



GWish

George Washington University Institute for Spirituality and Health

GWish is a university-based institute, working toward a more compassionate system of care and restoring the heart and humanity to medicine and healthcare. GWish seeks to bring attention to the spiritual needs of patients, families, and healthcare professionals through education, clinical work, research, and policy initiatives.

With over \$1 million in funding from the John Templeton Foundation since 2001, GWish has moved spirituality into medical school and residency curricula through competitively-based awards to creative programs. As a result of this program, more than 75% of medical schools now address spirituality in their curricula.

The next step is to develop more rigorous guidelines and competency measurements for those curricula and to move spirituality beyond the educational setting into general practice in hospitals, hospices, nursing homes, and outpatient care. Furthermore, there is demand for good educational and curricular material on spirituality and health for educators, clinicians, and others working with patients, and for the patients themselves. GWish's current initiatives address each of these needs.

National Summit to Improve Quality of Care at the End-of-Life: GWish, in collaboration with City of Hope, convened a national summit in February 2009 to build consensus around practical recommendations to improve the spiritual domain of palliative care in hospitals and nursing homes. Supported by a grant from Archstone Foundation, an organization whose funding priorities focus on end-of-life issues among other elder-care issues, this effort builds upon the important work set forth in the national guidelines published by the National Consensus Project (NCP) for Quality Palliative Care (2004) which included Spiritual, Religious and Existential Aspects of Care as a separate domain.

Consensus Conference to Formulate Competencies for Spirituality and Health Curricula: While many medical schools now include spirituality in their curricula, there is a need for a uniform set of competencies and methods to evaluate the curricula. GWish, with funding from the F.I.S.H. Foundation, has undertaken a project to develop a set of measures to improve the quality of spiritual care education. Six institutions will be selected to participate through competitive application and will form a Community of Educators that will formulate the competencies and devise a framework for measuring and reporting related outcomes. These schools will pilot the measures and will help GWish disseminate results and lead the national and international initiatives.

Integrating Spirituality into the Healthcare Setting: INSPIR: INSPIR builds on a 2004 pilot study to refine and test a model for working with hospital teams and developing more standardized (and replicable) projects to integrate spirituality and health into the healthcare setting. The model is being implemented at 8 hospital units in the Washington, DC area. The units will be evaluated on patient outcomes, specifically to increase compassion and patient-

centered care. They will also be evaluated on staff outcomes, such as team effectiveness, satisfaction, and retention.

The **2009 GWish Summer Institute on Spirituality and Healthcare**. The GWish summer institute on spirituality and healthcare will help healthcare practitioners of all disciplines, educators, and others working with patients and families make the practical connection between spirituality and health practice. The institute will help participants think newly about their practice and how to incorporate spiritual considerations into their every day work.

GWISH SOERCE: Spirituality and Health Online Education and Resource Center

The Spirituality and Health Online Education and Resource Center (SOERCE) under development by The George Washington Institute for Spirituality and Health with support from the John Templeton Foundation and the Archstone Foundation aims to be the premiere online location for educational and clinical resources for teachers, learners, and practitioners in the fields of spirituality, religion, and health.

SOERCE will be fully searchable and browse-able by subject, faith tradition, author, type of resource, and much more. Users will be able to download or follow a link to the resources. The site also will contain a national calendar of events.

Share your knowledge and expertise! SOERCE will launch in the spring of 2009, and we are seeking submissions. Please share your educational and clinical materials with others through SOERCE. We are seeking relevant:

- Articles
- Assessment tools
- Case studies and patient stories
- Teaching modules, methods, or exercises
- Guides, handbooks, and manuals
- Audio or video presentations
- PowerPoint presentations
- Patient or caregiver educational materials

All submissions are welcome and will be reviewed for inclusion on the site. We also ask for any ideas you might have about the website, links you would wish to see, and any other creative ideas you may have related to this project.

For more information please contact Laurie Lyons at hcslbl@gwumc.edu or by telephone at (202) 994-6228.

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