

Illness can cause an existential and ontological crisis for people as it confronts them with the fragility, vulnerability and the finitude of the human condition. This experience is intensified when children are involved or affected. Healthcare workers meet people in this space of disarray, many of them from a sense of calling. This conference will bring together leading experts, as well as a wide range of perspectives and disciplines, to explore the ways in which spirituality interacts with healing, growth and wholeness in healthcare.

Where and when

Cape Town: 19-21 October 2016

Pretoria: 24-26 October 2016

Key note speakers

Prof. Christina M Puchalski, MD, is the founder and executive director of the George Washington Institute for Spirituality and Health, Washington DC (<https://smhs.gwu.edu/gwish/>) and professor of medicine and health sciences at the George Washington University School of Medicine. Dr Puchalski is an internationally recognised pioneer in the field of spirituality and health, well known both for her 25 years of research in palliative care and inter-professional spiritual care, and for her creation of national educational and clinical models in the USA that have been emulated by leading universities and hospitals. She is also a board certified clinician in internal medicine and palliative care and a fellow of the American College of Physicians. The George Washington Institute for Spirituality and Health is changing the face of healthcare through innovative programmes for physicians and other members of the multidisciplinary healthcare team, including clergy and chaplains. Dr Puchalski's pioneering work has had a major impact on medical education, professional education, and clinical programmes in the USA and internationally.

Prof. Nicolene Joubert is the founder and director of the Institute for Christian Psychology (<http://www.icp.org.za/>). She is a registered Counselling Psychologist in private practice as well as a teacher, who obtained a Master's degree from the University of South Africa and later went on to obtain a Ph.D in Psychology from the North-west University (South Africa). Prof. Joubert is a well-known speaker on the effects of trauma and the development of Dissociative Identity Disorder. Prof. Joubert is the President of the Association of Christian Counsellors in South Africa (ACCSA). She is a lifelong honorary member of The Red Cross Society and of the Women's Federation. She is also a member of organisations such as the Psychological Society of South Africa (PsySSA) and the International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation (ISSTD). Prof. Joubert has presented research papers on the topics such as "The Impact of Worldview/Spirituality on a Therapeutic Process" at the World Conference for Psychotherapy International held in Durban, South Africa in 2014; in 2015 Prof. Joubert presented a lecture on "Conceptualising and Integrating Worldview/Spirituality in a Psychotherapeutic Process" at the University of Shanghai, China.

Major themes to be addressed at the conference

- Spirituality and wholeness in healthcare
- Spirituality and healthcare in resource poor environments
- Ethical issues in spirituality and healthcare
- Spirituality in the life of the healthcare worker
- Children / Youth and spirituality in healthcare

Conference partners

- Centre for Christian Spirituality (<http://christianspirit.co.za/>)
- Discipline of Christian Spirituality (University of South Africa)
- Department of Family Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences: University of Pretoria
- Department of Practical Theology, Faculty of Theology (University of Stellenbosch)
- Association for Christian Religious Practitioners

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