

RESEARCHER SPOTLIGHT SONALI MAHTANI

We are thrilled to introduce you to our Summer Research Associate Sonali Mahtani, who will be researching medical abortions. Her work will be shared in studies, infographics, and a presentation this fall.

"I am Sonali, an international medical graduate from the Philippines, currently preparing for exams to qualify for residency training in Canada. My passions include primary care, teaching, and mentoring. Anything rooted in the academic setting is my true favourite. I'm honing my research skills and deepening my commitment to the pursuit of knowledge and truth."

Welcome Sonali!



Our achievements are
made possible by donors, like you

Thank you!

Please donate to support the work of the deVeber Institute. You make it possible for our small organization to impact change. Thank you for all you do to further research and discourse on today's human life issues.

All donations are tax-deductible and immediately put to work. Donating is as easy as simply choosing one of the options below or visiting deveber.org/donate.

1. Fill in and return the enclosed donation slip
2. Securely donate online at CanadaHelps or via Square
3. E-transfer to bioethics@deveber.org
4. Call us at 416-800-2803

We are a small organization, striving to provide top research, lectures, and publication's on today's life issues. To meet these goals we rely on the support of friends - like you.



The deVeber Institute
4936 Yonge St. Suite 255
Toronto, ON M2N 6S3
www.deveber.org
416-800-2803
bioethics@deveber.org



Summer Newsletter

The deVeber Institute for Bioethics
and Social Research

*Research and Scholarship for an Informed
Social Response to Human Life Questions*

“

While working at the deVeber Institute, I have learned how to tackle complex issues such as euthanasia and abortion using sound information, emphasizing solid research, and with effective writing.

-Tiffany (former research associate)

Is that all I am worth?

A reflection on the moral injury of being offered MAiD

“I’ve fought so hard to be here—and now they just want me gone in forty-eight hours.”

When Ann* was taken to the emergency room near her home in Georgetown, ON in pain and distress, she expected care and comfort. Instead, **she was offered death.**

Ann was a woman of deep faith, courage, and resilience. Diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer, she had endured months of difficult treatment with grace and determination. But in 2023, her oncologist delivered the heartbreaking news that her body could no longer tolerate further intervention. She was sent home with a prescription for pain relief and a recommendation for palliative care.

Unfortunately, within a month, the physical and psychological toll worsened. Her devoted care partner, struggling to manage, brought her to the local hospital, hoping for support.

What followed still shocks her close friend Alice Jenkins*.

“She was in pain, needing support,” recalled Alice. “She thought she was getting a better care plan. Instead, they offered her MAiD.”

Allows an eligible person to receive a lethal dose of medication orally or intravenously

Publicly funded and legal in Canada since 2016

What is MAiD?
(Medical Assistance in Dying)

Track 1: for those whose death is “reasonably foreseeable” (no waiting period)

Track 2: for those with chronic illness or disability, but whose death is not imminent (90-day assessment period)

Ann met the Track 1 criteria and was told the procedure would “merely hasten what is inevitable.” She adamantly refused—but the damage had already been done.

“She called me afterward,” Alice said. “She felt **stripped of her dignity**. She said, **‘Is that all I’m worth? I have fought so hard to be here, and now they just want me gone in forty-eight hours!’**”

Alice, a woman of prayer, comforted Ann through Scripture and silence. “I reminded her that her life had infinite value. We were quiet for a while, and she calmed. I quoted Psalm 23, and we prayed.”

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me...” — Psalm 23:4

After Ann’s initial refusal, MAiD was never discussed again. Instead, she was given a bed at the same hospital and offered nursing care that Alice described as “excellent.”

Ann passed away two months later.

“Visits from family, friends, and a minister led to many meaningful moments of sharing and smiles. **She died loved and affirmed of her infinite value** and went home to her Father in Heaven,” Alice stated.

Ann’s experience reveals how medical professionals can falter when they treat assisted suicide as a solution to suffering rather than addressing suffering holistically.

Stories like Ann’s challenge us to ask: **Are we doing enough to safeguard the dignity of those in their final days?** In moments of despair, what patients often need most is assurance:

You are not a burden. You are worthy of care.

*Names have been changed.

Source: Government of Canada. “Medical Assistance in Dying: Overview.” Canada.ca, Oct. 28, 2024. Accessed Apr. 3, 2025.