation, USA**

**Webpage : <http://www.iitkgp.ac.in/ncad2005/>**

**Email : [ncad2005@hijli.iitkgp.ac.in](mailto:ncad2005@hijli.iitkgp.ac.in)**

## BACKGROUND

It is natural to grow old and die. But different cultures have their own meanings of aging and dying. In the Judaic-Christian tradition, life has an absolute value; death is denied and youthfulness of the body celebrated. Biomedicine, which is rooted in this western philosophical tradition, also keeps death at abeyance. It looks at aging and dying as obstacles to be overcome and this perspective governs end-of-life care as well. Although geriatric care is developed as a special field of medicine, there has been little success in achieving a meaningful place for suffering and decline in life.

In many eastern cultures the conceptualization of aging and dying is strikingly different from the western counterpart. In the Indian philosophical tradition, death is not considered as annihilation but an integral process of life itself. There is therefore, a greater realism in accepting the transience of existence, the aging and withering of the body, and the place of the elderly in the social system. There are also inbuilt cultural mechanisms of preparation for death and self-determination in the manner and timing of dying. However, these meanings are lost in the pervasive global influence of modernity.

Biomedicine as a global system of health care not only universalizes the meaning of aging and dying but also transforms indigenous values. Guided by the western framework, physicians in many non-western societies are faced with complex ethical dilemmas implicit in weighing up the scarce health resources for the aged versus those to be directed at the young. Treatment decisions are often incongruent with the value system of the elderly, and may lead to their abandonment with little relief in pain and suffering, or aggressive extension of old age into endless middle age. In either case, the elderly suffer simultaneously or sequentially from both misfortunes and are denied a dignified death.

## OBJECTIVES

The central objective of the conference is to go beyond disease orientation and provide meaning and significance to the aged and dying.

The conference intends to:

- Understand the various Indic perspectives (IP) – Hindu, Bauddha, Jaina and Islamic on aging and dying
- Explore the relevance of IP for meeting this-worldly needs of the elderly
- Direct special attention to end-of-life care with the purpose of integrating these philosophical inputs into treatment decision-making, thereby developing a culturally embedded biomedicine
- Probe into the possible complexities – medical, social and legal – that may arise from such integration

## CONFERENCE THEMES

The conference solicits papers under three major categories. The three categories and the focal themes under each are listed below.

### Philosophy

- Indic perspectives (IP) on aging and dying
- Relevance of IP for end-of-life care

### Biomedicine and Complementary & Alternative Medicine

- Integrating Indian values in end-of-life care for the elderly
- Devising a culturally sensitive programme of geriatric care
- Perspectives on dignity-conserving palliative care for the elderly

### Sociology/Social Work/Law

- End-of-life care preferences of the elderly dying patients
- Socio-ethical issues in the existing paradigm of care for the elderly
- Legal barriers to end-of-life care for the elderly in India

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Philosophers, Physicians, Practitioners of Complementary & Alternative Medicine, Sociologists, Social workers, Lawyers, NGOs devoted to the care of the aged and the dying, and Elderly patients themselves.

## VENUE

The conference would be held at the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur. Founded in 1951, IIT Kharagpur is the forerunner of all the IITs. Kharagpur is connected by road and rail to all major cities of India. It is 116 kms from Kolkata. The campus is about 5 kms from the Kharagpur Railway Station and can be reached by taxi, autorickshaw or even cycle rickshaw.

## REGISTRATION

Participants are required to pay a registration fee of Rs.1500/- (Registration form enclosed). Those registering beyond 1<sup>st</sup> October 2005 would be required to pay Rs.1800/- instead. The charge for each accompanying person is Rs.800/-. The Registration fee is to be paid by account payee (crossed) Demand Draft in favour of "NCAD 2005" payable at Syndicate Bank, IIT Kharagpur. Each participant has to fill up a separate Registration form. The form may be photocopied if additional copies are required. **The Registration form and Demand Draft are to be mailed to Dr V M Chariar at the NCAD 2005, Delhi Secretariat.** Registration entitles an outstation participant to the conference kit, boarding and lodging for the duration of the conference. Guest House accommodation (on twin sharing basis) would be arranged. Travel expenses would have to be borne by the participants themselves.

## NCAD 2005

4-6 November 2005, IIT KHARAGPUR

Early Registration (Before 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct. 2005)	- Rs. 1500/-
Late Registration (After 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct. 2005)	- Rs. 1800/-
Fee per accompanying person	- Rs. 800/-

Each participant has to fill up a separate Registration form.  
This form may be photocopied if additional copies are required.

The undersigned is interested in registering for the above Conference.

Name (Prof. Dr. Mr. Ms.) \_\_\_\_\_

Designation \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Pincode \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

FAX \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I intend to reach IIT Kharagpur on \_\_\_/11/2005 by \_\_\_ AM/PM

I intend to leave IIT Kharagpur on \_\_\_/11/2005 by \_\_\_ AM/PM

Please tick one of the following:

I am unaccompanied

I am accompanied. Number of accompanying persons \_\_\_\_\_

Kindly find enclosed an account payee Demand Draft in favour of "NCAD 2005" payable at Kharagpur.

Demand Draft No. \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_

for Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ Rupees \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (in words)

Drawn on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Delegate

**Mail by Speed Post/Registered Post to :**

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## SUBMISSION OF PAPERS

Email submissions of abstracts and full-length papers are preferred. In addition to email submission, hard copies of the abstract (within 500 words) and full-length paper (within 10,000 words) bearing name and detailed contact information (email, phone and fax) of the author should be mailed to both the coordinators. A Book of Abstracts would be distributed during the Conference. Proceedings incorporating selected full-length papers, would be brought out at a later date.

## IMPORTANT DATES

Deadline for submission of Abstracts	15 June 2005
Deadline for submission of full length Papers	15 Aug. 2005
Notification of final acceptance of Papers	15 Sept. 2005

### Coordinators

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