PLENARY 2

DEATH AND DYING IN CHILDREN

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Nothing can be more devastating than seeing a child in his death bed. The devastation affects all professionals directly involved in caring for such a child. Even more devastating is the effect on parents, siblings and family members. The language of grief and sorrow transcend geographical, cultural, ethnic or religious barriers. Even as the language is similar, subtle nuances of emotions and indications from body languages ought to be understood by us, carers to these children and their families. Failure to appreciate these subtleties risks us being labeled as being cold and insensitive. A deep intercultural understanding of death and dying is thus needed to complete our roles assisting to healers to mankind.