3. The Nitty-Gritty: Finding and Using Research

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Finding a Problem

• Reflecting on your clinical work, what questions intrigue you the most?
• What have you noticed and wondered why?
• What are the spiritual issues you have heard your patients raise?
• Are there common themes from patient to patient?
What questions might you ask?

Let the patients teach you.

* What parts of your life do you think your illness will impact the most?
* What has helped you cope with your illness?
* What has been the hardest part of adjusting to our illness?
* What do you worry about the most?
Then and Now

• It used to be that the issue was identifying an article, then getting a hold of it and making a copy.

  But now....

• The issue is having to sieve through too many articles.
Research as Resource for your Pastoral Care with Patients

Once you have a problem clearly stated:

Search the data bases by
- identifying key words.
- your key words might not be the databases’.

Look for review articles first
- identify articles mentioned in them that you think would be most helpful
- identify “classical” or most quoted articles
- identify persistent problems you need to address
Evolutionary Trend

• Article on a new or new slant on an old topic
• Several articles on a given topic
• Review of literature on a given topic
• A whole edition of a journal devoted to the topic
• A book devoted to all the studies on that topic
Theory Building

• A concept is identified (spirituality)
• Its parts are identified (relation to God, relation to others) (positive and negative)
• Tests are developed
• A theory begins to form
• A theory is tested with further research
Starting to Look

• Free: PubMed
• Subscription: institution pays: OVID, Cinahl
• Subscription: you pay
  – Usually related to journal publisher:
    Journal of Health Care Chaplaincy-til 1/13
    Chaplaincy Today – if member of APC
    Journal of Pastoral Care and Counseling: -if member of APC, ACPE
  – Find review to see if it is worth it
Databases

- OVID
- PubMed – public
- Cinahl
Journals

• *Journal of Pastoral Care and Counseling*- available through APC’s or ACPE’s website if a member.

• *Chaplaincy Today* - 2012, available online at professionalchaplains.org

• *Journal of HealthCare Chaplaincy* - will be available to APC members January 2013

• *Journal of Scientific Study of Religion*
Journals-future trends

• As research on religion/spirituality has increased, article are showing up in a wider variety of journals.

• Research in *peer reviewed* journals in the area of medicine on which you are focusing tends to be very good.
Websites

• Websites:
  – ACPE Research Network – articles of the month
    http://www.acperesearch.net/AOM_index.html
  – W. Noel Brown The Ocere-Source-a bimonthly summary of articles and studies that might be helpful to chaplains. Contact at oreresource@rocketmail.com also published in Chaplaincy Today. W. Noel Brown

In the Literature
  • Annotated bibliographies – like David Larson’s

  – Templeton Foundation
  – http://www.researchgate.net/publication/51090238_Making_our_case(s)
Websites for diseases

• webMD.com

• Medline: www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/

• Websites associated with NPOs tied to particular diseases
Books

- Handbook of Religion and Health 1st Edition (Hardcover) by Koenig, Harold G.; McCullough, Michael E.; Larson, David B. published by Oxford University Press, USA
- Medicine, Religion, and Health: Where Science and Spirituality Meet (Templeton Science and Religion Series) by Harold G. Koenig.
- Handbook of Religion and Mental Health by Harold G. Koenig
- Handbook of the Psychology of Religion and Spirituality by Raymond F. Paloutzian PhD and Crystal L. Park PhD
- Templeton Press
- Psychology of Religious Coping by Pargament
books

• Spirituality and Health Research: Methods, Measurements, Statistics, and Resources by Harold G. Koenig

• Realized Religion (PB): Research on the Relationship between Religion and Health by Theodore J. Chamberlain and Christopher A. Hall

• The Psychology of Religion and Coping: Theory, Research, Practice by Kenneth I. Pargament
More Books

• David Larson’s annotated bibliography
• Benson The Biology of Hope
• Larry Dossey
• Harold Koenig
• Kenneth Pargament
• Around a concept you will find a major author
Collecting and Reading

• When you read an article: start with abstract, the conclusion, then findings or discussion.
• If that material was on target for you – read the literature search. It may help you identify the classic articles or more resources on which to follow up.
• See what method was used.
Critiquing what you read

• George Fitchett’s article: Making our Cases, Journal of HealthCare Chaplaincy, vol 17, issue 1-2, 2011, pg 3-18

Summarize what was key for you

• Summarize what you found in the article that after your critique you want to keep in mind.
• Think of ways you might incorporate it into your pastoral work.
  – What new questions might it prompt me to ask?
  – What new themes (or old themes sharpened) might I need to pay attention to?
  – What other types of interventions might I consider?
Consider double dipping

• If none in field writing a review article

• If new book – consider writing a review of it
Activity-1

• Find an article
• Read it
• Critique it
• Describe ways in which it might be helpful to your pastoral work
Activity 2

• All Residents read the same article
• All share your understanding of it and level of credence you would give to it.
• Share your critiques
• Share the ways you might use this knowledge/understanding in your pastoral work.