

The NIH Religion Spirituality, and Health Scientific Interest Group (RSH-SIG): Overview and Aspirations

*Presentation to the Duke University Center for Spirituality, Theology and Health
June 2024 Monthly Seminar*

Tuesday, June 25, 2024
12N – 1 PM ET Virtual

Joan Romaine, MPH, MS, LGPC, NCC
Health Specialist
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
Division of Treatment and Recovery (DTR)
Treatment, Health Services, and Recovery Branch (THSRB)

joan.romaine@nih.gov
301-594-6230

Founder and Chair
[Religion, Spirituality, and Health Scientific Interest Group \(RSH-SIG\)](#)

Outline

- Overview of the RSH-SIG
- Aspirations for the Future
- Information for Researchers
- Discussion and Q & A

Question 1

How many of you are aware of the NIH Religion, Spirituality, and Health Scientific Interest Group (RSH-SIG)?

Question 2

How many of you have ever attended an event sponsored by the NIH Religion, Spirituality, and Health Scientific Interest Group (RSH-SIG)?

Background



Joan Romaine, M.P.H., M.S.
Health Specialist
Division of Treatment and
Recovery



Raye Litten, Ph.D.
Director
Division of Treatment
and Recovery



Patricia Powell, Ph.D.
Deputy Director
National Institute on
Alcohol Abuse and
Alcoholism

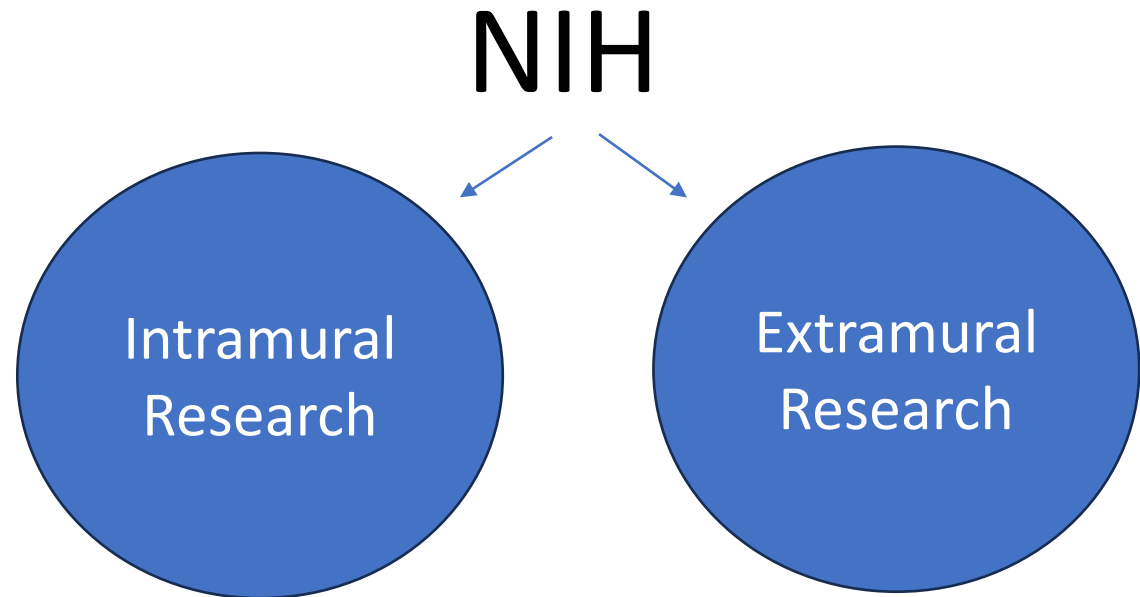
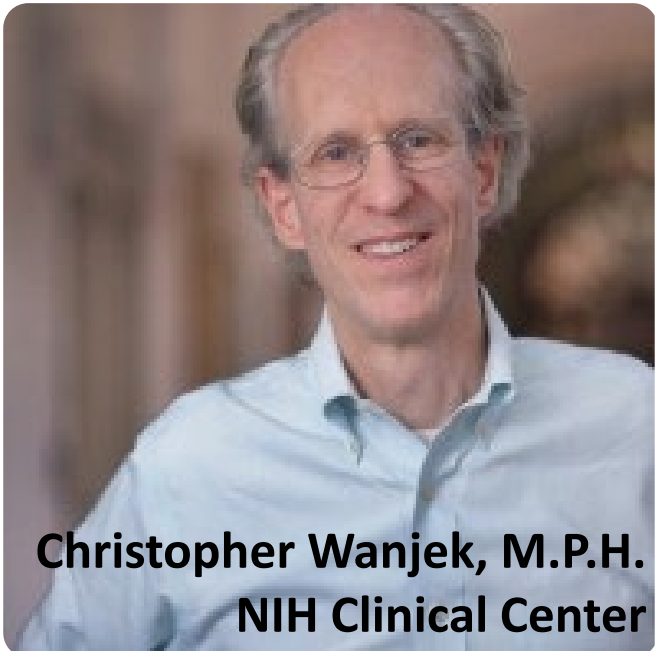


George Koob, Ph.D.
Director
National Institute on
Alcohol Abuse and
Alcoholism

It started with the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism



Approved by the
**NIH Office of
Intramural Research**



Intramural and Extramural Co-Advisors

(and Steering
Committee and Full
Group members)



Ann Berger, M.D., M.S.N.
Intramural Advisor
NIH Clinical Center



Deidra Roach, M.D.
Extramural Advisor
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

Steering Committee

Rezvan Ameli, Ph.D., CC
Ann Berger, M.D., M.S.N., CC — Intramural Advisor
Christina Brackna, NCCIH
Ranjan Gupta, Ph.D., FIC
Madelon Halula, Ph.D., NIAID
Raye Litten, Ph.D., NIAAA
Gabriela Riscuta, M.D., C.N.S., NCI
Deidra Roach, M.D., NIAAA – Extramural Advisor
Joan Romaine, MPH, MS – Founder and Chair
Dan Xi, Ph.D., NCI
Cantor Mike Zoosman, M.S.M., BCC, CC

Previous members include:

Alice Delaney, Ph.D., CC
Scott Paul, M.D., CC
John Pollack, M.Div., BCC, CC

Who We Are



RSH-SIG Full Group Members

over 70 members from across the NIH
in both intramural and extramural



Jason Wilson, M.A.

NIH OD Office of IRB Operations

Journal Club Coordinator
(and Full Group member)

Newsletter Editors



Ranjan Gupta, Ph.D.
Fogarty International Center



Joan Romaine, MPH, MS
National Institute on
Alcohol Abuse and
Alcoholism



Gabriela Riscuta, M.D.
National Cancer Institute

Founder and Chair

(and Steering Committee
and Full Group member)



Joan Romaine, MPH, MS

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

Background

- Membership in the RSH-SIG is limited to those with an NIH email address.
- Our meetings happen on Tuesdays from 2 pm – 3 pm as follows:
 - 1st Tuesday of the month: Steering Committee meets
 - 2nd Tuesday of the month: Full Group meets
 - 3rd Tuesday of the month: Reserved for Journal Club
 - 4th Tuesday of the month: Reserved for ad hoc meetings as needed
- We are one of 22 Social and Behavioral Health Scientific Interest Groups at the NIH
- There are over 120 SIGs at the NIH, but we are the first SIG to address these scientific areas in NIH history!

[Scientific Interest Groups \(SIGs\) | NIH Office of Intramural Research](#)

Purpose

- Foster communication, promote collaboration, and facilitate the exchange of information, understanding, and resources within the NIH and to/with the larger research community on the intersection of religion, spirituality (R/S) and health.
- Promote the understanding of research on the intersection of R/S and health to promote *Cura Personalis* or “care for the entire person.”
- Promote a biopsychosocial-spiritual model of care.
- Contribute to the NIH mission:
 - “...to seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability.”



Aims

- Foster research on the intersection of R/S and health and encourage the development of Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) announcements (formerly known as Funding Opportunity Announcements), standard language, and review criteria (*ongoing*)
- Highlight opportunities and gaps for research in the field and making recommendations to NIH Leadership
- Categorize and coordinate information about relevant R/S measurement tools, research, and training resources (i.e., website or dashboard) (*ongoing*)
- Communicate opportunities for training (*ongoing*)
- Identify opportunities for collaboration and possible partnerships (*ongoing*)
- Enhance communication between stakeholders in the field (e.g., researchers, funding institutions) (*ongoing*)
- Create an RSH-SIG website (public access), email, listserv, and Teams site (listserv and Teams site are internal use only) to share information about lectures, studies, and related items of interest to enhance communication. (*completed*)
- Host RSH-SIG Seminar Series (*ongoing*)
- Develop RSH-SIG Networking Events (*ongoing*)

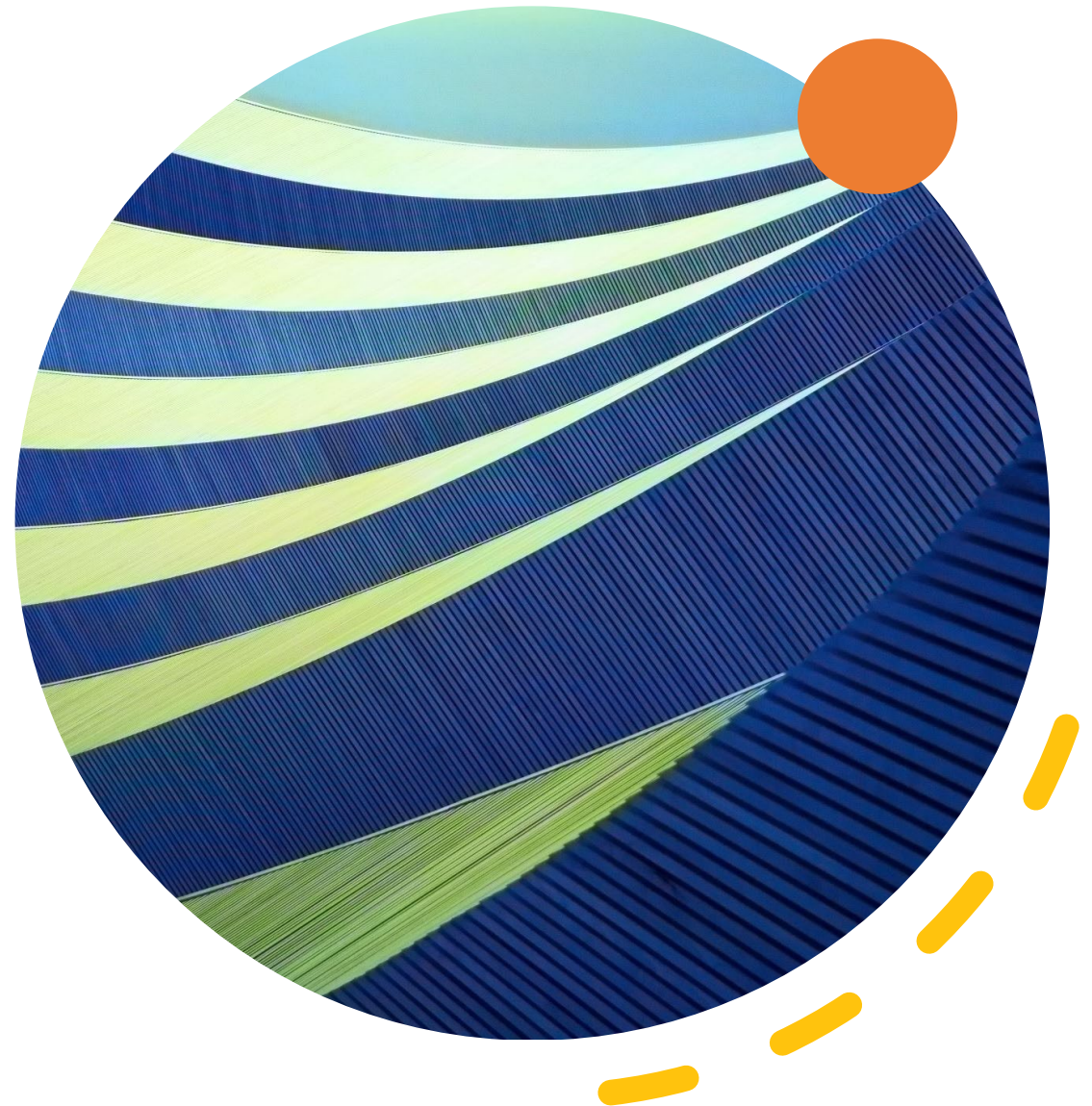
Aspirations

Changes!

- Move the needle to where research and research training on religion, spirituality (R/S) and health is prioritized and a part of the “whole person health” model at every Institute and Center.
- Go from a biomedical model to a biopsychosocial-spiritual model.

Foster & Flourish!

- Funding Opportunities
- Training Opportunities
- Awareness
- Education
- Competency
- Consideration and Inclusion



Selected Activities

- Workshop held early on with outside experts on the definitions of R/S and Health
- Compiled a list of R/S measurement tools
- Identified expert researchers and leaders in this field as possible speakers, etc.
- Identified relevant conferences and training opportunities to share info/build awareness & education, shared important papers, etc.
- Communicated with expert researchers, students, outside organizations (including other funders and organizations interested in this work)
- Met with leaders and/or or members of leadership groups at the NIH, including with NIH UNITE and *All of US*
- Held and continue to hold Journal Clubs for the NIH community
- Co-sponsored a journal club with the NIAAA Race and Medicine Interest Group
- Have worked with RCDC to have R/S terms added to the RCDC thesaurus to improve searching NIH funded projects, and for program analysis efforts, etc.

Accomplishments (as we see them)

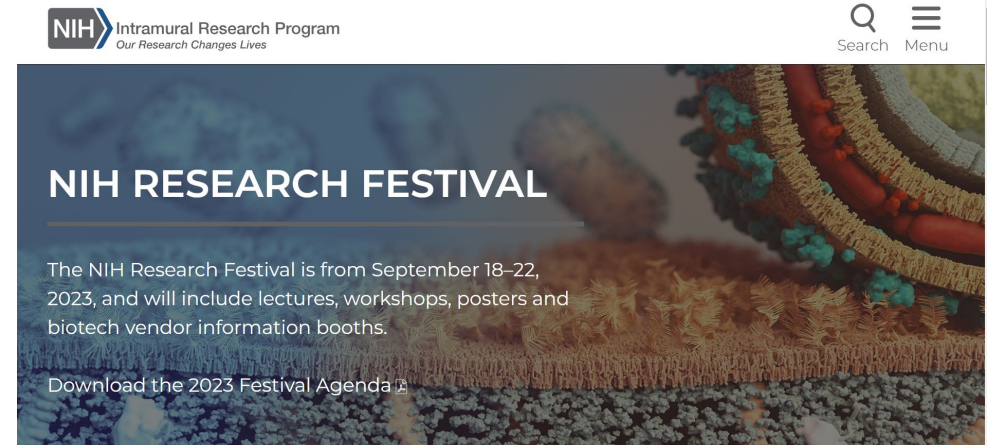
“Just having the sig has elevated the importance of religion, spirituality and health at the nih. The sig has reached out to partners and investigators in the extramural space doing research in the field and better understand their needs.”

“Journal clubs, lectures.”

“Elevating the importance of research at the intersection of religion, spirituality, and health is, in and of itself, a major accomplishment. To the webinars, journal club, and outreach to potential collaborators and extramural investigators I would add the workshop.”

Future Plans (some examples)

- **RSH-SIG Retreat – July 19, 2024 (NIH members only)**
- **Journal Club (NIH members only)**
- **Fall Seminar Series—virtual presentations (open to the public – TBD)**
- **Presentation by Dr. Francis Collins on Tuesday, November 5, 2024 (open to the public)**
- **RSH-SIG Workshop at the NIH Intramural Research Festival – September 2024**



Helpful Info For Researchers:

- NIH is Different From Other Funding Sources

- NIH funds **PROJECTS** rather than **people**

This is a small difference in words but has a large impact in how you write an application.

- The new simplified review criteria highlight this see <https://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2023/10/19/announcing-a-simplified-review-framework-for-nih-research-project-grant-applications/>

and

<https://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/tag/peer-review-2/>

New: effective Jan 2025

- Factor 1: Importance of the Research (Significance and Innovation), factor score 1-9
- Factor 2: Rigor and Feasibility (Approach), factor score 1-9
- Factor 3: Expertise and Resources (Investigator and Environment), either *rated as sufficient for the proposed research or not* (in which case reviewers must provide an explanation)

Replaces:

- Significance
- Investigators
- Innovation
- Approach
- Environment



HELPFUL INFO for Researchers:

- Investigators can apply using investigator-initiated application
- Talk to program staff at the Institutes/Centers (I/C) you are interested
- Attend I/C Advisory Council Meetings
- Subscribe to funding announcements
- There may be some ICs that have funded or currently fund research on R/S and health – check RePORTER
- Collaborate with researchers who have had success already with NIH funding
- Read the Strategic Plan of the I/C you are interested in to see what their research priorities are
For example, here is NIAAA's new Strategic Plan
<https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/about-niaaa/strategic-plan-fiscal-years-2024-2028>
- Reach out and ask, we're here to help!



Resources for Researchers: the NIH RePORT and RePORTER Tools

What is the difference between RePORT and RePORTER?

- RePORT (Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tools) website provides access to a variety of reporting tools, reports, data, and analyses of NIH research activities.
- One of the tools available on the RePORT site is the RePORTER (RePORT Expenditures and Results) module.
- RePORTER is an electronic tool that allows users to search a repository of NIH-funded research projects and access publications and patents resulting from NIH funding.

The screenshot shows the NIH RePORTER website interface. The browser address bar displays "https://reporter.nih.gov". The page features a navigation menu with "NIH RePORT" and "RePORTER" links, along with "FAQs", "API", "EXPORTER", and a "Sign In" button. A "Quick Search" section includes a search input field labeled "Search RePORTER", a "Search" button, and an "Advanced Search" button. Below the search section, there are two data visualization panels: "Active Funding by State" with a map of the United States, and "Active Projects by Institute/Center" with a bar chart showing the number of active projects across various institutes. A "Welcome to the NIH RePORTER" message is displayed on the right side of the page, along with "Guided Tour" and "Feedback" buttons. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 6:00 PM on 6/16/2024 and the temperature as 85°F.

Resources for Researchers: The PhenX ToolKit

The screenshot shows the PhenX Toolkit website homepage. The browser address bar displays <https://www.phenxtoolkit.org>. The website header features the PhenX Toolkit logo on the left and navigation buttons for Register, Log in, and My Toolkit on the right. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, Protocols, COVID-19, Search, Resources, News, Help, About, Cite PhenX, and Contact. A search bar is located below the navigation menu, with the placeholder text "Search all protocols in the Toolkit using keywords (e.g. diabetes) or PhenX ID (e.g. 011502)".

The main content area features a large banner with the text "New Social Determinants of Health protocols - click here!". Below this banner is a section titled "How can the PhenX Toolkit help me?" with a list of bullet points:

- Recommended measurement protocols - that can be used with confidence
- Features and tools to help implement the protocols

To the right of the banner are two buttons: "Research Domains" and "Browse Protocols Tree".

<https://www.phenxtoolkit.org/collections/view/6>

Virtual Seminars We've Hosted



Seminars We've Hosted – Internal and to the Public Year 1 - 2021

The Religion, Spirituality, and Health Scientific Interest Group (RSH-SIG)
is Pleased to Announce its Inaugural Presentation



Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D.
NIH Director

Harmonizing the Spiritual and Scientific Worldviews

Tuesday, February 9, 2021 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST

NIH VideoCast Event Info:

<https://videocast.nih.gov/watch=41402>

Email question(s) for the presenter in advance to RSH-SIG@nih.gov.

This event will be recorded and open to the public.
Sign Language interpretation will be available.

Disclaimer: This event has a maximum capacity of 10,000 viewers. If the event exceeds the maximum capacity, then those viewers over the threshold will not be able to view it live. However, the event is being recorded and will be available to view on demand after the event in the Past Events section of the NIH VideoCast website.

The Religion, Spirituality, and Health Scientific Interest Group (RSH-SIG)
is Pleased to Announce the Following Presentation



Dr. Eve Namisango, Ph.D.

Palliative Care, Policy, and Rehabilitation Specialist and
Programmes and Research Manager
African Palliative Care Association

Spirituality, Culture, Traditions, and Cancer Care: African Perspectives

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST

RSH-SIG Teams Site

Following the presentation there will be time
for Q&A with Dr. Namisango

This presentation is for RSH-SIG members only

Disclaimer: The views presented in this talk are those of Dr. Namisango and do not necessarily represent the views of the NIH.

See our RSH-SIG website for links to recordings

Seminars We've Hosted – Internal and to the Public

Year 1 – 2021 *continued*

The Religion, Spirituality, and Health Scientific Interest Group (RSH-SIG) is pleased to announce the following presentation:



Ann Berger, M.D., M.S.N.
Chief, Pain and Palliative Care
NIH Clinical Center

Development of an Instrument to Assess Psychosocial Spiritual Healing: The NIH HEALS

TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021 ◆ 2 PM – 3 PM ET

<https://videocast.nih.gov/watch=41800>

This event will be captioned, recorded, and open to the public. Email questions for the presenter in advance to RSH-SIG@mail.nih.gov.

Individuals needing sign language interpretation should send requests to Joan Romaine at RSH-SIG@mail.nih.gov at least 5 business days prior to the event.

The Religion, Spirituality, and Health Scientific Interest Group (RSH-SIG) is Pleased to Announce the Following Presentation to the RSH-SIG Full Group



Rezvan Ameli, Ph.D.
NIH Clinical Center
Pain and Palliative Care Department

The Effects of a Short Mindfulness-Based Self Care (MBSC) Program on Employee Stress

Tuesday, July 13, 2021
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST

For RSH-SIG Full Group Only on our Teams site.

See our RSH-SIG website for links to recordings

Seminars We've Hosted – Internal and to the Public

Year 1 – 2021 *continued*

The Religion, Spirituality, and Health Scientific Interest Group (RSH-SIG) is Pleased to Announce the Following Presentation to the RSH-SIG Full Group



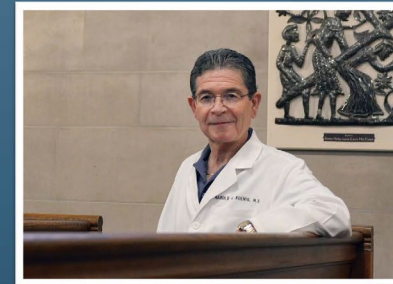
PSYCH OF RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY 101:
AVOIDING THE PITFALLS

Tuesday, August 10, 2021
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST

Ralph L. Piedmont, Ph.D.
Managing Director
Center for Professional Studies LLC

For RSH-SIG Full Group only
on our Teams site

The NIH Religion, Spirituality, and Health Scientific Interest Group (RSH-SIG) is Pleased to Announce A WebEx Event Open to the Public



Harold G. Koenig, M.D., MHSc
Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Associate Professor of Medicine
Duke University Health Systems
Director, Duke University's Center for Spirituality,
Theology and Health

Religion, Spirituality and Health: Review, Update, and Future Directions

Tuesday, December 14, 2021 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST
Registration is free and required.

To register go to: <https://tinyurl.com/ym2zsjo7>

Email question(s) for the presenter in advance to RSH-SIG@nih.gov.

This event will be recorded and captioned. Individuals needing sign language interpretation need to send a request to Joan Romaine at RSH-SIG@mail.nih.gov at least five business days prior to the event.

See our RSH-SIG website for links to recordings

Seminars We've Hosted – Internal and to the Public

Year 3 – 2023

The NIH Religion, Spirituality, and Health Scientific Interest Group (RSH-SIG) is Pleased to invite All NIH Staff to Join Us for this Presentation

"SPIRITUAL PSYCHOTHERAPY FOR INPATIENT, RESIDENTIAL & INTENSIVE TREATMENT (SPIRIT)"

**TUESDAY
MAY 16, 2023
2 PM - 3 PM ET**

WEBEX MEETING LINK
<https://nih.webex.com/nih/j.php?MTID=m5bc776f0db08d6eb381830628f999d60>

ACCESS CODE: 2554 300 2941

MEETING PASSWORD: HOPE

Individuals needing sign language interpretation need to send a request to Joan Romaine at RSH-SIG@mail.nih.gov at least five business days prior to the event.



David H. Rosmarin, PhD, APBB
Director of the Spirituality and Mental Health Program at McLean Hospital and Associate Professor of Psychology, Department of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School

The NIH Religion, Spirituality, and Health Scientific Interest Group (RSH-SIG) is Pleased to Invite All NIH Staff and the Public to Join Us for Our Spring Seminar Series Presentation

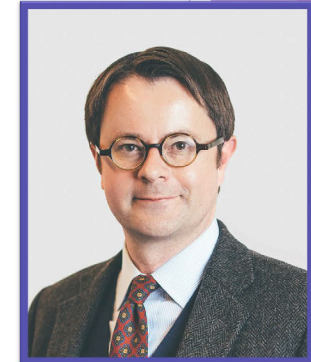
“Religion and Mental Health”

Date: Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Time: 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST

Meeting Link: [NIH VideoCast](#)

Individuals needing sign language interpretation need to send a request to Joan Romaine at RSH-SIG@mail.nih.gov at least five business days prior to the event.



Tyler J. VanderWeele, Ph.D.

Dr. VanderWeele is the John L. Loeb and Frances Lehman Loeb Professor of Epidemiology in the Departments of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and Director of the [Human Flourishing Program](#) and Co-Director of the [Initiative on Health, Spirituality, and Religion](#) at Harvard University

See our RSH-SIG website for links to recordings

Seminars We've Hosted – Internal and to the Public Year 3 – 2023

The NIH Religion, Spirituality, and Health Scientific Interest Group (RSH-SIG) is Pleased to Present

“Developing Research to Train Mental Health Providers in Spiritual and Religious Competencies”

When: Tuesday, July 18, 2023

Time: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET

Where: On Zoom

Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/2kpzkkft>

Meeting ID: 160 738 2822

Passcode: Hope

Individuals needing sign language interpretation need to send their request to Joan Romaine at joan.romaine@nih.gov at least five business days prior to the event.



Jesse Fox, Ph.D.
Associate
Professor & Chair
Stetson
University

Sponsored by the NIH Religion, Spirituality, and Health Scientific Interest Group

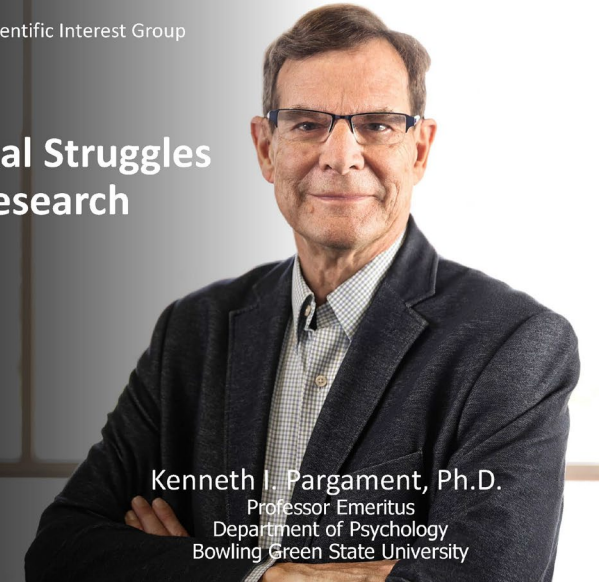
“Shaken to the Core: Spiritual Struggles as a Vital Topic for Clinical Research and Practice”

Date: Tuesday, October 17th

Time: 2 pm – 3 pm ET

Location: [NIH Videocast](#)

This event is free and open to the public. Individuals needing Sign Language interpretation need to send a request to Joan Romaine at RSH-SIG@mail.nih.gov at least five business days prior to the event.



Kenneth I. Pargament, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus
Department of Psychology
Bowling Green State University

See our RSH-SIG website for links to recordings

Seminars We've Hosted – Internal and to the Public Year 3 – 2023 and Beginning of Year 4 - 2024

The NIH Religion, Spirituality, and Health Scientific Interest Group (RSH-SIG)
is Pleased to Present our Final Webinar of the Year

Where Do Religion and Spirituality Appear in the American Psychiatric Association DSM-5-TR (2022)?

Presenter: Francis G. Lu, MD, DLFAPA

Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Time: 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm EST

On Zoom:

<https://nih.zoomgov.com/j/1619579323?pwd=aStpeVpJbTF4VzBCNGpZT3JTbGxFdz09>

Individuals needing sign language interpretation need to send their requests to Joan Romaine joan.romaine@nih.gov at least five business days prior to the event.



Francis G. Lu, MD, DLFAPA

Luke & Grace Kim Professor in Cultural Psychiatry, Emeritus
University of California, Davis

The NIH Religion, Spirituality, and Health Scientific Interest Group (RSH-SIG)
is Pleased to Present

Faith in Action: Diverse Faith Communities Serving their Community and How Researchers Can Engage

Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Time: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm EST

On Zoom:

<https://nih.zoomgov.com/j/1601002040?pwd=NmtEd01RY1ZlajBTVklRYm4xdS9mQT09>

Meeting ID: 160 100 2040

Passcode: 913976

Individuals needing sign language interpretation need to send their requests to Joan Romaine joan.romaine@nih.gov at least five business days prior to the event.



Rev. Dr. Que English

Director

DHHS Center for Faith-based
and Neighborhood Partnerships

See our RSH-SIG website for links to recordings

Seminars We've Hosted – Internal and to the Public Year 4 - 2024

The NIH Religion, Spirituality, and Health Scientific Interest Group (RSH-SIG) is Pleased to Announce Our March Webinar

COMPLEXITIES AND CONTRADICTIONS IN THINKING ABOUT RELIGION AS A SOCIAL DETERMINANT OF HEALTH

Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Time: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET

Join ZoomGov Meeting:

<https://nih.zoomgov.com/j/1617111687?pwd=ZnZGOThsR3U4TmN4SS8rTGdCSmptZz09>

Meeting ID: 161 711 1687

Passcode: 871855

Individuals needing sign language interpretation need to send their requests to Joan Romaine joan.romaine@nih.gov at least five business days prior to the event.



Ellen L. Idler, Ph.D.

Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Sociology
Director, Religion and Public Health Collaborative
Affiliate Faculty: Center for Ethics, Graduate Division
of Religion, Rollins School of Public Health,
Goizueta School of Business
Emory University, Atlanta, GA USA

The NIH Religion, Spirituality, and Health Scientific Interest Group (RSH-SIG) is Pleased to Present

Enhancing Competencies in Providing Whole-Person Care for Muslim Individuals

Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Time: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET

On Zoom:

<https://nih.zoomgov.com/j/1612662651?pwd=aGRDNIR1N1lwK1A3NkloNmX0aHpodz09>

Meeting ID: 161 266 2651

Passcode: 790120

Individuals needing sign language interpretation need to send their requests to Joan Romaine joan.romaine@nih.gov at least five business days prior to the event.



Rania Awaad, M.D.

Clinical Professor of Psychiatry
Stanford University School of Medicine
Director, Stanford Muslim Mental Health
& Islamic Psychology Lab

See our RSH-SIG website for links to recordings

How to Stay In Touch With Us



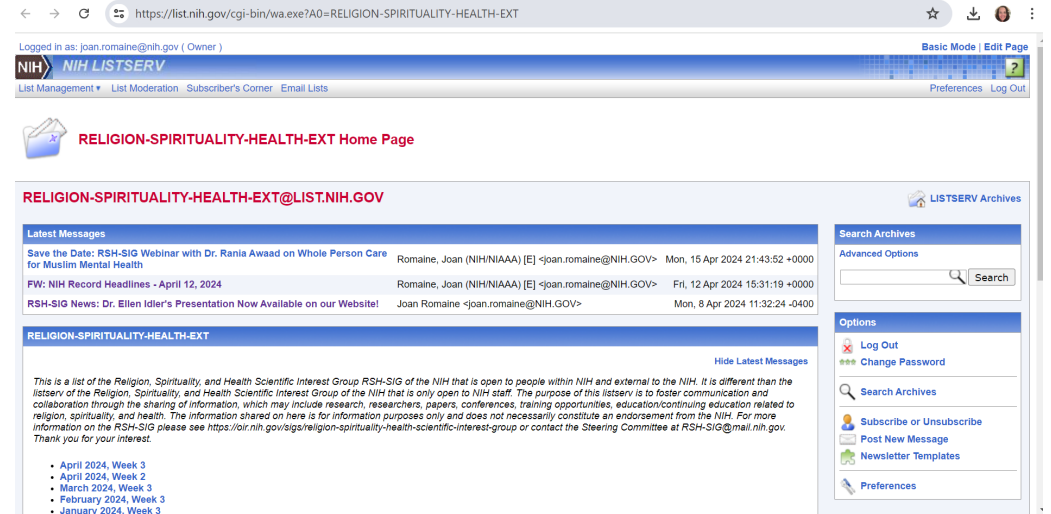
Visit our Website!

[Religion, Spirituality, and Health
Scientific Interest Group | NIH Office
of Intramural Research](https://list.nih.gov/cgi-bin/wa.exe?A0=RELIGION-SPIRITUALITY-HEALTH-EXT)



Email Us!

RSH-SIG@mail.nih.gov



Subscribe to our listserv at:

Non-NIHers may subscribe to our listserv at:

<https://list.nih.gov/cgi-bin/wa.exe?A0=RELIGION-SPIRITUALITY-HEALTH-EXT>

NIH Listserv—internal.....177 members

NIH Listserv—external.....123 members



Thank you!

To Dr. Koenig for allowing me to present!

To the NIH RSH-SIG Co-Advisors, Steering Committee, and Full Group Members for their time and dedication to this endeavor!

To the many people who have provided input for/on the slides, especially:

Dr. Madelon Halula

Dr. Laura Kwako

Dr. Raye Litten

Dr. Gabriela Riscuta

Dr. Deidra Roach

Ms. Joana Roe

To attendees for your time and attention!

Feedback, Questions & Answers