



ACPE RESEARCH NETWORK

WWW.ACPERESEARCH.NET

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Best Practices Research and Use in CPE Curricula

Jack Gleason and Henry Heffernan are promoting the use of an innovative CPE protocol, the *Ideal Intervention Paper* (IIP), to accomplish two goals, one immediate and one longer term.

The first goal is for the CPE student to use the IIP to consolidate learnings gained from having presented a particular verbatim to peers and supervisor in the traditional group format.

The second goal is to collect IIPs in a national interactive database inductively organized by central issues. This will provide the basis for a succession of steps leading to the verification of evidence-based spiritual care best practices.

The IIP protocol was piloted with a resident group and three intern groups, and is currently in a second pilot phase with five resident groups. The protocol, revised in light of critiques, was presented for wider use during a workshop at the East Central Regional Fall Conference in September 2007.

Foundation funding for the IIP project is currently being sought under ACPE, Inc. sponsorship.

For more information on the project, contact Jack Gleason at: J_MGLEASON@JUNO.COM

Our Network Newsletter

The Research Network's online *Newsletter* reports studies by chaplains and others in the field, lists links to web resources of special interest, offers guidance for incorporating research into CPE programming, and provides a forum for discussion. Recent articles addressed:

- Development of the Ideal Intervention Project
- Research into Chaplains' Interventions with Burn Patients
- Using Standardized Patients in CPE and Research
- Theory and Method in Chaplaincy Research
- Research into Chaplain-to-Patient Bed Ratios
- Student Survey of PCA and OPC Chaplains
- Proposal re: Chaplains' Contribution to Lawsuit Prevention
- New Bibliographies on Spirituality and Health
- Special Journal Issues on Spirituality and Health
- ACPE Conference Poster Presentations

Articles-of-the-Month Show Spirituality Research Trends

The Research Network website highlights published studies of value to supervisors, students, staff chaplains and researchers. Recent topics have included:

- Vicarious Resilience
- Spirituality/Religion and Depression
- Chaplains' Views of Nurses as Spiritual Care Providers
- Matters of Spirituality at the End of Life in the PICU
- Influence of Awareness of Terminal Illness on Well-Being
- How Spirituality May Be Affected by Trauma
- Research into Near Death Experience
- Philosophical Approaches to the Study of Spirituality
- Spirituality/Religion and Cognitive Decline in Alzheimer's
- Patients' Conceptualizations of *Spirituality* and *Religion*
- Cerebral Blood Flow During Glossolalia
- Chaplains Involvement in Issues of Patients' Physical Pain
- Threatened Morality and Physical Cleansing
- Spirituality and Bipolar-Affective Disorder
- Spirituality and Eating Disorders
- Spiritual vs. Secular Meditation Regarding Pain Outcomes
- Physician Perspectives and Characteristics re: Spirituality
- Spiritual Assessment Instruments
- Beliefs in an Afterlife and Their Health-Related Effects

With every monthly feature are *Suggestions for the Use of the Articles for Discussion with CPE Students* and a list of *Related Items of Interest* for further reading.

Join the Research Network

The Research Network is for EVERYONE, and the resources of our website are freely available to all who are interested in the many ways that chaplains can better understand the work of pastoral care and CPE through scientific inquiry. Supervisors are invited to consider how research materials and projects may enhance curricula, and students are encouraged to explore the literature of spirituality & health as part of their professional education. *You* can support the Network by visiting the website, by discussing and promoting research with your peers, and by becoming an active member. A membership form may be downloaded directly from the web.

For more information, visit our website (WWW.ACPERESEARCH.NET) or contact the Network Convener, John Ehman (215-662-8849 or john.ehman@uphs.upenn.edu).