

**HealthCare Chaplaincy Network:
Call for Proposals for Thursday, November 8, 2018 for**

**Medicine & Spirituality Symposium:
Moving from Hostility to Hospitality**



**The New York Academy of Medicine
1216 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10029**

The focus of this symposium will be the emerging discussion, dialogue, future thinking, and argument around the central thesis that *our cultural separation of traditional spiritualties from medicine has created two levels of hostility*:

- *There is hostility toward patient spirituality by an unconscious neglect or avoidance of spiritual care within serious illness.*
 - Many patients, as they face the greatest existential crisis of their lives within illness, are abandoned as they encounter an eerie silence from most of the medical caregivers.
- *The absence of integrated spiritual traditions is the critical reason allowing for impersonal medicine to expand exclusively through technology, bureaucracy, and market forces.*
 - Impersonal medicine will only further overtake medicine, unless we find a way for spiritual traditions to reconnect and engage medicine's social structures.

Medicine needs to move toward a “structural pluralism” in which varied spiritual and religious traditions inform, engage, and potentially empower both patient care and medicine’s social structures. This pluralism is not only possible, but it would ironically transform medicine through a renewed spirit of hospitality.

This year’s symposium has four areas of focus relating to why there is a separation between medicine and spirituality. These include:

- **Data** - relating to the separation of spirituality and medicine and points of intersection
- **Sociology** – exploring the social structures and norms separating spirituality and medicine and the opportunities that exist to bring them together
- **Theology / Chaplaincy** – discussing the intersection between theology and medical & spiritual care practice
- **Policy** – investigating how policy may contribute to a move from hostility to hospitality as it relates to spirituality within medicine

This call for proposals is open from February 14, 2018, through March 30, 2018. Presentations will be accepted by April 30, 2018. Please submit your proposal to pcenci@healthcarechaplaincy.org.

HealthCare Chaplaincy Network™ (HCCN), founded in 1961, is a global health care nonprofit organization that offers spiritual care-related information and resources, and professional chaplaincy services in hospitals, other health care settings, and online. Its mission is to advance the integration of spiritual care in health care through clinical practice, research and education in order to improve patient experience and satisfaction and to help people faced with illness and grief find comfort and meaning--whoever they are, whatever they believe, wherever they are.