HEALING WHEN THERE'S NO CURE:
NEONATAL COMFORT CARE

Speakers

- Dr Elvira Parravicini - Comfort Care Medical Director
- Nurse Fran McCarthy Comfort Care's Care Coordinator
- Alessandra Rose - Maggie’s mother, patient

Synopsis: Modern medicine has brought us enormous benefits by putting science and technology at the service of human health. What is sometimes forgotten is that, ultimately, medicine cannot be reduced to a strictly technical discipline, for the simple reason that people are not just machines in need of repair. Indeed, patients and their families are persons. This word expresses the fact that they live in relationships with other people and they also thirst for meaning, a word that also expresses a type of relationship, with the totality of being. Truly caring for a patient requires, at some level, caring for a person, and often contemporary medicine chooses to ignore this crucial question. The insufficiency of the purely technical approach to medicine is particularly obvious when one knows that the patient will not recover, as is the case for some infants who are affected by life-limiting conditions or terminal illnesses. In that case, it is an easy temptation to think that medicine has reached the boundary of its technical powers, and should just let nature run its course as quickly as possible. Therefore, it is striking to meet medical professionals who recognize that medicine is a human endeavor, and who are willing to really look at babies and their parents as people, in the belief that, no matter how brief, each baby’s life is precious and needs to be welcomed and cherished. Tonight, we have the privilege to learn about one such group of medical professionals, the Neonatal Comfort Care Program at New York Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital.

https://youtu.be/0r14A-Ic76A
https://youtu.be/XuAf4_z4YE
https://youtu.be/JGxYUscS3Zk

Original video links and synopsis from Crossroads Cultural Center.