

**PALTmed Texas Geriatrics Annual Conference 2026: *Houston: We Have Geriatrics!*
Session Objectives and Speaker Bio(s)**

**Speaker(s): Lesca Hadley, MD, MBA, FAAFP, AGSF, CMD
Theresa Murphy, LCSW-S**

**Title: *Suicide in Later Life: Understanding Risks, Evidence-Based Interventions,
and Pathways to Prevention***

Date: Friday, July 31, 2026

Time: 4:15 pm to 5:15 pm

Objectives:

1. Describe current statistics and demographic trends related to suicide in older adults, including age, gender, and medical comorbidity risk factors.
2. Identify the psychosocial, medical, and systemic contributors to suicide in the elderly, with emphasis on depression, social isolation, cognitive decline, and chronic illness.
3. Apply evidence-based approaches for assessment, treatment, and prevention of suicide in late life, including screening tools, collaborative care, and psychosocial/medical interventions.

Lesca Hadley, MD, MBA, FAAFP, AGSF, CMD

Dr Lesca Hadley received her medical degree from Texas Tech University Health Science Center in Lubbock Texas. She completed a Family Medicine Residency and Geriatrics Fellowship at John Peter Smith Hospital in Ft. Worth, Texas. Later, Dr Hadley received an MBA with a healthcare emphasis from Abilene Christian University. She is Board Certified in Family Medicine with additional Board certifications in Geriatrics and Hospice and Palliative Medicine. Dr Hadley served as the John Peter Smith Hospital Geriatrics Fellowship Program Director for fourteen years, and she was the founding Program Director for the Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship at John Peter Smith Hospital. Currently, Dr Hadley serves as the Director of Geriatrics for the Methodist Family Medicine Residency in Dallas, Texas. Dr Hadley is passionate about caring for the most vulnerable patients at home and abroad, and she is inspired by the students she teaches.

Theresa Murphy, LCSW-S

Theresa Murphy, LCSW-S is an avid mental health advocate and currently holds the position of Director of Behavioral Health at Methodist Family Medicine Residency Program. Ms. Murphy is licensed therapist and holds a supervisory license to train other therapists. Her areas of expertise include community mental health, cognitive behavioral therapy, integrative and integrated behavioral health. Ms. Murphy enjoys spending time with her family, cooking, yoga and being in nature on her time off.