**Testimonials from CIS Training Day 27th March 2018**

**Asif Butt – Practice Manager, Bury**

“The series of meetings and training that I have been fortunate enough to attend regarding End of Life Care, led by Dr. Mehrunisha Suleman, have had a significant positive impact on the outcomes that we are producing. The 'burial support' document for Muslims will now have a more detailed End of Life Care addition, addressing wills, organ transplantation and where care can be delivered (i.e., care homes and at home). Some of these discussions have historically been either treated as taboos or have been surrounded by misinformation, leading to confusion and poor decision making, both at home and in hospital settings. The document will serve to clarify issues and support informed decision making for clinicians, care providers, families and chaplains. This is also developing into some thing that we are planning to present and share across Greater Manchester, for Greater Manchester's Muslim communities and for the wider population. It can potentially be used as a template for other BAME groups to develop End of Life resources.

Four of the speakers at more recent events have been generous with their time and are supporting the production of our End of Life Care resources. They have clearly been carefully selected by the organisers for their specialist knowledge, selflessness and willingness to support and share best practice. I simply would not have had access to these specialists had I not been invited to the sessions in Cambridge.

I attend these sessions from Manchester. I leave home at 4.20am and return home late in the evening, and have had to work the following day on each occasion. I have returned to work energised and eager to amend and develop the work we are doing. Some of our GPs are actually starting to ask if they could attend future sessions, based on the feedback I have given them from my learning. As a result, I will be planning an End of Life workshop with local Muslim GPs and our Coroner's office later in the year. I will be drawing explicitly from the learning that I have benefited from in Cambridge, and will report back to Dr. Mehrunisha Suleman with our outcomes. This is a project that will produce outcomes that will reduce suffering and enable better decision making for families, clinicians, care providers and chaplains. Patients and families experiencing End of Life care, from all communities, will experience less stress at a time when they are most vulnerable. I applaud the efforts and sincerity of the organisers and hope to remain in touch with participants long after the project has been concluded.”

**Rt Reverend Christopher Herbert – Bishop of St Albans (1995-2009)**

“Study Days spent deepening our understanding of major ethical, human and religious issues are never wasted, especially if the participants are willing to listen to each other with courteous grace and humility.  The Centre for Islamic Studies is at the forefront of this work. It's a privilege to be able to play a small part in it.”

**Dr Sabena Jameel - GP, Deputy Dean of GP Education, Birmingham**

“It was a great pleasure to be invited to the End-of-Life care training event at the Centre for Islamic Studies at Cambridge University. The delegates and speakers were engaged and committed to learning and sharing ideas about caring for (Muslim) patients. We heard from many diverse speakers and the reflections on their experiences, we also had opportunity to explore case studies. It was and enlightening day with a congenial atmosphere. Well done to Mehrunisha and the team for putting on such a great event".

**Imam Yunus Dudhwalla - Lead Chaplain, Barts NHS Trust**

“A wonderful conference, and definitely one of the best I've attended due to the quality and variety of speakers, and the engaging subjects they spoke about.

**Mohamed Omer - Gardens of Peace Cemetery, Muslim Bereavement Council**

“Well organised and a very informative and productive day. Surroundings, the programme for the day, lunch and the content were excellent. More events of this nature should be organised.”

**Penny Hall - Death Café, Cambridge**

“I found this to be an excellent event - engaging, informative, excellent speakers and some fascinating conversations with other participants. I learned a lot and was particularly interested to hear about the complexity of some issues facing those caring for people and their families at the end of their lives - I left with an increased respect for the work these people do.

I particularly enjoyed spending the day in this ethnically mixed group of people and talking informally with Muslims and others who I rarely have the opportunity to talk with in this way. This opportunity in our largely segregated society seems really important and has helped me in understanding more about the Muslim culture and also in realising how very similar we all are. Our society needs more events like this!”

**Rev. Sarah Crane - Hospital Chaplain, Milton Keynes University Hospital**

“"I very much enjoyed the 'Perspectives on End of Life Care - caring for Muslim patients' training day. As a hospital chaplain it is crucial to have as wide as possible an understanding of people from different background and this enabled me to hear from a greater variety of people about their Muslim faith and how it might affect their wishes at the end of their lives. I was particularly interested in Mehrunisha's research and Sabena's role as a GP but also as a Muslim within her family. I was encouraged that all the speakers wanted to put the patient at the centre and enable people to receive care that is personal to them and their beliefs and wishes. I now have more confidence to support our Muslim patients and will be looking to further resources to grow in my understanding. Thank you for your hard work."