

‘CARING FOR THE HUMAN SPIRIT’ MAGAZINE EXPLORES SPIRITUAL COMPONENT OF PALLIATIVE CARE

NEW YORK, N.Y. (July 14, 2015)—With palliative care gaining increasing attention among professionals and patients, the latest issue of HealthCare Chaplaincy Network’s magazine, “Caring for the Human Spirit®,” looks at how health care institutions can address spiritual needs as a vital component of compassionate care for people with chronic or serious illnesses.

The spring/summer 2015 issue highlights the essence of palliative care—at a time when, according to the World Health Assembly, approximately 6 million people in the U.S. can benefit from palliative care, and the National Consensus Project for Quality Palliative Care states that spirituality is a “fundamental aspect of compassionate, patient- and family-centered care that honors the dignity of all persons.”

As Rabbi Edith M. Meyerson and Diane E. Meier, M.D., of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, point out in their article, “As palliative care clinicians, we empower people who are navigating serious illness to make decisions that are right for them in the context of the reality of the illness. We hear our patients’ voice and ask them important questions.”

Authors present innovative spiritual care interventions as part of the interdisciplinary approach to patient-centered care. Among them, Ronit Elk, Ph.D., discusses a culturally-tailored palliative care program to meet the unique needs of African-American and white residents in a rural South Carolina community.

The latest issue also includes how to help veterans return to a “new” life, a look at the telehealth revolution, a case study in chaplaincy care, illustrations that depict how people view death, and an inspirational essay on coping with grief through writing.

“Caring for the Human Spirit” magazine, which made its debut last summer, is designed to inform and guide chaplains, other spiritual care providers, and other health care professionals in various health care settings. It is available free by subscription and online at www.healthcarechaplaincy.org, and is one of HealthCare Chaplaincy Network’s latest initiatives to meet a growing focus on practices related to the wholeness of body, mind and spirit. Other services include “Chat with a Chaplain,” whereby people facing cancer, other illnesses, or any types of circumstances can obtain free counseling via phone or online.

About HealthCare Chaplaincy Network™

HealthCare Chaplaincy Network™ is a global nonprofit organization that offers spiritual care-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 increase patient satisfaction and help people faced with illness and grief find comfort and meaning—whoever they are, whatever they believe, wherever they are. For

more information, visit www.healthcarechlaincy.org, call 212-644-1111, and connect with us on [twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

Media contact:

Carol Steinberg

212-644-1100 ext. 121

csteinberg@healthcarechlaincy.org