Acknowledge the issue - Transcript

In the past, after someone passed away the family had to deal with certain issues and now, in addition to all these issues, the family needs to deal with the digital legacy or estate or assets that were left behind and this causes them additional pain. It's another new level of dealing, it's not instead of anything, it's on top of everything else, now in this modern era, you have to deal with the virtual and online and digital aspects of the death.

I think the main problem is that we are not aware of this, we do not acknowledge it yet, and I give organ donation as an example because ok, people don't enjoy thinking about organ donations maybe but they do give it some thought and they do at least mention it in passing and say "I would wish to donate my organs" or "I wouldn't" or how I feel about it and even if you don't want to discuss it out loud you can just discretely carry a card in your purse which says "I am a donor of organs" and it is acknowledged, it's a whole field which is acknowledged, organ donations, and the digital legacy needs to be acknowledged in the very same way.

When I took this upon myself as I said I had no idea what I was getting myself into and I think that as a society we're not yet aware of what we're getting ourselves into and we're already there and as professionals, as care givers, as family members, we need to be aware that there is an issue here that needs to be addressed and we need to deal with this and we need to prepare ourselves if it's going to be difficult and we need to prepare others that it is going to be difficult, because every person that passes away now leaves behind a vast digital legacy. It's not something futuristic, its already happening right here right now, it's already around us and maybe if we acknowledge that there is an issue here and we prepare ourselves and other people can prepare us and support us and we can support others, then maybe we can at least about this part, make it a tiny bit less difficult.

The digital footprints that people leave behind are such a huge, vast part of their life while they are alive and also after their death, when someone passes away now they leave huge digital legacies behind and that legacy is an important, significant, huge part of the general legacy that that person is leaving behind.