

ALIGN 2026: Advancing Learning and Innovation in Goal Concordant Care

Goal Concordant Care Conference Agenda

Wednesday, April 29

Breakfast will be served 7:30 to 8:20 a.m.

Time	Topic	Speaker	Location
8:20-8:30 a.m.	CEs, disclosure statement, and an overview of the breakout sessions		Helix Hall
8:30-8:40 a.m.	Opening Ceremony	Dr. Marina George	Helix Hall
8:40-8:55 a.m.	Defining Goal Concordant Care: Clinical, Research, and Operational Perspectives	Dr. David Hui and Dr. Nico Nortjé	Helix Hall
8:55-9:35 a.m.	Patient Voice: What Is Important to Me?	Chair: Ms. Tori McClosky, Panelists: Ms. Rebekah Crowder, Mr. Richard (Britt) Mayo, and Dr. Kenneth (Ken) Tubman	Helix Hall
9:35-10:20 a.m.	Impact of Goals of Care Discussions on Patient and Family Outcomes	Dr. Robert Arnold	Helix Hall
10:20-10:25 a.m.	Vision for Goal Concordant Care	Dr. Peter WT Pisters	Helix Hall
10:25-10:30 a.m. Break			
10:30-11:30 a.m.	Parallel Session: Improving Advance Care Planning for Patients with Serious Illness	Dr. Anne Walling	Helix Hall
	Parallel Oral Abstracts: Improving Communication and Psychosocial Care		Hermann Hall
	Parallel Workshops: Ethical Implications of Over-/Undertreatment of Older Adults with Cancer, Cutting Through Complexity: Navigating Goal-Concordant Care in Surgical Oncology		Levy Room
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Parallel Session: Goal Concordant Care: Concepts and Framework	Dr. Justin Sanders	Buffalo Bayou
	Parallel Oral Abstracts: Educational Gaps and Opportunities		Hermann Hall (floor 2)
	Parallel Workshop: How An Intermediate Care Unit Can Help Support Goal Concordant Care		Levy (floor 2)
	Parallel Workshop: Improving Goal-Concordant Care of Patients with Advanced Metastatic Cancer in Phase I Clinical Trial: Navigating challenges and maintaining Hope		Buffalo Bayou (floor 2)
12:30-1:30 p.m. Lunch and networking			
1:30-2:15 p.m.	Honing Our Communication Skills	Dr. James Tulsky	Helix Hall
2:15-3:10 p.m.	Communication Skills: How Do I Discuss Code Status?	Dr. Gavin Enck, Dr. Steven Hsu, and Dr. Michael Tang	Helix Hall
3:10-4 p.m.	Panel Discussion: Communication Skills Training: What Works?	Chair: Dr. Brandon Smaglo, Panelists: Dr. Anabelle Bitter, Dr. Abby Kaler, and Dr. James Tulsky	Helix Hall
4-5 p.m.	Panel Discussion: Let's Talk about the Difficult Stuff	Chair: Mr. Dustin Bennett Panelists: Dr. Robert Arnold, Dr. Anne Walling, and Dr. Justin Sanders	Helix Hall
5:30-7:30 p.m. Reception and networking			

Thursday, April 30

Breakfast will be served 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.

<i>Time</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Location</i>
8:30-9:15 a.m.	Measuring Goal Concordant Care	Dr. Justin Sanders	Helix Hall
9:15-10:15 a.m.	Parallel Session: Developing a Goals of Care Program of Excellence	Dr. James Tulsky	Helix Hall
	Parallel Oral Abstracts: Planning Ahead: Advance Directives and Beyond		Hermann Hall
	Parallel Workshop: From Intent to Implementation: Creating a Playbook for Goals of Care in Cancer Centers		Levy Room
	Parallel Workshop: Operationalizing Goal Concordant Care: APP-Led Models That Work		Buffalo Bayou
10:15-11:15 a.m.	Parallel Workshop: Designing and Testing an Artificial Intelligence system with Patient Simulation and Real Time Feedback for Goals of Care Conversations		Helix Hall
	Parallel Oral Abstracts: Systemic Cancer Therapy Near the End-of-life		Hermann Hall
	Parallel Workshop: Spiritual and Religious Beliefs and Medical Decision-making: Compassionate Care for Patients and caregivers' Hopes and Prayers for a Miracle		Levy Room
	Parallel Workshop: Still the Director: Serious Illness Communication When Identity, Work, and the Body Are in Conflict		Buffalo Bayou
11:15 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.	Meet the Experts	Dr. Robert Arnold, Dr. Justin Sanders, Dr. James Tulsky, and Dr. Anne Walling	Entrance rooms
	Concurrent Poster Rapid Fire Presentations and Q/A		Helix Hall
12:30-1:30 p.m.	Lunch and networking		
1:30-2:30 p.m.	A Case-based interdisciplinary Discussion: "Tell Me More"	Chair: Ms. Tori McClosky	Helix Hall
2:30-3:30 p.m.	Parallel Session: Conducting Communication Research: Pearls and Pitfalls	Dr. Robert Arnold	Helix Hall
	Parallel Oral Abstracts: Outcomes of Goals-of-Care Programs		Hermann Hall
	Parallel Workshop: Enhancing Provider Communication Skills: A Brief Primer		Levy Room
	Parallel Workshop: Integrating Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) In Spiritual Care to Strengthen Goals of Care Discussions		Buffalo Bayou
3:30-4:15 p.m.	Creating a Learning Health System to Advance Goal Concordant Care	Dr. Anne Walling	Helix Hall
4:15-4:30 p.m.	Conference Highlights	Dr. David Hui	Helix Hall
4:30-4:50 p.m.	Closing Ceremony	Rosanna Morris	Helix Hall
4:50-5 p.m.	Conference Evaluation		