

HealthCare Chaplaincy to Honor Two New York Trailblazers With Lifetime Achievement Awards
NYU Langone Medical Center, EmblemHealth Awardees Touch Lives Every Day

NEW YORK, N.Y. (October 12, 2015)—James L. Speyer, M.D., professor of medicine at NYU Langone Medical Center, and Rev. Gregory L. Johnson, senior advisor for family caregiving, office of the CEO at EmblemHealth, both in New York, will each receive a Lifetime Achievement Award from HealthCare Chaplaincy Network (HCCN) on November 5.

The nonprofit organization will present the two health care professionals with the prestigious award at its annual Wholeness of Life Gala at the Mandarin Oriental-New York.

“Dr. Speyer and Rev. Johnson stand out in the health care scene, especially in the minds and hearts of patients and their families. Each has been an innovator in their respective fields and has demonstrated a remarkable and compassionate commitment to whole-person care,” said Rev. Eric J. Hall, HCCN’s president and CEO.

Speyer is a highly-respected medical oncologist and long-time advocate for patients living with cancer. He currently serves as associate director for strategic planning, network development and public affairs at the Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center at NYU Langone; is an attending physician at NYU Langone and Bellevue Hospital Center in New York; and has authored more than 120 peer-reviewed publications.

An ordained minister, Johnson was the creator in 2005 of EmblemHealth’s Care for the Family Caregiver initiative, and, since, has been involved in multiple caregiving organizations, including the New York City Family Caregiver Coalition and the NYC chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association. He also serves as minister for the prayer circle at Marble Collegiate Church in New York; volunteer chaplain for the NYPD-GOAL (Gay Officers Action League); and spiritual director at the Addiction Institute of New York.

Also at the gala, HCCN will present Patient Care Awards to a diverse group of employees for their efforts in improving the patient experience at major New York area hospitals with which HCCN is affiliated. The awardees are: David Y. Wang, M.D., director of chronic pain education and assistant attending anesthesiologist at Hospital for Special Surgery; Doreen Bacotti, clinical nurse-breast medical oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center; Floyd Roundtree, a patient transporter at NYU Langone Medical Center, and Charles Thompson, supervisor of grounds at Winthrop-University Hospital.

Evidence is mounting that spiritual care is a vital component of a person’s overall well-being and is especially critical during illness and near end of life.

“The 2015 gala comes at a pivotal point in the world of spiritual health and in HCCN’s 54-year history,” said Hall. “While our organization continues to provide traditional bedside chaplaincy, we also have been transforming the delivery of spiritual care through technology to respond to the changing health care environment and touch more lives. It’s a concept whose time has come.”

HCCN's new services include on-call chaplaincy, in which people in spiritual distress can connect with professional multifaith chaplains via phone, email and video chat; interactive telehealth programs in palliative care and spiritual care; and HCCN-TV spiritual care programming.

For more information about the Wholeness of Life Gala, visit www.HCCNgala.org.

About HealthCare Chaplaincy Network™

HealthCare Chaplaincy Network™ is a global 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 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.healthcarechaplaincy.org, call 212-644-1111, and connect with us on [twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

Media contact:

Carol Steinberg

csteinberg@healthcarechaplaincy.org

212-644-111, ext.121