Invitation

Pre-Conference Research Workshop on Religion, Spirituality and Health

May 18-21, 2014, in MALTA

GENERAL INFORMATION

Preceding the 4th European Conference on Religion, Spirituality and Health in Malta (www.ecrsh.eu) we invite you to participate in the Pre-Conference Research Workshop. The workshop is open to all interested in research on religion, spirituality and health (accepting participants of any educational level or degree, including theologians, chaplains, physicians, nurses, psychologists, pastoral counsellors, public health specialists, epidemiologists, or other potential researchers).

The main contributor will be Prof Harold G. Koenig, currently ranked #1 among researchers in the field by Biomed Experts (www.biomedexperts.com/Concept.bme/18754/Religion). He holds a professorship at Duke University Medical Center and is director of the Center for Spirituality, Theology and Health (see biosketch). This centre offers a 2-year post-doc program in religion and health, which Dr Koenig has compressed into short-time-workshops like the one offered here.

The following topics will be discussed:

- Previous research on religion, spirituality and health
- Importance of definitions
- Understanding mechanisms and pathways
- Highest priority studies for future research
- Strengths and weaknesses of religion/spirituality measures
- Designing different types of research projects
- Statistics and statistical modelling
- Funding your research, writing a grant
- Managing a research project
- Writing a research paper for publication; getting it published
- Developing an academic career in this area

Some European experts will be present at the workshop and they will cover the following additional topics:

- Theological reflection on religion and health research
- Overview on European research and research institutions/groups
- Qualitative methods in RSH research
- Using physiological and biological parameters in research design

Individual mentorship meetings with the presenters will allow the participants to discuss their specific questions and their own research projects.
ORGANISATION

The workshop is organised by the Research Institute for Spirituality and Health (www.rish.ch) in cooperation with Prof Dr Donia Baldacchino, University of Malta. René Hefti, M.D., head of the psychosomatic department and the research institute, is responsible for the workshop.

Further information will be delivered in the near future. If you are interested please contact us to be the first on the list as places are limited.

CONTACT

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## PROGRAMME (first draft)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
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<td>Strengths &amp; weaknesses of religious / spiritual measures;</td>
<td>Designing a research project (observational studies &amp; clinical trials);</td>
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<td>Using physiological and biological parameters in research</td>
<td>Statistics &amp; Qualitative methods</td>
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<td>10:00</td>
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<td>Sources of information; Definitions;</td>
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<td>Relevance to public health</td>
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<td>12:00</td>
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<td>13:00</td>
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<td>14:00</td>
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<td>Reviews of mental &amp; physical health;</td>
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<td>Pathways &amp; mechanisms how religion affects health</td>
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<td>15:00</td>
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<td>Research in Europe;</td>
<td>Developing a research career; Highest priority studies for future research; Writing a research paper; Funding for research</td>
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<td>16:00</td>
<td>Welcome; Round of introducing individual research interests</td>
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BIOSKETCH PROF. DR. HAROLD KOENIG

Dr Koenig completed his undergraduate education at Stanford University, his medical school training at the University of California at San Francisco, and his geriatric medicine, psychiatry, and biostatistics training at Duke University Medical Center. He is board certified in general psychiatry, geriatric psychiatry and geriatric medicine, and is on the faculty at Duke as Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, and Associate Professor of Medicine.

Dr. Koenig is director of the Center for Spirituality, Theology and Health at Duke University Medical Center, and has published extensively in the fields of mental health, geriatrics, and religion, with over 300 scientific peer-reviewed articles and book chapters and 40 books in print or in preparation. He is past editor of the Medline research journal, the International Journal of Psychiatry in Medicine. His research on religion, health and ethical issues in medicine has been featured on over 50 national and international TV news programs (including NBC’s The Today Show and ABC’s Good Morning America), 100 national or international radio programs (including multiple NPR and BBC Radio 5 interviews), and hundreds of national or international newspapers or magazines (including cover stories for Reader's Digest, Parade Magazine, Newsweek, and Time).

In September 1998, Dr Koenig was invited to give testimony before the U.S. Senate concerning the benefits of religion and spirituality on health; in September 2008, Dr Koenig gave testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science & Technology. He has been interviewed by James Dobson on Focus on the Family and by Robert Schuller in the Crystal Cathedral on the Hour of Power. Dr Koenig has been nominated twice for the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion. His latest books include the The Healing Power of Faith (Simon & Schuster, 2001 paperback), The Handbook of Religion and Health (Oxford University Press, 2001), Spirituality in Patient Care, 2nd Ed. (Templeton Foundation Press, 2007), Medicine, Religion and Health (Templeton Foundation Press, 2008), Religion and Spirituality in Psychiatry (Cambridge University Press, 2009), The Handbook of Religion and Health, 2nd Ed. (2011), and Spirituality and Health Research: Methods, Measurement, Statistics, and Resources (Templeton Press, 2011).

Dr. Koenig travels widely to give workshops and seminar presentations (see www.spiritualityandhealth.duke.edu/about/speaking_engagements.html)