

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 is Prof. Harold G. Koenig, currently ranked #1 in the world among research scientists in religion, spirituality and health by Biomed Experts (www.biomedexperts.com/Concept.bme/18754/Religion). He holds a professorship at Duke University Medical Center (Internal Medicine, Psychiatry, and Behavioral Sciences). Furthermore he is director of the Center for Spirituality, Theology and Health. This center offers a 2-year post-doc program in religion and health, which Dr Koenig has compressed into a 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 modeling
- 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

European experts will complement the program with the following 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 RSH research

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

PROGRAM

ECRSH14 – pre-conference RESEARCH WORKSHOP with Professor Harold G. Koenig(*)				
	Sunday May 18 th	Monday May 19 th	Tuesday May 20 th	Wednesday May 21 st
9:00		Sources of information* Definitions* Relevance to public health*	Strengths and weaknesses of religious / spiritual measures* Designing a research project (observational studies & clinical trials)*	Developing a research career* Highest priority studies for future research* Writing a research paper* Funding for research*
10:00				
11:00				
12:00		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
13:00		Individual mentorship*	Individual mentorship*	Individual mentorship*
14:00				Recent developments in research in the USA*
15:00		Reviews of mental & physical health* Pathways & mechanisms: how religion affects health*	Using physiological & biological parameters in research (René Hefti) Quantitative methods* Qualitative methods (Constantin Klein)	Research in Europe (Arndt Büsing) Theological reflections (Niels Chr. Hvidt)
16:00	Welcome & Introduction of individual research projects and interests	Individual mentorship*	Individual mentorship*	Registration ECRSH 2014 (1 st part)
17:00				
18:00				

ORGANISATION, ACCOMMODATION, FEES

The workshop is organized by the Research Institute for Spirituality and Health (www.rish.ch) in collaboration with the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Malta at Mater-Dei-Hospital (www.um.edu.mt). René Hefti, M.D., Head of the Research Institute, and Dr Donia Baldacchino are responsible for the organization of the workshop.



Malta is very small! The Workshop venue can be reached easily by public transport (www.arriva.com.mt) especially by the bus which goes directly to Mater Dei Hospital. Hence, participants are advised to book their own accommodation, preferably in Sliema or Valletta.

The workshop fees are as follows:

- For registration (including payment) on/before December 31st, 2013: **€ 650**.
- For registration/payment after December 31st, 2013: **€ 850**.

The fee includes lectures, mentorship meetings and coffee breaks.

If you also participate in the European Conference on Religion, Spirituality and Health ECRSH in Malta, May 22-24, 2014, the fees are reduced as follows:

- Workshop and Conference registration & payment on/before December 31st, 2013:
€ 650 Workshop + € 270 Conference = € 920, **reduced to € 850**.
- Workshop and Conference registrations after December 31st, 2013:
€ 850 Workshop + € 300 Conference = € 1150, **reduced € 1050**.

**The number of participants at the Workshop is limited!
Early registration thus is encouraged to ensure a place!**

For further information contact: René Hefti, M.D., Research Institute and Klinik SGM, CH-4900 Langenthal, Phone +41 62 919 22 11, E-Mail: rene.hefti@klinik-sgm.ch, or Dr Stefan Rademacher, info@rish.ch.

For questions concerning Malta accommodation please contact Dr Donia Baldacchino: donia.baldacchino@um.edu.mt

PROF. DR. HAROLD KOENIG Professional Profile



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 a Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, and Associate Professor of Medicine at the Duke University.

Dr Koenig is the director of the *Center for Spirituality, Theology and Health* at the 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 Healing Power of Faith* (Simon & Schuster, 2001 paperback), *The Handbook of Religion and Health* (Oxford University Press, 200, 2012), *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), 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).