

## **SPIRITUAL CARE'S ROLE IN INTERDISCIPLINARY HEALTH CARE TO BE EXPLORED AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

*Renowned Experts, Researchers Headline Health Care Chaplaincy Network's Annual Conference*

**NEW YORK, N.Y.** (February 18, 2015)– Some of the world's most renowned experts will explore how spiritual care can be integrated into interdisciplinary practice at various types of health settings to impact the delivery and quality of health care, and a person's overall wellness, at HealthCare Chaplaincy Network's (HCCN) second annual international conference on April 20-22.

The three-day "Caring for the Human Spirit Conference" features leading experts and researchers in spiritual care and palliative care, and is geared toward physicians, nurses, social workers, palliative care teams, mental health providers, chaplains, researchers, other health professionals, and policy makers. It will be held at the B Resort & Spa in the Downtown Disney Resort Area, Lake Buena Vista, Fla.; professionals can attend in person or via a real-time webcast from any part of the world.

"It's time to shed a much-deserved spotlight on spiritual care as a fundamental component of wellness," said Rev. Eric J. Hall, HCCN's president and CEO. "As spiritual care and palliative care continue to gain ground on the global health agenda, this conference promises to address the needs of the evolving health care environment and to stimulate ongoing dialogue."

Sessions focus on best practices and the latest research in spiritual care, including its incorporation into clinical practice and palliative care, and its effect on patient satisfaction. Other topics include religion as part of the patient experience, incorporating spiritual care into medical education, tested communication techniques, and cutting-edge spiritual care delivery methods.

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

Other featured speakers are: Liliana De Lima, executive director, International Association for Hospice & Palliative Care, Houston; Betty Ferrell, Ph.D., RN, director and professor of nursing research and education, City of Hope, Duarte, Calif.; The Rev. George Handzo, director, health services, research and quality, HCCN; Karen Steinhauser, Ph.D., health scientist, The Center for Health Services Research in Primary Care, VA Medical Center, Durham, N.C.; and The Rev. John Swinton, Ph.D., professor in practical theology and pastoral care at the University of Aberdeen, King's College, Aberdeen, Scotland.

A number of research studies show that the majority of Americans say that spirituality, in some form, should be an important consideration in their health care. Yet one study showed that 72 percent of patients said their spiritual needs were minimally or not at all supported by the medical system even though spiritual support was highly associated with quality of life.

HCCN's upcoming conference builds on last year's inaugural event, which presented major research findings related to the efficacy of chaplaincy care in treating people with serious illnesses, including cancer and ALS.

The conference includes plenary sessions, workshops, intensives, poster sessions, and an exhibit hall. CMEs, CNEs and CE's are pending. For more information and to register, including early bird registration through March 20, visit [www.healthcarechaplancy.org/conference](http://www.healthcarechaplancy.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—whenever they are, whatever they believe, wherever they are. For more information, visit [www.healthcarechaplancy.org](http://www.healthcarechaplancy.org), call 212-644-1111, and connect with us on [twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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