Our research is focused in the following areas:

**Religious and Spiritual Coping with Illness** Many patients turn to religious or spiritual beliefs and practices for consolation and assistance in response to a crisis. Some individuals are able to find the solace and support they seek in their faith, but others are not, and a time of religious/spiritual struggle may follow. In many cases this period of religious/spiritual struggle is brief; however, there are some for whom the struggle endures. Our research seeks to improve our understanding of religious coping with illness, both its positive and negative elements, in order to inform spiritual interventions by chaplains and other health care providers.

**Race/Ethnicity Related to Religion and Spirituality** There are racial/ethnic differences in religion and spirituality. We seek to understand how these differences influence the relationship between religion/spirituality and health.

**Religion, Spirituality, and Wellness** There is growing evidence that religion/spirituality can be a protective factor against disease. We are also engaged in research in this area.

**Health Care Chaplaincy and Clinical Pastoral Education** Our research examines the work of health care chaplains. We have developed and tested curricula designed to help health care chaplains become research literate. We have also examined Clinical Pastoral Education programs, including evidence leading to their effectiveness.

**Spiritual Assessment** Our department has long been recognized, nationally and internationally, as a leader in the explicit assessment of spiritual needs and resources. We have played a leading role in developing models for spiritual screening and spiritual assessment.

**Measurement of Religion and Spirituality** Research about the relationship between religion/spirituality and health depends on good measures of religion and spirituality. Our research includes psychometric studies of several of the key instruments used in measuring religion/spirituality.

**Other** Some of our research investigates factors that may influence health beyond religion and spirituality.

**Religious and Spiritual Coping with Illness**

*Cancer*


Chronic Illness


Medical Rehabilitation


Mental Illness


Palliative Care


Religious/Spiritual Struggle


Race/Ethnicity Related to Religion and Spirituality


Religion, Spirituality, and Wellness

Aging


Cardiovascular Disease and Hypertension


**Health Care Chaplaincy and Clinical Pastoral Education**

*Health Care Chaplaincy*


Clinical Pastoral Education


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Spiritual Assessment


More Information about Spiritual Assessment

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Measurement of Religion and Spirituality


Other