PASTORAL CARE RESEARCH & LITERATURE SEMINAR: 2011-2012

General Goals of the Seminar

1) Introduce students to the sources of professional and academic literature pertinent to health care chaplaincy, including literature from medical and nursing journals.

2) Familiarize students with the *Journal of Pastoral Care and Counseling* (published by the ACPE).

3) Provide students with practical experience in finding articles and reading critically in the literature of spirituality & health, including reports of research.

4) Address particular concerns about pastoral care research, including issues of scientific methodology, the character of scientific hypotheses and claims, and their underlying assumptions and theological implications.

5) Help students to utilize the literature in their own professional practice of pastoral care.

Plan for the Seminar

A) The monthly Seminar has been designated as part of the CPE residency curriculum, and so all residents are required by the supervisor to participate.

B) The Seminar will include three instructor-led sessions in October, November, and May (focused specifically on research) plus five resident-led sessions focused on articles from the health care literature or from the *Journal of Pastoral Care* (which may or may not be reports of research). Each resident will be responsible for leading one session of the Seminar on an article of his/her choosing. Resident leaders will confer beforehand with the instructor, and develop article-specific questions for the group's discussion. Resident leaders will then distribute to all participants copies of the selected article a week prior to the session, along with a memo that introduces the theme of the Seminar and gives the questions that have been developed with regard to the reading.

C) Each session will involve a presentation of material but will consist primarily of facilitated group discussion. Each participant, therefore, must have read the assigned article beforehand, in order to participate in the seminar-format discussion.

D) A report of attendance and participation will be made to the Residency Supervisor.

Major Research Themes Covered:

- science is a "way of knowing"
- the dynamics of the nascency of the field of spirituality & health research
- the terminology and conceptualization of "spirituality" and "religion" in health care
- theological and scientific assumptions in studies of spirituality & health
- how spirituality may affect health and vice-versa
- the idea of "measurement" and of "measureable effect" in this field
- understanding qualitative vs. quantitative and descriptive vs. interventional studies
- basic methodological issues in capturing relevant data about spirituality (incl. trait vs. state measures)
- trends in health care research investigating spirituality/religion as 1) a ground for “religious” social support; 2) a value basis for personal meaning-making and decision-making; and 3) a context for behavior that can influence health risk factors and the way the body works (e.g., meditation that can affect physiological reactions to stress).
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania  
Department of Pastoral Care

**Pastoral Care Research & Literature Seminar Series, 2011-2012**  
John Ehman

**Session I: Introduction to Pastoral Care Research, Part 1 (instructor-led) — October**


**Handouts:** Plan for the Seminar Series, Ways of Knowing, JPCP Tables of Contents

**Session II: Introduction to Pastoral Care Research, Part 2 (instructor-led) — November**


**Handouts:** Worksheet for Presenters, Brief RCOPE, JCOPE comparison, Problems with Questions: Thinking Critically about Questionnaire Items, Background on Coping, and Biomed Library Home Page Showing Databases

**Session III: Student Article Selection — December**


**Handouts:** Literature Databases: A Brief Selection for Chaplains; Working from a "Foothold" Article in Pastoral Care Research; Delisser, H. M., "A practical approach to the family that expects a miracle," *Chest* 135, no. 6 (June 2009): 1643-7.

**Session IV: Student Article Selection — January**


**Handouts:** Chaplains' Special Skill Sets/Characteristics Useful for Interventional Research; and Spiritual Needs, Chaplain Functions, and Outcomes for Study

**Session V: Student Article Selection — February**


**Special Guest:** Nurse from NICU

**Session VI. Student Article Selection — March**


**Handout:** The Ethical Rule of "Double Effect": Application to End-Of-Life Care

**Session VII: Student Article Selection — April**


**Handouts:** Recent Articles Citing Crawley (example of the use of the ISI Citation Index)

**Session VIII: Summary Session on Pastoral Care Research (instructor-led) — May**


**Handouts:** Summary Bibliography for the Series