



# Media Announcement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Nick Haines  
KCPT Executive Producer  
Public Affairs/News  
(816) 398-4263  
@nickhainescpt  
nhaines@kcpt.org

## **KCPT tackles the taboo subject of dying**

KANSAS CITY, MO – Tuesday, December 16, 2014 - KCPT's Nick Haines will moderate a live, town-hall discussion with local experts and audience members around the documentary "Consider the Conversation" Thursday night at 8pm.

*Consider the Conversation: Stories about Cure, Relief, and Comfort* explores the effect of American medicine's success on the patient/doctor relationship and sheds light on the important role communication plays in helping both patient and doctor navigate the murky waters of severe chronic disease.

Doctors are well trained to provide life-prolonging treatments to patients with potentially fatal conditions, but a new documentary suggests they know less about an equally important tool - talking about dying. The documentary, *Consider the Conversation* warns doctors, patients, and families of the physical and emotional harm caused by aggressive, often unnecessary, end-of-life treatments.

"Doctors are afraid to tell patients they are dying," says palliative care specialist Dr. Diane Meier. "In our own fear, we steal the most important development step from people in the late stages of life, which is the ability to articulate to one another what we mean to one another."

The ninety-minute program will also take a look at how local communities are addressing the topic. In Kansas City, St. Joseph, Lawrence and beyond, people are getting together to talk about death. The Death Cafe movement started in the UK in 2011 and has spread to the U.S. Talking about death isn't everyone's cup of tea, but the idea behind Death Cafe is to help people open up and have good conversation about this taboo topic. The conversations have helped people plan for their own death and make the most of their finite lives.

KCPT will have a phone bank where viewers can call in to receive a "start the conversation" kit being made available by the Center for Practical Bioethics. Viewers can call in during the live broadcast [800-475-3343](tel:800-475-3343) or sign up online at [kcpt.org/consider](http://kcpt.org/consider).

KCPT is proud to partner with the Kansas City based Center for Practical Bioethics to bring the film to Kansas City.

---

**1** | *KCPT is a nonprofit, community-owned television station serving the greater Kansas City area that provides programming and services—on air and off—that entertain, educate and enrich the community. For more information about KCPT's programs and services, or to become a member and support public television in Kansas City, please go to [www.KCPT.org](http://www.KCPT.org).*