



Invitation for Paper Submissions: “Meet the Experts” as part of a Two-Day International Conference

Structure of the International Conference

Day 1 – March 6, 2024

The first day of the conference focuses on a scientific perspective. Researchers from diverse disciplines will convene to discuss key issues. The “Meet the Experts” format includes several thematic working groups, specifically designed to offer early-career researchers the opportunity to engage with established experts. The aim is to foster research collaborations and share valuable insights into interdisciplinary and multiprofessional concepts.

Day 2 – March 7, 2024

The second day of the conference is themed: *“Illness and Suffering as Transformative Forces? The Role of Spirituality in Medicine and Care.”*

This day is structured as a knowledge transfer conference featuring a series of lectures by renowned keynote speakers and concluding with a panel discussion (detailed information can be found in the attached program).

Conference Objectives

The conference provides a platform for international experts in academia, healthcare, and pastoral care to exchange knowledge and practical research experiences. The primary goal is to develop actionable recommendations for research-based spiritual care and build interdisciplinary bridges between theory, research, and practice in medicine, care, and pastoral services.

Call for Papers

“Why Should Medicine and Nursing-Care Be Concerned with the Spiritual Needs of Their Patients?”

This provocative question highlights the tension modern healthcare faces: the demand for high specialization versus the growing recognition that illness and suffering often touch on deeper spiritual dimensions that are not always adequately addressed. Particularly in increasingly secularized societies, spirituality—whether expressed as faith, religiosity, or a broader search for meaning—is often overlooked. Yet, in moments of crisis such as illness and suffering, spiritual questions frequently come to the forefront, serving as a resource for healing and coping or, conversely, as an additional burden.

This interdisciplinary conference aims to provide space for these discussions and to inspire new directions for research, practice, and theory. It is intended for scholars, practitioners in medicine, care, and pastoral services, and all those interested in the role of spirituality in healthcare.



Themes for Day 1: *"Meet the Experts"*

The central question is: *"Why Should Medicine and Care Be Concerned with the Spiritual Needs of Their Patients?"*

We invite you to submit a short contribution addressing one or more of the following guiding questions and themes:

1. Philosophical and Theological Dimensions

- Why are people confronted with illness and suffering? Is there a deeper meaning to it?
- What role do existential and spiritual aspects play within religious traditions and the message of suffering and redemption?

2. Interdisciplinary Perspectives

- How do various academic disciplines view the role of spirituality in dealing with illness and suffering?
- How can the International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF) model be utilized to consider spirituality, resilience, and mental health from an interdisciplinary perspective?
- How can health promotion in multiprofessional everyday practice address spiritual needs effectively?

3. Practical Approaches in Medicine and Care

- How can spiritual health promotion support coping with illness, especially when traditional healing is no longer possible?
- Which approaches specifically promote resilience and activate resources in patients through spiritual and psychosocial interventions?
- What role do forgiveness, reconciliation, and the search for meaning play as transformative elements in the healing and coping process?

4. Innovation and Systemic Questions

- How can spiritual and resilience-oriented approaches meet individual needs while accounting for the specific requirements of medical specialties and systemic demands?
- What innovative methods enable cost-efficient, holistic healthcare that systematically integrates spirituality and resilience?



Submission Guidelines

We warmly invite you to submit proposals for short contributions and poster presentations. Selected contributions will be included in a scientific publication. Please send an abstract (max. 300 words) along with a short biographical sketch by **10.02.2025**.

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We look forward to your contributions and an inspiring conference!

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Prof. Janusz Surzykiewicz