



Researcher in Care and Spirituality

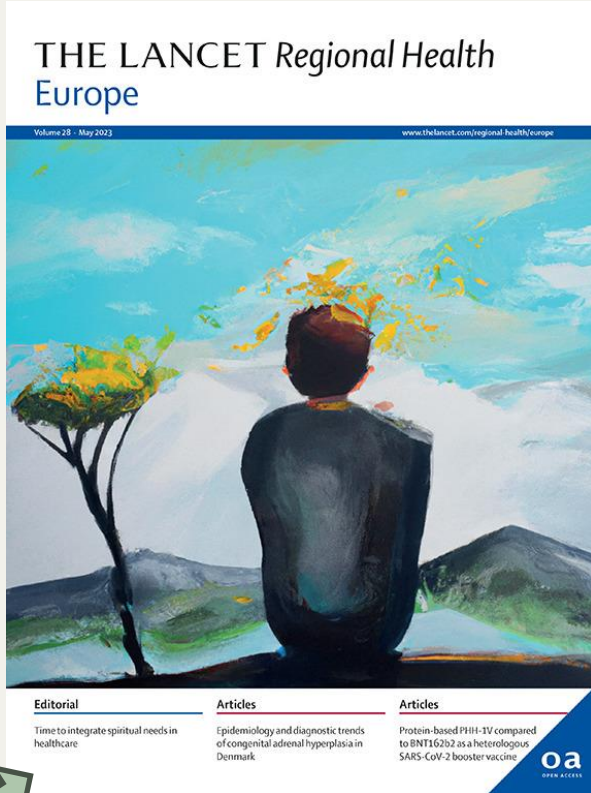
Prof. Dra. Rocío de Diego Cordero
University of Seville





Why do research in Spiritual health?





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PERSPECTIVE | FUNDAMENTALS OF MEDICAL ETHICS

Physicians, Spirituality, and Compassionate Patient Care

Author: Daniel P. Sulmasy, M.D., Ph.D. [Author Info & Affiliations](#)

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Abstract

The ethical principles of beneficence and respect for patients as whole persons may require doctors to inquire about patients' spiritual and religious needs and refer them to a chaplain as appropriate.

AUDIO INTERVIEW

Interview with Daniel Sulmasy on the role of spirituality in patient care. 8m 42s

DOWNLOAD

<https://www.nejm.org/doi/10.1056/NEJMp2310498>

JAMA Network

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Special Communication

Spirituality in Serious Illness and Health

Tracy A. Balboni, MD, MPH^{1,2}; Tyler J. VanderWeele, PhD^{3,4}; Stephanie D. Doan-Soares, DrPH⁵; et al

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ECRSH 2026

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10th European Conference on Religion, Spirituality and Health

Thank you for visiting our conference website!

Our upcoming Jubilee-Conference will be held in Basel, Switzerland, May 2026! The suggested topic is: "HEART, BRAIN AND SPIRIT - A WHOLISTIC APPROACH TO MODERN HEALTHCARE"

Please subscribe to our Newsletter to get further information about the conference, the opening of the registration and the submission of the abstracts. Meanwhile check out the videos and productions of the last conference here on [past conferences](#).

If you have any suggestions, ideas or contributions for the next Conference, please let us know about them under office@ecrsh.eu. Please consider also our rsh-website: www.rsh.ch.



The Research Institute for Spirituality and Health celebrates its 20th anniversary! Visit the website to get the news!

2026: "HEART, BRAIN AND SPIRIT - A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO MODERN HEALTHCARE"

Program for the 9th European Conference on Religion, Spirituality and Health May 16-18, 2024, Paracelsus Medical University, Salzburg (Austria)

	Thursday 16.05.	Friday 17.05.	Saturday 18.05.
08.30			
09.00		Prof. Stefan Lorenz "Spiritual Care Interventions in Neurological Disorders"	Prof. Rogier Hoenders "Spiritual Interventions in Psychiatry: Scientific, Moral and Clinical Perspectives"
09.30			
10.00		Coffee Break	Coffee Break
10.30	Conference Committee Meeting	Dr. Zehab Ghaem Panah "Spiritual Care Interventions in Islam -- what is the Difference?"	Symposia II
11.00		Prof. Silvia Caldera "Boundaries and Commitment: Spiritual Interventions in an Evidence-Based Nursing Practice"	
11.30			Break for Lunch
12.00	Registration & "Welcome Drink"		
12.30		Break for Lunch	
13.00			Dr. Rhye Patel "RS Integrated Healthcare Interventions within a Digital Age: Development and Evaluation"
13.30	Opening Session	Poster Session	Prof. Lindsay B. Carey "Moral Injury and Pastoral Care: Utilizing the WHO Spiritual Care Interventions"
14.00	Prof. Piret Paal "The Importance of Self- Understanding in Spiritual Care Education and Training"		
14.30		Symposia I	Closing Session
15.00	Dr. Michael Balboni "Theological and Ethical Reflections on Spiritual Care and Spiritual Care Interventions"		End
15.30			
16.00	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	
16.30	Dr. Fabian Winiiger "Is Clinical Spiritual Care Missing Out on the Digitalization of Healthcare?"	Free Communications	
17.00			
17.30	Prof. Harold G. Koenig "Research on Spiritual Care Interventions -- What Do We Know?"	Transfer	
18.00			
18.30	Break for Dinner		
19.00			Sightseeing or Travelling Back Home
19.30	Dona Beldacchini Lecture: Prof. Tracy Balboni "Clinical and Research Perspectives on Spirituality, Spiritual Care and Spiritual Care Interventions"	Social Evening	
20.00			
20.30			
21.00	Reception		
21.30			
22.00			
22.30	Conference Committee Meeting	Nightlife in Salzburg	



ECRSH 2026

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Session 1

Sustaining, Character, Lifestyle, Prayer and Healing

1. Towards embracing holistic care: Exploring the role and significance of religion and spirituality in the Dutch medical curriculum and medical practice	MP4
2. Prayer and healing: a study of 83 healing reports	PDF
3. The impact of Negative Moral Characters on Health: A review	MP4
4. Perceptions of wondering Awe in yoga practitioners is related to a conscious lifestyle and are predicted best by the Nyamas as ethical principles	MP4

Session 2

Measurements

1. Experiencing grace scale: Let's talk about Grace. A new Scale to assess Aspects of Grace Experiences	
2. Development and Feasibility of an Online Intervention for preventing Middle-aged Couples' depression: Applying Self-Transcendence Theory	
3. Advocacy in Nursing	

Session 3

Chaplaincy and Social Networks

1. A spiritual care intervention for chaplains in home-based care: Results of a mixed-methods study investigating the impact of the intervention on patients' spiritual wellbeing	PDF
2. The impact of spiritual care by hospital chaplains: a quasi-experimental Belgian study	PDF
3. The fairy serpent and ordination of medical personnel: Priests for healing and saving	PDF
4. Social networking as mental health care for women living with HIV during Covid in the U.S.	PDF

Session 4

Mental Health

1. Spirituality in mental clinical practice. A qualitative study among Spanish mental health providers.	
2. Religion, mental health and migration: findings, methodological challenges and follow-up questions from the Dutch context	MP4



Terminological confusion **Spirituality/Religiosity**



Defining Spirituality in Healthcare: A Systematic Review and Conceptual Framework

Marina Aline de Brito Sena^{1*}, Rodolfo Furlan Damiano¹, Giancarlo Lucchetti² and Mario Fernando Prieto Peres¹

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Objective: To investigate the definitions of spirituality in the healthcare field, identifying its main dimensions and proposing a framework that operationalizes the understanding of this concept.

Methods: This is a systematic review following the PRISMA guideline (PROSPERO: CRD42021262091), searching for spirituality definitions published in scientific journals. Searches were carried out in PubMed (all articles listed up to October 2020) and in the reference lists of the articles found in the database, followed by selection under specific eligibility criteria.

Results: From a total of 493 articles, 166 were included in the final analysis, showing that there is a large body of scientific literature proposing and analyzing spirituality definitions. In these articles, 24 spirituality dimensions were found, most commonly related to the connectedness and meaning of life. Spirituality was presented as a human and individual aspect. These findings led us to construct a framework that represents spirituality as a quantifiable construct.

Conclusions: Understanding spirituality is an important aspect for healthcare research and clinical practice. This proposed framework may help to better understand the complexity of this topic, where advances are desirable, given the relevance it has acquired for integral health care.

Keywords: spirituality, religion, religion and psychology, religion and medicine, healthcare

INTRODUCTION

Spirituality is a broad and complex concept which varies its understanding according to different cultural, religious and academic backgrounds (i.e., religious persons, scientists, or lay persons; Koenig, 2008; la Cour and Götke, 2012). In this context, there is a remarkable debate regarding the most accurate meaning, and regarding the possibility of having a single universal consensual definition for this concept (Peng-Keller, 2019). Some issues arise since the fact that spirituality is often linked and overlaps another important concepts, such as religion/religiosity and well-being/positive emotions (Hill et al., 2000).

However, due to the **lack of consensus** on the term and the existing **cultural gaps**, we propose a new spirituality framework, based on a systematic review of the literature, in which spirituality:

1. is a human individual, dynamic characteristic.
2. is expressed through beliefs, practices, and experiences in the search for connection with something that promotes meaning and personal growth
3. leads to the development of values and positive inner feelings.

OPEN ACCESS

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Research in Spiritual Health

Lack of consensus on the term

Scientific rigor

Health Outcomes

Social Impact



Scientific rigor

What is scientific rigor?

The concept of "scientific rigor" encompasses various dimensions of research quality, including "methodological integrity", "interdisciplinary collaboration", and "ethical considerations".

These themes highlight the importance of rigorous practices across different fields of study, ensuring that research is both credible and applicable.



Scientific rigor

In Spirituality...

Methodological Integrity: Reasoning and scientific inference:

Qualitative Research

Scales

Quantitative Methods

Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Biomedical sciences, humanities, and social sciences

Psychology

Social sciences

Neuroscience

Theology....

Ethical Considerations: Ethical and moral dimensions
Spirituality and religiosity as special protection data



Health Outcomes



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Chronic Diseases

Spirituality linked with better health outcomes, patient care

By Staff Writer • July 12, 2022



Health Outcomes

They noted that for healthy people, spiritual community participation (as exemplified by religious service attendance) is associated with healthier lives, including **greater longevity, less depression and suicide, and less substance use.**

For many patients, spirituality is important and influences key outcomes in illness, such as **quality of life** and **medical care decisions.**

Consensus implications included incorporating considerations of spirituality as part of patient-centered health care and increasing awareness among clinicians and health professionals about the protective benefits of spiritual community participation.



My Research Group



El grupo de investigación CTS-1149: Salud Integral y Sostenible: Enfoque Biopsicosocial, Cultural y Espiritual para el Desarrollo Humano (DesH-Global), adscrito al Departamento de Enfermería de la Universidad de Sevilla, se centra en la prestación de atención sanitaria holística.

Este grupo multidisciplinar tiene como objetivo abordar las necesidades sociosanitarias y ambientales para la salud global, con especial atención a los grupos vulnerables.

<https://grupo.us.es/deshglobal/>



My Research Group

6 lines:

- Integral bio-psycho-social care and nursing ethics in clinical care
- Attention to cultural components in care and health
- **Spiritual Health in all areas of human life**
- Research for Human Development and the eradication of inequalities in vulnerable groups
- Research in sustainability and environmental responsibility for Global Health
- Entrepreneurship and teaching innovation in the field of global health



Impact



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Salud integral y sostenible: enfoque Bio-psico-social, Cultural y Espiritual para el Desarrollo Humano - CTS-1149 (DesH-Global)

Tipo de colectivo: Grupo de investigación
Estado: Grupo definitivo
Ámbito: Andalucía
Instituciones: Universidad de Sevilla
Fecha de creación: 18/11/2024

Investiga en >

Palabras clave Líneas de investigación Resumen

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Thanks you!

