

## ABSTRACTS

traumatic deaths sometimes fails. The survivors in this case were parents who had lost their offspring through suicide, SIDS or accident. Despite support from their social networks, most of the parents experienced some unhelpful encounters or lack of anticipated support. Network members, for their part, because of inexperience in dealing with an unfamiliar situation often found it difficult to offer support in a way that was useful. The

parents found that openness, being able to talk about what had happened, how they felt and how they wanted to be helped, meant that they received more appropriate help, while the social networks learned how best to deal with grief and to support the bereaved. Although this study is concerned only with parents who were bereaved in a particularly traumatic context, it has relevance for anyone who is faced with the task of trying to help a bereaved friend or relative, and who is perplexed as to the best method of doing so.

## Gender, AIDS, and bereavement: a comparison of women and men living with HIV

Summers J, Zisook S, Sciolla AD, Patterson T, Atkinson JH, HNRC Group. *Death Studies* 2004; 28(3); 225-242

The purpose of this study was to examine the bereavement experience, psychiatric morbidity and tendency to suicide in bereaved men and women living with HIV who had experienced a lifetime history of major depression. The women who took part reported

greater bereavement responses, and a higher prevalence both of generalised anxiety disorder and of thoughts and gestures of suicide when compared to HIV men. HIV may force many women into a conflictual role; their forces of life-giving and nurturing may become juxtaposed with the disjunctive forces of loss, illness and death. The authors feel that if health care providers are aware of gender difference in mourning, this may enhance the quality of care given to all bereaved individuals living with HIV. **BC**

Sheila Hodges and John Bush

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Volume 23 Spring 2004 – Winter 2004

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**EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT ENDS 31 DEC 2004**

## 7th International Conference on Grief and Bereavement in Contemporary Society

**Kings College, 12-15 July 2005**

**London, UK**

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[www.crusebereavementcare.org.uk/intlconf](http://www.crusebereavementcare.org.uk/intlconf)

**LAST CALL FOR PAPERS**

**Deadline – 31st December 2004**

Speakers include: Colin Murray Parkes, William Worden, Henk Schut, Robert Neimeyer, Holly Prigerson, Leila Gupta, David Kissane

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