

## **The West Michigan Hospice and Palliative Medicine Physicians Roundtable**

The WM HPM Physicians Roundtable had its genesis during an AAHPM conference in Boston in 2010 when 4 hospice doctors from West Michigan unexpectedly but serendipitously connected. Peter Dieleman (Hospice Care of SW Michigan, Kalamazoo), Jerry Harriman (Harbor Hospice, Muskegon), Roger Phillips (Hospice of Holland, Holland), and John Mulder (Faith Hospice, Grand Rapids) spent a couple of hours sharing their experiences, joys, and frustrations of being hospice docs. In those moments, they enjoyed each other's fellowship and advice, and appreciated the value of a strong collegial connection. They pledged to reconnect when they returned to West Michigan, and for the past decade, they have kept their promise and have been regularly getting together since, enjoying a good meal, a glass of wine, and robust discussion on issues pertinent to the hospice and palliative community.

Knowing that there were other HPM physicians in the area who might also enjoy and appreciate this collaborative, they extended invitations to all in this tribe that they could identify. They continued to widen the net, and currently there over 100 hospice and palliative doctors who are invited to these gatherings.

Our Roundtable remains unique within the field of hospice and palliative medicine. It has become a meaningful time of camaraderie, where expertise is shared and long-term relationships are fostered. While successful on a personal and professional level for all of us, the community has benefited as well, as the Grand Rapids area has been identified as one of the best places to die in the United States. We believe that our ability to share best practices and support and encourage each other through the Roundtable has directly contributed to the high quality of end of life care in West Michigan.

For more information or to participate in an upcoming Roundtable, contact [sandy.reatini@trilliuminstitute.org](mailto:sandy.reatini@trilliuminstitute.org).