

ACPE RESEARCH NETWORK

WWW.ACPERESEARCH.NET

SPRING 2015

Transforming Chaplaincy: Promoting Research Literacy for Improved Patient Outcomes

The "Transforming Chaplaincy: Promoting Research Literacy for Improved Patient Outcomes" project will better equip hospital chaplains to use research to guide, evaluate, and advocate for the spiritual care they provide. Funded by two grants totaling \$4,500,000 over four years from the John Templeton Foundation, with additional support from professional chaplaincy and pastoral education organizations, the project seeks to close the gap between hospital chaplains' current limited research literacy and the importance of evidence-based care for all members of the health care team. It is co-led by George Fitchett, DMin, PhD, professor and director of research in the Department of Religion, Health and Human Values at Rush University Medical Center, and Wendy Cadge, PhD, professor of sociology and chair of the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program at Brandeis University.

The project's key training opportunities include:

Fellowships: A fellowship program will pay for 16 board-certified chaplains to complete a two-year, research-focused Master of Science or Master of Public Health degree in epidemiology, biostatistics, or public health at an accredited school of public health.

CPE Grants: Curriculum development grants will be awarded to 70 ACPE-accredited clinical pastoral education (CPE) residency programs to support incorporation of research literacy education in their curricula.

Free, Online Research Education for Chaplains: With the support of the professional chaplaincy and pastoral education organizations (the Association for Professional Chaplains, the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, the National Association for Catholic Chaplains, and Neshama—the Association for Jewish Chaplains), an online continuing education course, "Religion, Spirituality, and Health: An Introduction to Research," will be made available at no cost to members of these organizations.

Further information is available at the project website, www.researchliteratechaplaincy.org

From SC�PE Project to *Pastoral Caregiver's Casebook Series*

Between 2006-2012, the Research Network helped support the Spiritual Care Initiative for Professional Excellence (SC�PE) project, collecting a knowledge base of pastoral practices by CPE students and CPE-trained chaplains, grounded in actual encounters. That material has now been edited into a four-volume *Pastoral Caregiver's Casebook* series by John J. Gleason, DMin, and is available (2015) from Judson Press.

Over 150 Key Articles Featured with Guidance for Discussion

Our website features published studies of value to supervisors, students, staff chaplains, and researchers. A sample of topics:

- Model Practices for Teaching Research in CPE
- Patients' Spiritual Needs & Medical Costs at the End of Life
- Assessment of "Spiritual Fitness" in the US Military
- Shadowing Chaplains as a Component of Medical Education
- Effects of a "Deferring" Style of Religious Coping
- Disclosure of Near Death Experiences
- Effect of Patients' Spiritual Concerns on Patient Satisfaction
- How Muslim & Non-Muslim Chaplains Serve Muslim Patients
- Views of God as Predictive of HIV Disease Progression
- Chaplains' Access to Medical Records
- Burnout, Compassion Fatigue, and Disenfranchised Grief
- Two-Question Nursing Screen for Referrals to Chaplains
- Effect of Pastoral Care Services on Religious Coping
- Chaplains' *Presence* and Patients' Hopefulness
- The Provision of Chaplaincy Services in US Hospitals
- Mystical Experience in the Context of Health Care
- Differentiating Spiritual Experiences from Psychoses
- Spiritual vs. Secular Meditation regarding Pain Outcomes
- Spirituality/Religion and Cognitive Decline in Alzheimer's
- JCOPE Measure of Religious Coping in Jewish Populations
- Prayer Books, in which Chapel Visitors Write Prayers

Articles are paired with *Suggestions for Discussion* and lists of *Related Items of Interest* for further reading.

Incorporating Research into CPE

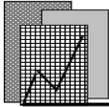
A special section of the website offers practical resources to help supervisors incorporate research into CPE curricula and departmental programs, ranging from the promotion of research literacy to the development of original studies.

Newsletters

Our online *Newsletter* reports studies by chaplains and others in the field, lists links to web resources and educational opportunities, highlights activities and projects at various ACPE Centers, and provides a forum for reflections on research by supervisors and students.

Support Research & the Network

The resources of our website are *freely available* to all who are interested in the many ways that chaplains can better understand the work of pastoral care through scientific inquiry. You can support research in the ACPE through reading and discussion with peers, and by joining the Network. Contact convener John Ehman at john.ehman@uphs.upenn.edu



May 2015

A Message from Trace Haythorn, ACPE Executive Director:

Dear Colleagues,

While it may seem a bit premature, it appears from the national office that the age of ACPE research is upon us. As you may already know [—see other side of this flyer], George Fitchett and Wendy Cadge have received a major grant from the Templeton Foundation, a key component of which involves teaching our members how to conduct research. In addition, a new study from Brigham and Women's Hospital making the rounds is a pilot conducted by Angelika Zollfrank, et al., "Teaching Health Care Providers to Provide Spiritual Care..." (published in the *Journal of Palliative Medicine*). While we have generated many articles in the past and have had a variety of studies published within our own cognate journals, we are beginning to find a need – even a demand – for our work in the larger academic world, particularly palliative care and medicine more broadly. The entire research scene seems to be growing into a new era, one in which research-based education and practice will be assumed, and the quality of that research will be exemplary.

In the coming year, our Academy will begin posting webinars and other materials designed to support supervisors who want to teach how to read, critique, and conduct research. Several programs already include a research module in their curriculum. As our work continues to improve and find its way into the publications of other professionals, I trust we will see increasing interest in your work as supervisors, in the study of spiritual care, and in effective measurement of data gathered from this work.

It is an exciting time, one for which you have been laying the foundation. It is time to start building on that foundation and enjoying the new era in our Association's work. Thanks to all of you for your interest in and dedication to ACPE research!