Jewish Perspectives on Health, Healing and Wholeness

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This session will provide an introduction to Jewish perspectives on health, illness and healing. We will explore texts that address the role of the community in Jewish life, the link between mind, body and spirit, and mitzvoth (commandments) that relate to health and healing. We will then explore the wide variety of synagogue and communal programming that interprets Jewish practices, values, beliefs, and rituals to illuminate how Jewish life may influence health and quality of life. These include Jewish Healing Centers, congregational Caring /bikkur cholim (friendly visiting) committees, chaplaincy, congregational nursing, and initiatives on bioethics, health care policy and physician education. Future directions for research will also be presented.