

Workshop Participants 2024

(listed in alphabetical order of last name)



Brunna Boaventura, RD, MS, PhD holds a Bachelor's degree in Nutrition from the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC), Brazil, with a Master's degree in Nutrition focused on Metabolism and Dietetics, and a PhD in Food Science from UFSC/Cornell University, USA. Since 2015, she has served as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Nutrition at UFSC. She was the Coordinator of the Undergraduation in Nutrition at UFSC from 2021 to 2023 and currently coordinates the NUTRI.COM Project, a weight loss program based on eating behavior. Dr. Boaventura has also received training in cognitive-behavioral therapy applied to weight loss and maintenance at the Beck Institute in the USA. She is a SCOPE certified nutritionist for obesity management by World Obesity Federation. Dr. Boaventura provides professional mentoring for nutritionists and has extensive experience in nutritional counseling, individual consultations, group sessions, and corporate nutritional services. Her research interests include obesity management through patient-centered care, eating behavior, human flourishing in clinical practice, and nutritional counseling. Dr. Boaventura aims to gain greater clarity on integrating spirituality and religiosity into clinical practice, especially for patients with obesity who struggle with spiritual conflicts, moral injury, and loss of meaning in life. She aspires to excel in the vast and under-explored field of spirituality and religiosity in health, particularly in Nutrition field.



Chester L. Bogus Jr. (MRN), VAMC. Raised Roman Catholic, I joined the Restoration Movement in my 20s. It is here I found my notch as preacher/chaplain. After ACPE training at Marion, IL., VAMC, I onboarded in 2022 in Behavioral Health (BH). As BH Chaplain, I incorporate behavioral sciences, leaning on human development in three groups I chair weekly. Spirituality, Moral Injury, and SUD recovery groups are my focus due to my 34+ years of continued sobriety and a TBI event. I want to improve my clinical applications of religious, spiritual, and mental health in these groups, integrating BH and Mental Health in better-redefined support groups. My purpose is to provide direction for believers and non-believers, strengthening their meaning and purpose in life and redefining their connectedness to the world spiritually.



Anthony L. Burnette, RA. I am a Research Assistant at The Duke School of Medicine in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. As the Research Assistant on the study, we have collaborated with each other and are making strides for and with the community. The CHALICE study (Community-Driven Implementation of Stigma Interventions in African American Faith Communities) is a faith community-centered study, which is aimed towards destigmatizing HIV in the Black Faith groups/organizations. I have decided to move into research as I am currently studying Public Health Education and Clinical Research Science at North Carolina Central University. As an undergraduate student, I plan to pursue a dual degree program, earning my medical degree and a master's degree in public health. With passion in the field of HIV, I have found myself drawn to research in stigma, prevention, and education. As religion, spirituality and health are three top discussions, even in settings of HIV, I genuinely believe that this course would be intricate and vital to my ability to continue my current research position and make me an even better Research Assistant.



Eunil David Cho, M.Div., Ph.D. I (David) am Assistant Professor of Spiritual Care and Counseling and the Co-Director of the Center for Practical Theology at Boston University School of Theology. As a theologian and scholar of religion, I use qualitative research to study how migrant individuals and communities rely on faith and spirituality to cope with their lived experiences of displacement and create new meanings. My first monograph, *Undocumented Migration as a Theologizing Experience*, will be published this November by Brill. I am the Co-Editor of the *Journal of Pastoral Theology*. Moreover, I am the co-PI of “Trauma-Responsive Congregations: Equipping Thriving Urban Congregations to Respond to Collective Trauma,” a three-year research project funded by the Lilly Endowment. Prior to entering academia, I served several churches in Georgia and Texas as an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA).



Onyekachi Chukwuma. Dr. Onyekachi Gift Chukwuma obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 2010 from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka and received the following awards: Best Graduating Student of the Faculty of the Social Sciences, Best Graduating Student of the Department of Religion and Cultural Studies, and the prestigious Indira Gandhi Award for the Overall Best Female Student. In 2012, she joined the services of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka as a graduate assistant and obtained her doctorate in 2019. She is currently a Post-doctoral research fellow at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. She has participated in many international conferences and workshops. Her research interests focus on the interaction between various Old Testament pericopes and social issues which border on healthcare, family, women, and youths.



Jia Cummings. Jia is a recent graduate of Baylor University with a degree in University Scholars. Within this degree, she completed concentrations in Medical Humanities, Public Health, and Religion with a certificate in Bioethics. She has previously completed training under the Hastings Center Summer Bioethics Program for Undergraduates. She is an incoming first-year Master of Divinity candidate at Duke Divinity School participating in the Theology, Medicine, & Culture initiative. After completing an MDiv, she hopes to pursue doctoral work in the area of theological bioethics and answer a call to serve as a clinical ethics consultant. Her research interests primarily center on the intersection of women's reproductive health and the Christian church, but also encompasses the areas of disability ethics, human subjects research, and chaplaincy research.



Catheryne Cunningham. Catheryne is a first year MDiv candidate at the Duke Divinity School, recently receiving a BA in Health Equity at Rhodes College. In Memphis, TN, she worked as the Faith Community Engagement intern at Church Health clinic and helped pilot the food pharmacy program at Methodist Hospital. Her senior thesis studied the efficacy of utilizing faith community engagement to further public health ventures in the Memphis area. Following the Congregational Health Network, she researched strategies for increasing health literacy and trust between the healthcare system and historically marginalized communities. Through her work with the Institute for Community Justice and Health Equity at Rhodes College, she has the privilege of working with community partners to engage in applied research and healthcare advocacy.



Gretchen Daniels, MDiv, SD, MA psychology, BCC. Gretchen is a master's in Divinity prepared, board-certified chaplain through CPSP. Passionate about spiritual companionship, fostering both recovery of soul and the emergence of the human spirit, Gretchen is also certified as a Spiritual Director. Gretchen will continue her service of companionship souls via the chaplain role at a hospital setting this Fall. Her nursing background supports a growing curiosity regarding the neurobiology of trauma, re-integration from trauma, and the resource of human spirituality in the healing of healing trauma. An MA in Jungian psychology, Gretchen is currently pursuing a PhD with a dissertation topic that will hermeneutically explore how a myth at the oracle of Delphi, in conversation with Apostle Paul's Christ consciousness, might inform the pastoral psychotherapist who encounters those with trauma histories.



David A. Decker, M.D., F.A.C.P., is a retired professor and medical oncologist from multiple academic centers, including the Mayo Clinic, Michigan State University, Wayne State University, and the University of Central Florida. He spent two decades as Chief of the Division of Hematology and Oncology at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Michigan, and five years as the Executive Director of the Florida Hospital Cancer Institute. Dr. Decker is best known for his work in improving the quality of life for breast cancer survivors. He is interested in learning more about the science currently driving the research on spirituality and health.



Veronica B. Decker, DNP, MBA, APRN, PMHCNS-BC, FNAP, is an associate professor of nursing at the University of Central Florida. An MBA from the University of Notre Dame and a specialty in clinical leadership help her design and teach economics, among other graduate courses, to the next generation of nursing leaders. She has over three decades of research and authorship devoted to cancer and mental health. She currently partners with Dr. Kevin Stein from Maine Health and Dr. George Fitchett from Rush University in an exploratory study examining the prevalence, severity, and trajectory of religious and spiritual distress among adults newly diagnosed with cancer.



Stephen Earle. I am presently nearing the end of a long, full-time career working in health care information systems. For most of my adult life I have been active in several churches, serving as a deacon, elder, and in several ministries. I identify as a non-denominational Christian, attend an Evangelical Covenant Church, as well as my wife's Roman Catholic Church. I am an oblate at Portsmouth Abbey, a Benedictine monastery in Rhode Island. I am a husband, father, grandfather, and a developing lay chaplain volunteer. Drawing on my many years of healthcare information systems experience, I hope to explore and promote the use of technology and information systems to better serve the spiritual needs of patients and their families, as well as to assist physical, behavioral, and spiritual caregivers in their roles.



Madeline Erwich. Madeline is a first year MTS student at Duke Divinity School in the Theology, Medicine, and Culture Fellowship. She received her BS in medicinal and biological chemistry from Palm Beach Atlantic University, and is currently in between her third and fourth years of medical school at the University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine. Madeline's undergraduate research involved studying the antibacterial properties of essential oils. During medical school, her research focus shifted to medical education. Madeline hopes to apply future studies in religion and spirituality to her interest in developing medical education curricula.



Brandon M. Evans, M.Div. Brandon is a Psychosocial Rehabilitation Fellow (PSR) Chaplain at the Durham Veteran Affairs Medical Center. Over the past year, he has been training in recovery-oriented clinics, honing his skills in mental health treatment and spiritual care. His focus is on exploring the connections between mental health recovery and spirituality. Additionally, Brandon has been involved in research workshops aimed at defining chaplaincy and spirituality in today's world. His research delves into the overlap of mental health and spirituality in our modern society, especially in the realm of spiritual care and recovery treatment. He is interested in understanding how incorporating spiritual practices can improve mental health outcomes and contribute to holistic recovery.



Kayoll Gyan, PhD, RN. Dr. Gyan is the Associate Director of the Phyllis F. Cantor Center for Research in Nursing and Patient Care Services at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. She is also a Nurse Scientist in Medical Oncology and Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. Her program of research in oncology focuses on African Americans across the cancer continuum from prevention to survivorship. Her current work explores the mental health promoting effects of religion and spirituality and social support in reducing psychosocial distress and promoting symptom management among younger African American cancer survivors. Inspired by her own experience as a breast cancer survivor, Dr. Gyan aims to develop culturally appropriate interventions to promote spiritual care and symptom management among younger African Americans with cancer. Dr. Gyan earned her Bachelor of Arts in Africana Studies and Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the State University of New York at Binghamton, and her PhD in Nursing Research from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She completed post-fellowship at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.



Stuart Harrell, M.Div., BCC. Stuart is the CPE Program Director at the Durham VA Health Care System and an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. Stuart completed a B.A. in Studio Art at Davidson College and a Master of Divinity Degree at Duke University Divinity School. He completed his supervisory training at Atrium Health in Charlotte, NC. Prior to joining the Durham VA Chaplain Service, Stuart established programs of CPE at UNC Hospitals Hillsborough Campus and McLeod Regional Medical Center in Florence, SC. Stuart serves as the CPE Program Director and teaches units of CPE. Stuart is also an Ethics Commissioner with the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education. His teaching and research interests include exploring the arts as opportunities for reflective practice, spiritual care as the practice of social justice, and the intersection of shame, vulnerability, and vocation with spiritual care practice.



Siti Inarah (Ina) Hasim, MHSPY (IIUM), MBBS (Malaya). Inarah joined the department of psychology at the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) in 2019, serving as a lecturer and clinical psychologist. Prior to her tenure at IIUM, Inarah worked as a medical doctor in public service in Malaysia. Her professional journey is deeply influenced by her belief in the importance of spiritual and religious factors in maintaining overall well-being, shaping her research interests in these areas. Currently, she is pursuing doctoral research focused on developing an Islamic mindfulness parenting module designed for Muslim parents with atypical children. As a registered clinical psychologist, Inarah is involved in various professional organizations, including the Malaysian Society of Clinical Psychology and the Malaysian Marriage and Family Therapy Association. Her clinical practice encompasses university settings and public communities, where she provides care to both children and adults.



Carl Hildebrand, MA. Carl has an MA in International Relations from American University and 20 years of experience working as a social entrepreneur. He is working on his Clinical Pastoral Education at Tampa General and Advent Hospitals. In Fall 2025 he will begin his Master of Divinity studies to become a Board-Certified Chaplain. His sense of vocation is simple, to love and serve others.



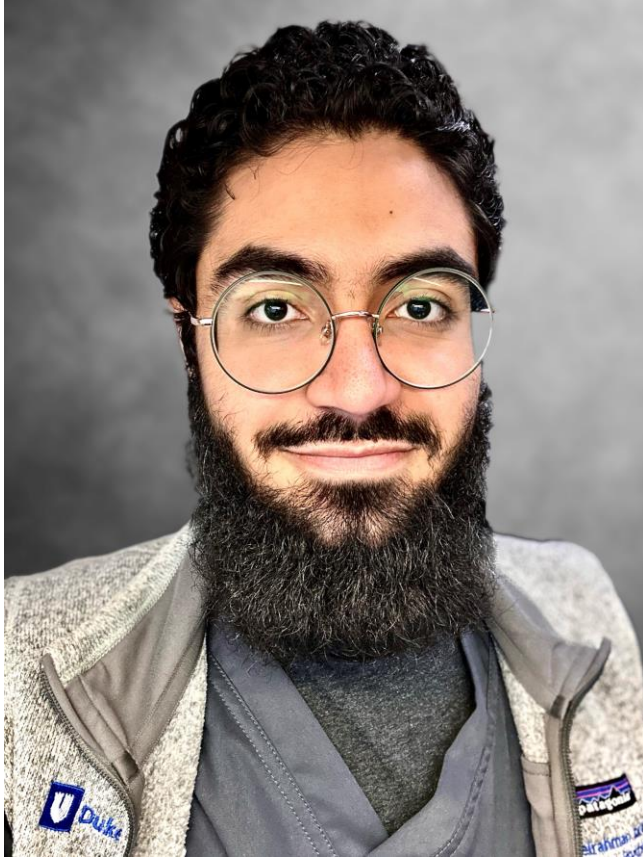
Helen Hoenig, MD. Dr. Hoenig has over 30-years of experience in geriatrics and rehabilitation, and in rehabilitation research. She served as Chief of the Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Service as the Durham VA Health Care Center for over 20 years. Currently she is Rehabilitation & Extended Care Lead at the Durham VA Health Care System and the Business Owner/Feature Lead for the VA Mobile App “My VA Images – Photo/Video”. Dr. Hoenig is Professor of Medicine in the Department of Medicine, Division of Geriatrics at Duke University.



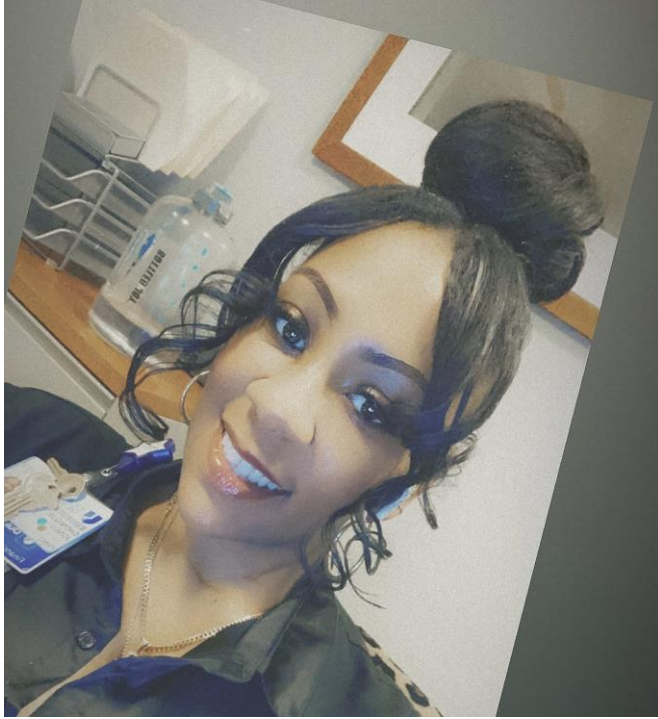
Gertie L. Hurley XMBA, D.Min. Rev. Dr. Gertie Loretta Hurley is founder and executive director of Taking Effective Action, Inc. (TEA), a non-profit health education organization located in Bowie, Maryland. TEA's acronym means Taking Effective Action, for spirit, mind, and body health. It specializes in health education, promotion and products. TEA works with other organizations to enable families, women, men and youth to achieve and maintain optimal health. Dr. Hurley has an DMin from United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio; 30 credit hours from Payne Theological Seminary, Wilberforce, OH; an XMBA from Loyola University, Baltimore, MD; and a BS, from Howard University, Washington, D.C. She has over 40 years as a health advocate and her research interest is to investigate ways to improve the spiritual and physical Health of marginalized people.



Daniel Ibraheem. I am an incoming second-year student at the Yale School of Medicine interested in the intersection between spirituality and psychiatry. I have a wide variety of interests in psychiatry specifically, including psychotherapy, working with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder, and practices for wellbeing across various groups of people. From a spiritual standpoint, my interest is primarily in the relationship between ancient Christian theology and modern perspectives of the human psyche, and the implications that might have on treatment. My background as a Coptic Orthodox Christian very much informs my understanding in these topics, and one of my primary goals is to study these fields in order to serve my community that I grew up in.



Abdelrahman Ibrahim, MBBS, MMSc. Dr. Ibrahim is a psychiatry resident at the Duke Psychiatry Residency Program, where he is on the physician-scientist and psychotherapy tracks. He holds a Master of Medical Sciences in Clinical Investigation from Harvard University, and his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from Ain Shams University. Dr. Ibrahim's research experience is on minority mental health, which has evolved into a focus on the intersection of Islamic practices and mental health. He is particularly interested in how Islamic practices can influence psychiatric outcomes and the role of religiosity in resilience and recovery.



C. Nikki Jones is Service Access Manager of Duke Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. I am actively pursuing a degree in Behavioral and Social Sciences, with a focus on Psychology at North Carolina Central University. While overseeing the day to day operation of two clinic locations (one pediatric outpatient clinic, one adult outpatient clinic), I am able to network and exchange with those in clinical research and those in patient care. Since my start in the department, my interest and desire to develop in clinical research has grown significantly. I am hoping to gain from this workshop, the opportunity to learn from experienced professionals, develop my ideas, access previous research, and obtain relevant resources for learning more about spirituality and health.



Cynthia B. Kearney, M.Ed., LPC. Cynthia is a mental health counselor licensed in Texas and North Carolina. She earned a BA from the University of Texas-Arlington and an M.Ed. from Hardin-Simmons University in Texas. Cynthia created Cinnamon Tree Counseling in 2016 and worked part-time while employed as an educator. After 28 years of teaching and counseling students in public schools, she retired in 2021 and now works in private practice. As a mental health counselor, her focus is helping women, children, and the families that support them. Her goal this year is to integrate spirituality and religion into the therapeutic interventions currently used to help clients. By attending this workshop, she seeks to gain a more substantial knowledge base that will enable her to help clients add their spiritual and religious beliefs to their toolboxes.



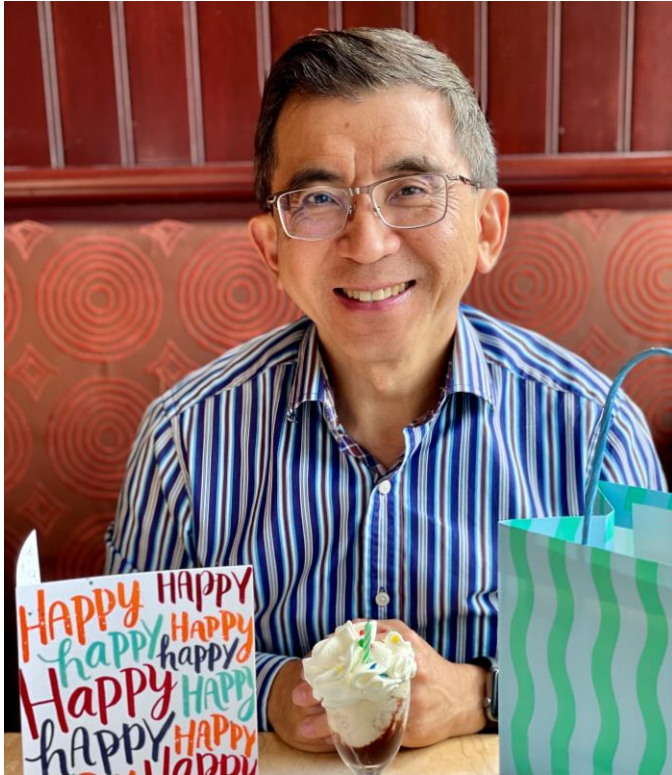
Lisa Marie Kerr, EdD. Lisa is an Associate Professor in the College of Leadership and Ethics at the U.S. Naval War College. She has served in various administrative and educational roles during the past 25 years in higher education and remains dedicated to supporting and challenging individuals as they identify and actualize their potential. Lisa is developing a research agenda related to facilitating leader development and spiritual readiness among National Defense Professionals. Previous research projects resulted in curriculum to build resilience among graduate students in biomedical sciences, developing judicious leadership among pre-law students, and fostering emotional intelligence for critical thinking in scientific inquiry.



Esther Kim, MA, MDiv, LMHC, LPC. Esther is a doctoral student in the Combined-Integrated Clinical and Counseling Psychology Program at the University of South Alabama. Currently, she is a research assistant working on several projects on the applied psychology of religion and spirituality under the mentorship of Dr. Joseph M. Currier. Previously, she served as the Director of Partial Hospitalization Program at HRI Hospital, where she provided training and supervision to clinicians across 7 outpatient programs and developed group therapy programs for emerging adults and for Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color in Greater Boston. She has clinical experience providing evidence-based psychotherapies across the lifespan in outpatient and inpatient psychiatric settings. She received her Master of Arts in Counseling and Master of Divinity from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.



Angel F. Lee, M.Div, MBA, BCC. Angel is a Chaplain and an ACPE Certified Educator at a trauma level 1 hospital in North Carolina and a certified yoga teacher. She spends most of her time educating clergy, divinity/seminary students, and lay leaders in spiritual care. She has also served as an inpatient mental health chaplain in the VA Healthcare System. Her research interests are (1) the use of stories for spiritual resilience in persons with dementia and (2) the integration of mindful embodied practices in daily rituals to increase spiritual resilience. Her motivation is the desire of spiritual healing for all creation.



Victor Liauw, BSc, MBA. Victor was born in Indonesia but grew up in Singapore. He has Bachelor degree in Chemical Engineering from University of Texas and Masters in Business Administration from Michigan State University. After working for five years in Los Angeles, he and his family moved back to Jakarta to become a managing consultant for a franchise development company. After completing Masters in Christian Ministry in 2001, he entered into vocational christian ministry. His passion is to provide best practices and trainings required to be successful Christian ministers and leaders in Asian developing countries. His research interest is Christianity, Chinese folk religion, Buddhism, mental health and spirituality.



David E. Mann, Jr., MD. I presently work as a general hematologist and oncologist in Andalusia, Alabama, and previously worked 25 years in Pensacola, Florida. Over that same time, I have worked in various capacities with regional hospice organizations. And more recently, I was a member of the FLASCO (Florida Society of Clinical Oncology) health care disparities committee. My training was at the University of Florida, completing in 1997. About 20 years ago, I initiated a IRB approved single institution trial regarding intercessory prayer and its impact on some of the more common chemotherapy side effects. At this time, I am interested in studying interventions involving spirituality, and its impact on chemotherapy side effects, such as treatment related infection, transfusion support, and quality of life.



Matej Mihalík, MD. Mgr. MUDr. Matej Mihalík holds a double major in Law and Medicine, having completed his law degree at the Faculty of Law at Trnava University in 2016 and his medical degree at the Faculty of Medicine, Comenius University in Bratislava in 2024. Currently, he works as a health assistant at the University Hospital with Polyclinic of Brothers of Mercy in Bratislava and will start his psychiatry residency at University Hospital Bratislava on October 1, 2024. His experience includes several years at BRICHTA & PARTNERS law firm, specializing in IP and corporate law (2015-2023), and volunteering with the Order of Malta in Slovakia, a Catholic Knights hospitaller order recognized for its humanitarian work and status as a permanent observer at the UN. His research interests include psychiatry, law, and improving Catholic hospitals in Slovakia through cutting-edge research, including in spirituality and health.



Nhan D. Nguyen. He holds a Ph.D. in Psychology and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Sociology at the University of Texas at San Antonio. His academic journey has equipped him with a comprehensive understanding of human behavior, mental health, and quantitative methods. His research interests lie at the intersection of psychology and sociology, focusing on topics such as well-being, ill-being, religious attendance, and prayer. He is passionate about exploring the complexities of human behavior and mental health, with a particular emphasis on how religious attendance and prayer may be linked to loneliness. In his current position, he is dedicated to advancing knowledge in these areas through rigorous empirical research and contributing to the scholarly community through publications and collaborations.



Olubukola Christianah Omobowale, MBBS, MPH, PhD candidate. Dr. Omobowale is a senior lecturer in the Department of Community Medicine, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, and a Consultant Community Physician at the University College Hospital Ibadan, Nigeria. She holds a medical degree (MBBS), an MPH, and is pursuing a Ph.D. at the same University of Ibadan. She is a Fellow of the West African College of Physicians' (WACP) Faculty of Community Health. Dr. Omobowale is a global health researcher, a global mental health advocate, and a women's health expert. Dr. Omobowale's research interests include the development and evaluation of community-based rehabilitation interventions for vulnerable populations using epidemiological models to enhance community health. She is a co-investigator on the [SUCCEED Africa](#) project and the principal investigator of the [ENCASE](#) project.



Kell Brown Owen, Gero MS, CPG, PhD Candidate. Kell is a practicing gerontologist in Jacksonville, FL and is pursuing her PhD in Gerontological Leadership at Concordia-Chicago. She is a member of the Gerontological Society of America, the American Society on Aging, and Sigma Phi Omega Honorary Society. She currently serves on the board for the St. John's Cathedral Center for Well-Being where she also serves as a chaplain and helps facilitate caregiving support groups. Her research focus includes the intersectionality of spirituality, resilience, and well-being in older adults, dementia care, and integrative caregiver support.



Viraj Patel, MDiv, MPH. Viraj is a resident chaplain at Rush University Medical Center (Chicago, IL) where he serves in the neurology ICU, neurology step-down unit, and the general medicine floor. Viraj holds a Master of Public Health (MPH) from Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia as well as a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) in the study of Hindu religions from the University of Chicago. He has presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion on South Asian religions and published on Hindu spiritual care. Viraj's research examines how Hindu ideas may constructively bear upon contemporary questions regarding patient care. His latest project analyzes how Hindu conceptions of karma affect patients' willingness to accept or reject pain management at the end of life. Viraj's other work focuses on the unique spiritual care needs of Hindus as a minority, diasporic religious tradition in North America.



Eric Vinícius Ávila Pires, MD, MSc, is a Brazilian family physician specialized in family medicine preceptorship. He is a member of the Research Center in Spirituality and Health at the Federal University of Juiz de Fora, Brazil, where he earned his MSc and is pursuing a PhD in Health. He obtained his medical degree from the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil, and completed his family medicine training at the Odilon Behrens Metropolitan Hospital, Brazil. He is a former coordinator of the Health and Spirituality Working Group (2019-2021) at the Brazilian Society of Family Medicine. His research interests include the relationship between spirituality/religiosity and health, empirical investigations into spiritual experiences (primarily claims of past-life memories), communication skills, and evidence-based medicine among family physicians.



Joan Romaine, MPH, MS, LGPC, NCC (NIH/NIAAA). Ms. Romaine began at the NIH as a Presidential Management Intern in 2001, and currently works as a Health Specialist at the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) in the Division of Treatment and Recovery; Treatment, Health Services, and Recovery Branch. Ms. Romaine is the founder and chair of the NIH Religion, Spirituality, and Health Scientific Interest Group, and serves as co-chair of the Interagency Work Group on Drinking and Drug Use in Women and Girls. She developed the NIAAA Faith Leader Outreach Kit. Ms. Romaine holds a Master of Public Health degree from The George Washington University (2001), Master of Science degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Loyola University Maryland's Department of Pastoral Counseling (2020), and dual BA/BS degrees in psychology and advertising from Syracuse University's College of Arts and Sciences and S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications respectively (1990). Ms. Romaine is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (Gabon 1995-1997) and served as a VISTA Volunteer and AmeriCorps Volunteer (1st cohort 1993-1995 South Tucson, Arizona).



Javier Rubio. Since 2012 I have been working in drug addiction research at the National Institute on Drug on Abuse (NIDA). My research focuses on understanding drug-related memories in animal models at the molecular and cellular level, and how we can reduce craving and drug seeking using genetic and pharmacological approaches. Faith and science had been adversaries for me, but during the last decade they started to integrate and “become friends”. Recently, I have started to do spiritual ministry in a recovery addiction center. The positive effects of the spiritual interventions I have seen on the people is leading me to unexpected ways to integrate my ministry and my scientific background. My dream now is to learn from the experts in this interdisciplinary field of Religion, Spirituality and Health, and develop new approaches to addiction treatment that address not only the biological aspects but also the spiritual and psychological dimensions of recovery.



Jennifer S. Scherer, MD, MS, FASN. I am an associate professor in the Division of Palliative Care and the Division of Nephrology at NYU School of Medicine. My research focuses on person-centered outcomes of integrated kidney palliative and nephrology care. My goal is to improve the quality of life for people with advanced kidney disease. My work has been funded by foundations and an NIH K23 that supports a pilot trial of integrated kidney palliative care implemented in a safety net hospital, sparking my interest in spirituality. I have conducted a secondary data analysis describing associations of spirituality in dialysis patients with end-of-life care preferences, published in JAMA Open Network. I hope to pursue my interests in spirituality through a community engaged research testing the impact of spirituality on kidney disease education and decision-making.



William A. Scroggins, PhD. Dr. Scroggins serves as a Research Psychologist for the Office of the Army Chief of Chaplains at the Pentagon. His research primarily focuses on developing and implementing evidence-based spiritual health interventions to reduce harmful behaviors and improve Soldier performance. Dr. Scroggins earned a PhD in Psychological and Brain Sciences from the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB). His research has been featured by multiple news outlets, including NPR and Pacific Standard. Prior to attending graduate school, Dr. Scroggins served in the U.S. Army for nearly five years as a Combat Documentation/Production Specialist. While stationed in Germany, he was awarded the Soldier's Medal for intervening in a knife attack and detaining the assailant. He currently lives in the Washington D.C. area with his wife and three young children.



Aaron Shirley. Aaron is a first-year student in the Master of Theological Studies program at Duke Divinity School as well as a Theology, Medicine, and Culture Fellow. He is a graduate of the History of Science and Sociology departments at Harvard University where he studied racial health disparities, the development of surgery, and social stigma as it relates to infectious disease. There he completed a senior thesis on the cultural history of medieval surgery as a religious form of healing in fourteenth-century Italy. Aaron has training in archival research, mixed methods, classical sociological theory, and ethnography. His interests include medieval and modern medicine as forms of religious healing, the social and medical experience of people living with HIV/AIDS, and the theological, social, and medical definitions of “the body.”



Christopher Siuzdak, Th.M. Chris is a student of bioethics (M.S.) at Harvard Medical School. He completed a Bachelor of Arts (Phi Beta Kappa) at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC with majors in psychology and history and minors in philosophy and theology. As an undergraduate, Chris served as a congressional intern in the U.S. House of Representatives. He subsequently earned a Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.) at Boston College's School of Theology and Ministry and a Licentiate in Canon Law (J.C.L.) from Catholic University's School of Canon Law. He later obtained a Master of Science (M.S.) in Church Management from Villanova University's School of Business and a Master of Theology (Th.M.) from Harvard Divinity School. During his half-dozen years working as a canonist in the ecclesiastical tribunal of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland, he served a term as president of the Eastern Regional Conference of Canonists and chaired the Canon Law Society of America's Committee on Nominations. He continues to teach as an adjunct lecturer in canon law for Saint Meinrad Seminary and is also Book Review Editor for the *Homiletic & Pastoral Review*. In his spare time, Chris enjoys hiking and excursions to historical sites.



Ryan Taylor, LCSW. I am a social worker and first year doctoral student. I first learned about this workshop and Dr. Koenig's work through my study of moral distress and moral injury. I have been interested in moral injury and moral distress among healthcare workers and social workers. I've also been interested in the role of social determinants of health in moral injury. I've been wondering if/how understandings of historical trauma, intergenerational trauma, and epigenetics could be applied to moral injury and if moral injury equivalents might exist. I have a background in studying theology and pastoral care. I've studied the incorporation of religion and spirituality in healthcare and social work practice in the past and reading and exploring Dr. Koenig's work inspired me to explore the topic again. I've also been intrigued by recent study of the role of sports fandom in health and wellbeing and have been wondering about its impact on healthcare decision making. I continue to be interested in understanding the causes of and addressing various forms of discrimination and marginalization including but not limited to white supremacy culture, racism, ableism, ageism, microaggressions, and information marginalization and oppression.



Chad Thompson, M.D. Dr. Thompson graduated from Baylor University with a BS in economics after which he attended medical school at the University of Texas Medical school at Houston. He went to Memphis, TN for his family medicine residency where he developed his interests in health care justice, HIV medicine, maternal and infant care, and global health. Following his time in Memphis, he worked at an urban community health center in Detroit, MI until 2023 when he moved back to Waco. Throughout residency and practice, he has taught and mentored medical students and is passionate about the formation of health care practitioners. His interests at the intersection of theology, justice, and social medicine draw him to the Medical Humanities Program at Baylor where he teaches about the US Health Care System.