

Duke Workshop Bios 2019

Zainah Abulhawa. I am a Research Associate to the Spiritual Fitness and Spiritual Care Team, HJF support to the Consortium for Health and Military Performance (CHAMP) at the Uniformed Services University. I joined the Spiritual Fitness and Spiritual Care team in June 2019 after graduating from my Master of Science in Global Health from Georgetown University. My background is in Global Health- Health Policy and Diseases Prevention, however, I have always been interested in the determinants of health, and I joined the Spiritual Fitness and Spiritual Care team to explore an area that I have no knowledge in that could be a very important determinant of the health of the individual. I am very interested in qualitative research and I am eager to learn more about the connection between spirituality and health outcomes.

Camelia Adams, M.D.



I am an academic psychiatrist from the Department of Psychiatry, University of Saskatchewan. I have MSc, (Neuroscience) from Western University (London, Ontario) and a fellowship in Mood and Anxiety Disorders, from University of Toronto. My program of research focuses on adult attachment as a vulnerability impacting numerous aspects of mental health. I have an emerging interest in spirituality/religion and mental health, and hope to further explore the role of attachment in this area. In particular I am interested in the relationship between attachment to parents and the relationship to God in monotheistic traditions. I am also interested in the relationship between faith maturity and mental health.

Amy L. Albrecht, Ph.D.



Amy is currently a Professor of Biochemistry and the Medical Laboratory Science Coordinator at Charleston Southern University. Amy graduated in 2009 with her PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of North Dakota. Prior to graduate school Amy worked as a chemist for the North Dakota Department of Health for 4 years. Amy also taught middle and high school science for one year. Amy has always been interested in studying cancer. Her dissertation involved prostate cancer and the progression of the disease due to environmental causes. Currently, her research uses natural compounds to treat cancer.

Aurellia Thompson Anderson, MDiv, MA



A native of Sacramento, CA, Aurellia serves Person County through Freedom House Recovery Center in Roxboro, NC where she coordinates Person County's Community Mental Health Support program. Prior to working in community mental health, Aurellia was a Grief Counselor at Transitions LifeCare in Raleigh, NC and a Chaplain at St. Joseph's Medical Center, Stockton where she became a Certified Palliative Care Chaplain. Aurellia obtained her MA in Counseling from Palo Alto University, M.Div from Duke University, and holds dual Bachelors degrees in English and Psychology from Howard University. Aurellia is a trained Clinical Chaplain, Marriage & Family Therapist, Substance Abuse Counselor. A former Youth Pastor and Women's Pastor of Lighthouse Covenant Church in West Sacramento, CA, Aurellia currently

serves as the Minister of Missions at Faith Community Church, Durham, NC. Her research areas of interest includes the role spirituality plays in grief stages, the effects of trauma and loss among adolescents in foster care, the role African American spirituality plays in mental health treatment. Her goal is to have an overall impact on the both the religious and medical communities.

Jason Ashe



Jason Ashe is currently a doctoral student in the Graduate Department of Human Services Psychology (subprograms: Behavioral Medicine, Community Psychology) at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Jason completed his undergraduate studies in Chemistry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and earned a Master of Divinity and Master of Theology (Th.M.) from Duke University Divinity School. He was awarded the Theology, Medicine, and Culture Fellowship to support his Th.M. training and is currently supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as a Health Policy Research Scholar for his doctoral study. Jason's research interests explore how the interactive linkages between religion, culture, and discrimination influence cardiovascular disease risk among African Americans.

Debbie S. Barrington, PhD, MPH



Debbie is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Human Science at Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington, DC. She completed her Bachelor of Arts in Cellular and Molecular Biology from Princeton University, a Masters of Public Health in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from Boston University, a Doctorate in Epidemiologic Science from the University

of Michigan, and a postdoctoral fellowship as a Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholar at Columbia University. Her research interests focus on the interplay between socioeconomic resources, sociocultural factors, perinatal health and chronic disease across the life course, and the role these interactions play in the production and reproduction of racial and ethnic health disparities within and across generations.

Trish Beckman, Ph.D.



Trish teaches in Religion and The Great Conversation Program at St Olaf College. Her research and teaching focus on the history of Christianity with particular emphasis on the diversities of Christian thought and practice; feminist theology; comparative mysticism; and spirituality in health care. As an advocate for the public understanding, discussion, and debate of all things religious she leads dynamic workshops on the elimination of bias for lawyers (CLE) and preaches and teaches regularly in various religious organizations.

Paul Carson, M.D.



Dr. Carson is a clinician and researcher who specializes in infectious diseases. In 2013 he joined North Dakota State University's graduate program in public health where he currently teaches and conducts research on the management of infectious diseases. He has had a longstanding interest in the intersection of spirituality, health, and medical practice. Given the potency of spirituality as a social determinant of health, he has become increasingly interested in the public

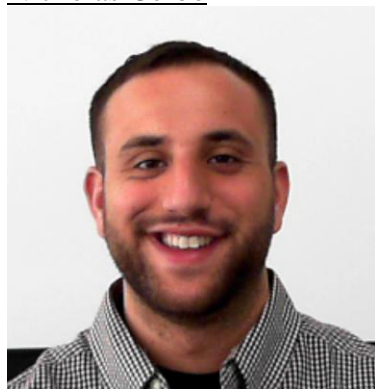
health implications of a rapidly growing secularization in the U.S., and the minimal attention and skill given to addressing patient spirituality at the medical encounter. He is looking to gain new skills in this area as he looks to shift his research focus in the latter part of his career.

Janet Carter, MDiv, BCC



Janet is the manager of Pastoral Services at Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She is responsible for the daily clinical operations of a staff of five chaplains, three resident chaplains and up to twelve Clinical Pastoral Education interns throughout the year. Ordained in the United Methodist Church, Janet is also Board Certified with the Association of Professional Chaplains. Janet is an active investigator in charge of gathering data for collaborative spirituality and mental health research studies with Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. This summer, the Pine Rest Pastoral Services Department will begin gathering data for a third study, “Clarifying how Views of the Afterlife, Hope, and Meaning Influence Suicidal Ideation in Psychiatric Inpatients”.

Nicholas Cerbo



Nick is a rising third year student in the Clinical Psychology PsyD. Program at William James College. He received his B.A. in Psychology from St. John’s University and an M.A. in Professional Psychology from William James College. He is currently training at Arbour Counseling Services in Fall River, Massachusetts gaining clinical experience in group and individual counseling with the primary population being those suffering from substance use with a co-occurring psychiatric disorder. His clinical training for this upcoming year will be at Charles River Community Health Center where he will receive further training in individual counseling and serving a diverse population coming from a low socioeconomic status. Nick’s

research interests include the interplay between mental health and spirituality among the young adulthood population.

Linda Conyers



Rev. Linda Conyers received her Master of Divinity from Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry in 2011, and is ordained and endorsed through the Presbyterian Church, USA. Rev. Conyers is board certified by both the Association of Professional Chaplains and the National Association of VA Chaplains. She completed two years of clinical chaplaincy training at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System, including the CESATE interdisciplinary fellowship in the treatment of substance use disorders. Linda currently serves as a staff Chaplain at the VA Puget Sound, working in the areas of outpatient mental health and addiction treatment. She is also a member of the supervisory faculty of the CESATE program. Linda's areas of research interest include the intersection of spirituality and addiction, moral injury, and grief.

Charis Davidson, DrPH, MPH, CHES



Dr. Charis Davidson grew up as a missionary kid in Peru and this experience ignited her passion both for public health and faith communities. She currently serves as an assistant professor in the department of Health Science at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Charis holds an MPH and DrPH in Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior as well as a graduate certificate in Women's and Gender Studies, all from the University of South Carolina. Her past work has focused on health communication in Christian campus ministries at public universities. Her research

interests include: faith placed & faith based health promotion interventions, Hispanic/Latino faith and health, sexuality and sexual health, health communication, implementation science, and qualitative research methods.

Ariel Dempsey



Ariel is a fourth-year medical student at Michigan State College of Human Medicine aspiring to become a palliative care physician who works at the interface of medicine and theology. Between second and third year of medical school, she completed a masters' in Science and Religion at the University of Oxford and upon completion of medical school she will return to Oxford to do a PhD in Science and Religion under Dr Alister McGrath. Her masters' dissertation, for which she received Distinction, was on "Depersonalization in Medicine & Religion." In her PhD she hopes to engage the problem of human suffering. Whereas much attention in theology has been focused upon finding the meaning *of* suffering, her interest is in the more existential question of finding meaning *in* suffering. Some current areas of research interest include Søren Kierkegaard, William James, Martin Buber, Charles Taylor and their respective schools of thought existentialism, pragmatism, mysticism, and secularization.

Linda Denke, PhD, RN, CCRC



Linda is the Director of Nursing Research at UTSW in Dallas Texas. Her research spans two decades, working with clinical nurses, physicians, residents, fellows, and honors students

development of qualitative and quantitative research, building research infrastructures, institutional partnerships, and local, state, national and international research coalitions. Linda is certified as a clinical research coordinator and her research interests are psychiatric nursing and co-morbidities including pain. Linda's work to this point, lays the foundation for the research development of nurses, and the groundwork for culture of inquiry. Linda was honored to be chosen to be one of the keynote speakers at the Second International Nursing Summit Forum, held on May 11-12, 2019 in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China, hosted by Guangdong Nursing Association. This was a celebratory event for the 108th International Nurses Day.

Fayron Recha Epps, Ph.D., R.N.



Dr. Fayron Epps has over 18 years of nursing experience. She is currently serving as an Assistant Professor at Georgia State University, School of Nursing. She completed her postdoctoral fellowship with the National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence and is a 2018-2019 scholar for the Tideswell Emerging Leaders in Aging Program. Dr. Epps is an active member with numerous professional organizations, including the Gerontological Society of America and the Southern Gerontological Society. Her program of research involves evidence-based practices for promoting quality of life for African Americans with dementia and their family caregivers. She is currently working on a project involving faith communities to support African American families living with dementia. She recently received an impact score of 17 on her K23 application to NIH.

Jeffrey Gang, Ph.D. candidate, D.Min, M.Div.



Jeffrey is an ordained Seventh-day Adventist minister. He holds an M.Div. from Andrews University Theological Seminary ('95) and a D.Min. in practical theology from Fuller Theological Seminary ('06). He is currently a Ph.D. candidate in theological studies in the School of Divinity, History, and Philosophy at the University of Aberdeen, UK. Jeffrey now serves as an assistant professor in the School of Religion at Loma Linda University, where he teaches courses on the integration of health, science and faith in the university's eight schools — Allied Health Professions, Behavioral Health, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health and Religion. While his research interests are far ranging from theology to ethics, Jeffrey is particularly interested in the qualitative study of Whole Person Care and import for healthcare professionals.

Ryan Gimple, Ph.D.



Ryan Gimple is an Assistant Professor in the College of Christian Studies at Charleston Southern University. Ryan currently teaches a variety of courses, including Introduction to Ministry, Christian Missions, and World Religions. After serving in a variety of ministry and educational roles in Asia over nineteen years, Ryan graduated in 2018 with a PhD in Applied Theology from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Ryan's research applied Transformative Learning

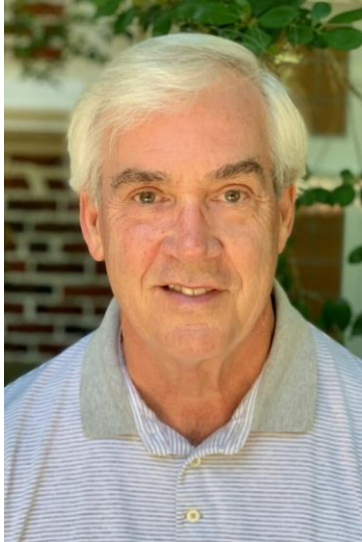
Theory and Covenant Epistemology toward understanding the process of worldview change in cross-cultural discipleship. Ryan is interested in research regarding worldview transformation, adult learning theory, and the integration of theology with other disciplines.

Meghan Goyer



Meghan is working towards her Ph.D. in Clinical and Community Psychology at Georgia State University. There she sees diverse therapy clients, and coordinates a randomized controlled trial examining a photo-narrative intervention using the Hero's Journey to help kids with cancer and sickle cell disease. She has an M.A. in religion that focused on ritual studies and provides an important backdrop for her work. Meghan's current thesis explores mechanisms of mindfulness in relation to depression. Additional current projects consider spirituality, religiosity, social connection, and self-transcendent emotions across diverse populations. She hopes to incorporate her interest in music and her background in neuroscience and yoga into her dissertation research. For this she plans to develop a program to promote spirituality, identity development, emotional intelligence and regulation, interpersonal skills, and mental health and well-being, outside the context of institutionalized religion, yet in the context of diverse community.

Dr. W. Stephen Goyer



After 33 years as a Presbyterian pastor in Atlanta and Jacksonville I have recently retired to become a consultant, grief counselor, and spiritual director. Presently I'm working with a local interfaith agency called OneJax to investigate the feasibility of building and maintaining an interfaith spirituality center in Jacksonville. I'm also passionate about helping caregivers and hospital staff considered “second victims” when bad outcomes occur in service. Healing and spirituality are as important for the care givers as it is for the patients. My personal experience of integrated emotional, spiritual, and embodied growth has developed through grief, joy, mistakes, gratitude, and relationships.

Lorraine Graves, Ph.D.



Lorraine is an Assistant professor at North Carolina Central University in Department of Social Work. She has a PhD in Human Services with a concentration in Clinical Social Work from Walden University, Master in Social Work (MSW) with a concentration in Clinical Social Work from Boston College and a BA in Human Development from Boston College. She has over 15 years of experience working as a clinical social worker in various community based settings. Her research and clinical interests center on reducing mental health disparities faced by African Americans by leveraging the church to improve mental health access, utilization and outcomes.

Sina Hafizi, M.D.



Sina Hafizi is a psychiatry resident at the University of Manitoba, Canada. His research interests focus on mental health, psychiatry, and neuroscience. In particular, Sina is interested in the role of religion/spirituality in mental health, brain imaging and brain stimulation. He has published more than 36 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. His awards and recognition include 2017 Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) postdoctoral fellowship, 2017 CIHR travel award, 2019 Diane Biehl research award and 2019 American college of neuropsychopharmacology travel award.

Darriel Harris, Ph.D. Candidate



Rev. Harris wears many hats. He serves as the pastor of Newborn Community of Faith Church in Baltimore, MD, serves as the director of the S2L2 farm (s2l2.com) created by his congregation, and is currently pursuing his PhD degree at Johns Hopkins University's School of Public Health. Rev Harris' research explores the intersection of Christianity and health behavior interventions. He is particularly interested in how biblical texts can be integrated with scientific recommendations to improve the persuasiveness of health behavior messaging. Rev. Harris is also a graduate of Duke Divinity School, and shares life with his wife and young daughter.

Rev. Ken Hellmer, M.Div., BCC



Served Air Force twenty-two honorable years as Security Policeman and Airfield Manager. Deployed Kaposvár, Hungary supported Bosnia conflict; Mosul, Iraq supported Iraq War; retired 2006. B.S. Professional Aeronautics, minor in Airport Management, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University; M.Div. concentration Expository Preaching, Assemblies of God Theological Seminary; currently second year doctoral student at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary with focus on spiritual formation for ministry leaders. Chief of Chaplain Service at VA Maine Healthcare System in Augusta, Maine. Research focus on possible interventions for moral & spiritual injury.

Susan Huehn, Ph.D.



Susan has her doctorate in Nursing Education, teaches maternal child health and behavioral health. Research interests include interprofessional education and collaboration, as well as the intersection of spirituality and nursing and nursing education. I am interested, in collaboration with Dr. Patricia Beckman on how best to educate student nurses to not only care for and cultivate their own spiritual lives as related to their profession, but also to identify ways to educate nursing students on how to provide spiritual care beyond what has traditionally been taught to nursing students.

Marta Illueca, M.D.



Marta was born in New York city and grew up in Panamá, Central America. She moved to the U.S. in the mid 80's after obtaining a medical doctorate from the University of Panamá's School of Medicine. She pursued her medical specialty in Pediatric Gastroenterology at Cornell University Medical Center in New York, where she joined the Weill Medical College faculty until 2003. In the past twelve months, Marta completed a Master of Divinity degree from Berkeley Divinity School at Yale University and a Master of Science in Pain Research, Education and Policy at Tufts University School of Medicine. Marta's unique vocation of expanding the role of sacramental practices in healthcare is at the center of her ministry goals which expand to various dimensions. She looks forward to developing programs for physicians and/or clergy about the interplay of the physical, psychological and spiritual dimensions of healing. Areas of interest include spiritual pain and the use of prayer as a therapeutic intervention for pain patients. Marta is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and an ordained priest in the Episcopal Church. Currently, she works as Curate at the Brandywine Collaborative Ministries in Wilmington, Delaware.

Kate Jonathan, Ph.D.



Kate is a lecturer in Social Work at the University of the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, Australia. She trained as a social worker and mental health nurse in the UK; where she also completed her Master of Public Health (MPH) at the University of Sheffield. Kate earned her PhD in Social Work and Social Policy from the University of York. Her doctoral study explored how socio-cultural characteristics and maternal health influence the parenting patterns of families of Pakistani origin living in Bradford, UK. Kate's research interest includes Suicide Prevention, Religion, Spirituality and Health and Social work education in regional settings.

Patrick Kelly, M.D.



I'm the son of a pastor and systematic theologian from Eastern NC who met and married my mother, a Cambridge, UK native, while they were both studying at the University of Edinburgh. After graduating from UNC in classics, I taught Latin and Greek for one year before moving down to the deserts of Trujillo, Peru for a further year before starting medical school at MUSC. During internal medicine residency at Yale New Haven, I set aside my research interests as my primary focus was preparing for long-term, overseas, medical missions; hence, I spent the final portion of residency at an HIV/TB Hospital in South Africa and continued international ID work in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia then at the LSHTM during the yearly three-month sabbaticals I was

granted in my first job out of residency. Moving back to the South in July of 2018 closer to our families, I then began working at Christ Community Augusta, Georgia. My goal is to build a research base for our clinic system, with an aim to extend it to the wider, CCHF network. I desire to systematically and longitudinally track health and spiritual outcomes for our patients. Studying spirituality and health, flourishing and suffering, we would begin longitudinal evaluation every six months over the first five years.

Carol LeCompte, MDiv, BCC



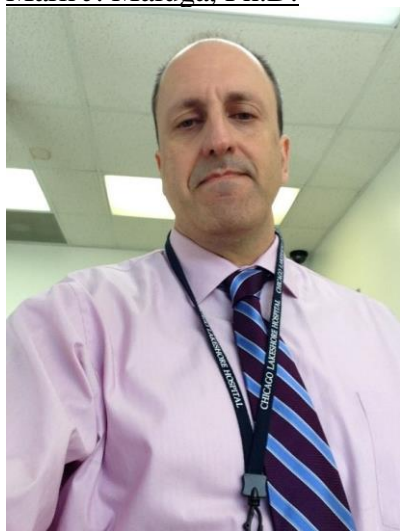
Carol is an ordained elder in the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church. After serving as Associate Pastor of Worship, Prayer, and Caring Ministries at a UM church in Chicago's Western Suburbs, she completed a CPE Residency at Advocate BroMenn Medical Center, which is located about 2 hours south of the Windy City. Currently, she is an Advanced Chaplain Practitioner at OhioHealth Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus, Ohio where she covers the Neurological Critical Care Unit and the Cardiac Critical Care Unit. Her area of Advanced Practice specialization is Resilience, a topic she is passionate about both personally and professionally. Her research interests range from cultivating caregiver resilience to incorporating chaplain narrative notes in the EMR to enhance whole person care.

Aiye Liang, Ph.D.



I am a professor at Charleston Southern University (CSU). I received my PhD degree in Analytical Chemistry in 2006 at Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics (DICP), Chinese Academy of Sciences. I focused on the investigation of molecular interactions using Capillary Electrophoresis (CE). I then did my postdoc training at Virginia Commonwealth University. I studied the isolation and characterization of lignin and the interactions between proteins and small molecules. I joined CSU in 2011. My research interests are the development and application of biophysical methods to biological and biomedical problems. This includes the investigation of molecular interactions of proteins with glycosaminoglycans (GAGs) or synthetic functional mimics of GAGs by CE, the isolation and analysis of cell surface GAGs, the effects of polymers on cancer cells using flow cytometry, fluorescence and confocal microscopy, the effects of different hydrogels on the proliferation, differentiation of stem cells, and in slow releasing of anti-cancer drugs to cancer cells.

Mark J. Maluga, Ph.D.



Dr. Maluga graduated from the Clinical Psychology PhD program at Fielding Graduate University in Santa Barbara, CA and the Human Services and Counseling MA Program at

DePaul University in Chicago, IL. Doctoral training includes: clinical postdoctoral fellowship at Chicago Lakeshore Hospital in Chicago, IL; predoctoral internship with Sutter Center for Psychiatry in Sacramento CA; and clinical externship with the HIV outpatient program at Michael Reese/Provident Cook County Hospitals. Areas of clinical specialization are Health Psychology, mind/body interventions, LGBT health, co-occurring mental health and medical symptoms, and spiritual interventions. Dr. Maluga integrates cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT), dialectical behavioral therapy (DBT), schema therapy and Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) with spiritual and complementary interventions (Mindfulness, Yoga, Humor, Hypnosis, Reiki). Research interests are “spiritual schema,” cognitive mediators of chronic/terminal disease and traditional/complementary interventions, and parapsychology (PSI) (spiritual experiences, mediumship, after death communication).

Rev. John McDonagh



Fr. McDonagh grew up in Boston and worshipped at the Paulist Center. After graduating from UMass Amherst, he studied in Rome at the Angelicum and Gregorian Universities for a STL in Theology. Later, he completed a JCL in Canon Law at St Paul University in Ottawa and a MBA at Western New England University. As a Catholic priest, he has served in parishes, Tribunal work and campus ministry at a number of colleges and universities including Duke. Currently, he coordinates Campus Ministry for the Diocese of Springfield, serves as a chaplain at Springfield College and American International College where he teaches courses including “Spirituality, Religion and Healing”. He is also a Sacramental Minister at Smith College and temporary Administrator of St Mary’s Parish, Hampden. Working with health care students and faculty, he is interested in strengthening an appreciation of including religion for more effective patient care. Also, he is interested in making available to faith based communities research findings on the influence of religion on healing.

Brandy Sky Martinez, M.A.



Brandy is a doctoral student in clinical psychology at the University of Notre Dame funded by the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program. She uses a multi-method approach that integrates behavioral, neuroendocrine and psychophysiological data to examine stress and coping within an emotion regulation framework. Currently, her research examines whether religious/spiritual coping resources offer a comparable alternative to widely used acceptance-based techniques such as mindfulness. She is originally from Miami, FL and received a double B.A. in Psychology and Philosophy from Florida International University. In her leisure time, she enjoys exploring the local food and drink scene and being outdoors, especially near water.

Maria Ester Azevedo Massola



Maria graduated in Physical Education (1987) and has a specialization in Yoga (2004) and Integrative Medicine (2013). In the field of Yoga, she has created a special work with children and adolescents, and published a Yoga book for children in 2008. Since 2012, Maria has been working at the Israeli Albert Einstein Hospital in São Paulo - Brazil, in the Integrative Medicine Group, as a Body Therapist, especially in Pediatrics. She works with inpatients and their families inside the hospital room with techniques such as Yoga, Touch Therapy, and Empathic Listening. She and her colleagues are contracted by the Oncology, Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplantation Department at the hospital. Her hospital has sent her to the workshop to develop research in the interface between spirituality and integrative therapies, mainly in pediatrics.

Vincent Matthews, DMin.



I am a staff chaplain for Mercy Health, a Catholic health care ministry serving Ohio and Kentucky. I am also a senior pastor for an inner-city congregation associated with the National Baptist Convention. Educationally, I have a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree from William Tyndale College, Master of Divinity Degree from Ashland Theological Seminary. My passion for ministry and learning led me to the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, where I graduated with a Doctor of Ministry Degree in 2014. My Thesis, “Urban Therapy: Homiletics Re-Evaluated by a Spiritual Care Philosophy.” My current research interest is in exploring how mind, body, spirit, work together, especially by applying biblical principles in trials. I am also interested in the science of resilience and the role of faith in healing.

Isaac Myers, M.D.



I am a recently qualified medical doctor with a developing interest in health and spirituality that has blossomed during parallel training in Medicine and Christian leadership. I currently work as a Pastoral Leader at a Christian leadership training school in Toronto, Canada, which specialises in counselling and pastoral care. I qualified in medicine at Cardiff University (MBBCh, 2017), and incorporated an additional BSc in Cellular and Molecular Pathology (2015) and an MSc in

Cancer Biology and Therapeutics (2017) to strengthen a clinical interest in oncology. My evolving research interests lie in the domain of oncology - specifically in the role and validity of spiritual and whole-person care approaches in modern cancer care - and I intend to pursue a doctoral degree associated with this area in the near future.

Carrie Nantais, Ph.D., M.Div.



Dr. Nantais is an early career psychologist based in Detroit, MI. She holds both a PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Detroit Mercy (UDM) and a Master of Divinity degree from Boston College. Dr. Nantais completed her pre-doctoral internship at the John Dingell VA Medical Center where she co-created and co-facilitated the first Moral Injury Group for combat veterans. Dr. Nantais has a private practice and is an adjunct professor at UDM. Her research interests include PTSD and moral injury, forgiveness, grief and loss and maternal mental health (prenatal and postpartum).

Joseph O'Donnell, M.Div candidate



I received my B.A. from Wesleyan University (CT) in 2013, and will be entering my third year in the M.Div program at Wake Forest University School of Divinity. While at Wesleyan, I wrote an Honors Thesis titled "The God Solution: Spirituality as a Healing Tool for Mental Illness and Addiction." During the research process, I discovered Dr. Koenig's and other researchers' work at the intersection of faith and health. I completed a post-baccalaureate pre-medical program soon after graduating, an experience that made me realize that my interests are better aligned with divinity school. Since starting divinity school, I have taken courses on pastoral care, and completed an invaluable Clinical Pastoral Education internship last summer at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center. I hope to enter a chaplain residency following graduation. My research

interests include: qualitative interviewing, practical spiritual and religious resources for healing, and mental health chaplaincy.

Rev. John O'Neal, MDiv, BCC



John is Director of Spiritual Care and Support at UT Southwestern in Dallas TX. His career began in classical music. He earned his Bachelor of Music from Oberlin Conservatory, Oberlin OH and his Master of Music from Indiana University, Bloomington. John sang professionally and served in ministry in churches as Director of Music. He was compelled by caregiving to pursue Master of Divinity Degree at Brite Divinity School, Fort Worth TX and was ordained by the Christian Church (DOC). He has been at UT Southwestern since 2016 and serves part time in his local congregation. His research interest pertains to spiritual care to providers with regard to moral distress, moral injury, resilience and patient satisfaction relating to provider satisfaction.

Greg Phelps, M.D., MPH, MA, FAAHPM.



Greg is Chief Medical Officer for Hospice of Chattanooga. He is a bit of a perpetual student. He's gone back for two masters degrees and a fellowship in hospice and palliative medicine. His particular interests are the intersection of religion and medicine. This has been an interest since he was drafted into an Episcopal church while working as a small town family doctor in Chester, South Carolina. One master's is in theology as it applies to health care, the other in public health. Research interests are in finding meaning and purpose at the end of life. He's been married to Gayle, a nurse, for 40 years and they have three adult children and four grandchildren.

Deborah Polanco, B.A.



Deborah is a second year grad student working on her Master's in Psychology at Cal State Los Angeles (CSULA). She received her B.A. in Psychology at CSULA and will be pursuing her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. Her main research interests include: emotional intelligence, depression, addiction, interventions, and religion. Her interest in being a clinician comes from seeing the effects of addiction and poor mental health of those close to her. She wants to not only help people who struggle with their mental health, but to better understand what factors contribute to these struggles. Deborah has worked as a research lab assistant for Ramani Durvasula Ph.D. in her Health Psychology lab. She is now venturing into her own research looking into the relationship between emotional intelligence, religious orientation, addiction interventions, and sobriety.

Jeannette H. Porter, Ph.D.



Jeannette has her Ph.D. from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She began her career in strategic communications managing native advertising sales as a high school student. Following her B.A. in Economics from Swarthmore College, she spent 10 years in fund development and community relations at The Boys Choir of Harlem; became a director of communications at PENCIL; moved to rural journalism at The Amelia Bulletin Monitor in Virginia; and, following a master's degree in multimedia journalism (Virginia Commonwealth University), found her cause in health communication. Her current research examines African American communication about mental health and mental illness with a goal of increasing

mental health help-seeking. Dr. Porter has contributed to articles in *Games for Health Journal*, *Journal of Applied Communication Research* and *Telemedicine and E-Health*.

Michael E. Roberts



I am in the process of establishing ***The Institute for the Advancement of Trauma Informed Leadership***. The mission of the Institute is to develop and support education based initiatives designed to help leaders of all kinds incorporate trauma informed principals into the culture of their organizations, congregations, and institutions. A related purpose of the Institute is to support research that identifies and validates spiritual and religious practices that support healing of trauma related illnesses. I have an M.A. in Psychology from Columbia University. I've been a labor leader, a teacher, an entrepreneur and a real estate developer. It is my conviction that there is nothing that I have done that is more important than this work. Understanding trauma theory can make us all "wounded healers". Validated spiritual and religious practices not only bring to practitioners joy and meaning, but can also help reduce human suffering by offering sensible, scalable, and proven techniques for making the mind and body a hospitable environment for healing. It is my hope that through the Institute I can enhance my own ability to articulate and advance the notion that spirit and health are inextricably tied together. I can think of nothing more important than helping to validate the notion that love, as well as other spiritual teachings and practices are not only redemptive, but can be the salve that heals physical and psychological preconditions that make our bodies susceptible to psychiatric and physical disease and interfere with natural healing. I can be reached at mroberts.bos@gmail.com.

Rev. Robert Rogers



Rev. Rogers serves as pastor of The Church of God in Christ For All Saints in Morristown, New Jersey, in his 24th year. He previously served as hospital chaplain, hospice chaplain, and bereavement group facilitator. He is a Licensed Associate Counselor (NJ) and National Certified Counselor. He holds a B.A. from Wesleyan University (Connecticut), M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary, and M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Montclair State University in Montclair, New Jersey. He is a doctoral student in Counselor Education at Montclair State University with a concentration in spirituality and counseling. His research interests include: integrating spirituality into counseling interventions; assessing the vocational stressors of clergy and promoting clergy wellness; and spiritual assessment.

Raine Shakti, MA candidate. Raine has spent her professional life working in Organizational Change Management (OCM), primarily helping corporations implement large software systems. In 2018, she decided to follow her passion for spirituality and to study Spirituality, Culture, and Health at Western Michigan University where she is enrolled in the MA program. She is currently juggling a full-time job while working toward her degree. She is eager to attend the Course on Religion, Spirituality and Health to learn about existing research in the field, research techniques, and practical applications for research. Her long-term goal is to use her practical knowledge of OCM to help health care institutes become culturally and spiritually competent so they can improve service to patients of all faiths.

Dorothy Smith-Ruiz, Ph.D.



Dorothy Smith-Ruiz is on the faculty at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She received her PhD in sociology from Michigan State University. She was granted a two-year NIA postdoctoral fellowship from the Yale University School of Epidemiology and Public Health to study mental health among African Americans. A second NIA postdoctoral fellowship was granted from The Duke University Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development to study the impact of grandparent caregiving on black families. As a Fulbright Scholar, she traveled to Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Senegal to study culture and health in urban African populations. She has served as Interim Chair of the Africana Studies Department at UNC Charlotte on three different occasions, and Director of Undergraduate Studies and adviser in the Africana Studies Department for nine years.

Kim Stansbury, Ph.D. Dr. Stansbury is Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Program in the Department of Social Work at North Carolina State University (NCSU). She teaches *Human Behavioral in the Social Environment: Social Justice* and *Social Work with Communities and Organizations* in the MSW program. She is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi (BS, Criminal Justice and Psychology), Southern Illinois University (MSW), and the University of Kentucky (Ph.D in Gerontology.) Dr. Stansbury joined the NC State faculty in 2015. She has published journal articles and book chapters on mental health, mental health literacy, gambling addiction, older adults, African American clergy, and older LGBTQ populations in journals such as the *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, *Aging and Mental Health*, *Religion and Spirituality*, and *Social Work and Mental Health*. Currently, she is working on a project with Drs. Natalie Ames and Erica Campbell on the role of the Black church in domestic violence prevention and intervention.

Heather M. Wallace, Ph.D. Dr. Wallace is a Gerontologist and Assistant Professor of Public Health at Grand Valley State University. She received her PhD in Gerontology from the University of Kentucky and completed a National Cancer Institute pre-doctoral fellowship in rural cancer control and prevention. She has conducted qualitative research examining the role of

spirituality in treatment decision making among rural head and neck cancer patients. Her research interests include exploring the role of spiritual aspects of 12 step programs like Alcoholics Anonymous as well as how intergenerational relationships and contemplative practices can be used to enhance spirituality, well-being, and health among patients, providers, and those students training to work in health care. She has developed and taught courses on spirituality in late life, vulnerable populations, health disparity, aging, and medical ethics.

Chad Waltz, LMSW



Chad currently serves as the Director of Behavioral Health for the Arizona Army National Guard providing case management and care integration for 5,200 soldiers throughout the State. Chad was a prior military police combat veteran and civilian police officer for 16 years when an Officer Involved Shooting (OIS) compelled him to a different calling in mental health. Chad earned undergraduate degrees in Clinical Psychology and Christian Theology from Grand Canyon University, his Master of Social Work degree through Arizona State. 2012 Pat Tillman Military Scholar. Chad is currently a doctoral student at Grand Canyon University where his qualitative, phenomenological study focuses on the lived experiences of combat veterans endorsing moral injury from polytraumatic exposure to war. Chad is passionately committed to his veteran and first responder communities, with research focus on combat trauma/moral injury, role of faith/spirituality for posttraumatic growth, and reintegration challenges to service members/veterans.

Zhizhong Wang, Ph.D.



Dr. Wang is Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Ningxia Medical University in Yinchuan, China. He is currently on a 1-year visiting professor scholarship at Duke University's Center for Spirituality, Theology and Health, and is working with Dr. Koenig on research related to religion and health in China, with a particular emphasis on religion and mental health in Muslims in western China. He received his doctorate in Epidemiology and Statistics from Fourth Military Medical University in China, and has been a visiting scholar at the Institute of Mental Health, Peking University in Beijing and Medical center at Nebraska university . Dr. Wang will be in charge of analyzing the data collected on religion and mental health during the Chinese National Mental Health Survey 2013-2014. He is leading the development of the first Center for Culture and Health in Ningxia Hui Ethnicity.

Lauren Wills, Ph.D.



Dr. Lauren Wills is an Assistant Professor of Biology at Charleston Southern University. She teaches General Biology, Environmental Policy and Law, and Environmental Toxicology. Dr. Wills earned a PhD in Environmental Science and a certificate in Toxicology from Duke University. After completing her dissertation, she worked as a postdoctoral researcher in drug discovery at the Medical University of South Carolina, and as a research specialist for MitoHealth, Inc. As a trained environmental toxicologist, Dr. Wills is currently interested in how communities of faith engage in the areas of environmental stewardship, creation care, and human health.