



A key ingredient to informed patient-doctor discussions regarding end-of-life care includes the patient's ability to understand and imagine hypothetical disease states and medical interventions. However, studies suggest that there are numerous barriers to communication between doctors and patients. One innovation to surmount these barriers includes using video decision aids to reinforce end-of-life conversations. Dr. Angelo E. Volandes leads a group of internationally recognized researchers who create and study video decision aids to empower patients and families to make informed decisions at the end of life.

Dr. Volandes is a faculty member in the General Medicine Unit at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Volandes' research is focused on improving decision-making at the end of life and is supported by the NIH, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Alzheimer's Association and the Informed Medical Decisions Foundation.

He received his BA in philosophy from Harvard College his medical degree from the Yale School of Medicine, and a Masters of Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health. Following medical school, Dr. Volandes completed a residency in internal medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. He then completed fellowships in medical ethics at Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital. He was named the Edmond J. Safra Faculty Fellow in 2004-5 at the Harvard University Center for Ethics.

His first book was just released by Bloomsbury Press and is titled, *The Conversation: A Revolutionary Plan for End-of-Life Care*.

Testimonials

“Volandes has done more than anyone to translate the incomprehensible and the unimaginable into clear visual terms for real human beings trying to decide how they want to be cared for in the future.”

- Director of the Center to Advance Palliative Care; Professor of Geriatrics & Palliative Medicine, Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

“My encounter with Dr. Angelo Volandes changed the way I think about life's most precious weeks and hours, and gave me hope for a better future. Your encounter with this passionate humanitarian and the heartbreaking, inspiring stories he tells will affect you the same way.”

- Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institution.

Angelo Volandes

Speech Topics

- Healthcare

