

**‘CARING FOR THE HUMAN SPIRIT CONFERENCE’ TO ADDRESS CRITICAL ROLE OF  
SPIRITUAL CARE IN HEALTH CARE**

*Professionals Will Learn Tools to Advance Its Practice at HealthCare Chaplaincy Network Forum*

**NEW YORK, N.Y.** (December 15, 2014)—As spiritual care and palliative care continue to gain ground on the global health agenda, HealthCare Chaplaincy Network (HCCN) will explore the critical value of supportive services in the overall health and wellness of patients and their families and how various types of professionals can integrate them into practice, at its second annual “Caring for the Human Spirit Conference” on April 20-22.

The three-day conference is geared toward physicians, nurses, social workers, palliative care teams, mental health providers, chaplains, and other health professionals, as well as researchers, educators and policymakers. It will be held at the B Resort & Spa in the Downtown Disney Resort Area, Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Leading experts in palliative care, spiritual care and oncology will address best practices and the latest research in these areas, including the integration of spiritual care into clinical practice and the palliative care setting, and its impact on the patient experience, patient satisfaction and outcomes. To help multiple disciplines utilize supportive services, interactive workshops will focus on educational approaches, and hands-on tools such as crisis-related spiritual assessment and ministering, communication techniques, grief inventory, and technology-driven chaplaincy care.

Presenting the keynote address, Christina M. Puchalski, M.D., founder and director of the George Washington Institute for Spirituality and Health, Washington, D.C., will discuss the emergent global initiative for implementation of inter-professional spiritual care.

The roster of world-renowned speakers also includes Betty Ferrell, Ph.D., RN, director and professor, Nursing Research and Education, City of Hope, a leading research and treatment center for cancer, diabetes and other life-threatening diseases in Duarte, Calif., and a member of the scientific advisory board of the National Cancer Institute.

“The ‘Caring for the Human Spirit Conference’ is extremely timely and extremely significant,” said Rev. Eric J. Hall, HCCN’s president and CEO. “It tackles major topics that impact the delivery and quality of care, at a time when research increasingly demonstrates that spiritual care is a fundamental aspect of overall health care and as both patients and professionals face a changing health care environment.”

HCCN’s upcoming conference builds on last year’s inaugural event, during which researchers released major evidence-based findings that revealed important advances in understanding the role of chaplaincy and spiritual care in treating people with serious illnesses, including cancer and ALS, and at end of life.

The conference will include plenary sessions, workshops, intensives, poster sessions, and an exhibit hall. Participants can attend in person or via webcast. CMEs and CEUs are pending. For more information and to register, including early bird registration through March 20, visit [www.healthcarechlaincy.org/conference](http://www.healthcarechlaincy.org/conference).

**About HealthCare Chaplaincy Network™**

HealthCare Chaplaincy Network™ is a national health care nonprofit organization that offers spiritual-related information and resources, and professional chaplaincy services in hospitals, other health care settings, and online. Its mission is to advance the integration of spiritual care in health care through clinical practice, research and education in order to help people faced with illness, suffering and grief find comfort and meaning—whoever they are, whatever they believe, wherever they are. For more information, visit [www.healthcarechlaincy.org](http://www.healthcarechlaincy.org), call 212-644-1111, and connect with us on [twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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