

Informed Consent for Participation in a Research Study

Title of Study: **Advancing Spiritual Care – Demonstration Projects**

IRB #: NCR224131

Principal Investigator Name: Christina Puchalski, MD

Version Date: February 2023

You are invited to participate in a research study under the direction of Dr. Christina Puchalski of the Department of the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, George Washington University (GWU), and paid for by The John Templeton Foundation. The purpose of this study is to better understand the experiences of participants in the Demonstration Projects and Learning Collaborative as part of the Advancing Spiritual Care initiative. Your participation in this evaluation study will provide information regarding 1) the facilitating factors and barriers to effective implementation of existing guidelines and recommendations, and 2) the potential impacts of successful implementation of improved spiritual care on key stakeholders. Data from this study will further allow for sharing of best practices and recommendations for Demonstration Projects. The Learning Collaborative and evaluation process will inform future cycles of this initiative to create sustainable outcomes for establishing the field of spiritual care. Further information regarding this study may be obtained by contacting Dr. Christina Puchalski, Principal Investigator, at telephone number +1.202.994.6220.

This Demonstration Project opportunity is being offered as part of a generous grant from The John Templeton Foundation. Funding for this New York-based Demonstration Project is provided by The Y.C. Ho/Helen & Michael Chiang Foundation. As part of your participation in this 2-year project and Learning Collaborative, you are required to complete fourteen Demonstration Project evaluation surveys. The total amount of time you will spend in connection with this study is approximately 60-80 minutes. Participants may be contacted by email/phone for retention purposes and to improve survey response rates. Additionally, you will be required to complete an educational evaluation after each monthly Learning Collaborative session. By agreeing to be in this research, you are consenting to the researcher's use of your survey responses for research purposes, which is voluntary. In addition to the Demonstration Project Application, as a part of this research study you will be asked to provide survey information at two points in time; surveys include five pre-project online surveys and nine post-project online surveys.

At each of these points of time, we estimate it will take:

(5) Pre-project Surveys – 20 minutes

(9) Post-project Surveys – between 40–60 minutes

Learning Collaborative Evaluation Survey – 5 minutes monthly (through duration of the Learning Collaborative)

As in most behavioral research studies, possible risks or discomforts you could experience during this study include the potential for emotional and/or psychological risk. However, such risk is low, since the surveys primarily involve participants' satisfaction with educational/mentorship programming and successes at implementing Demonstration Projects in spiritual care at their home institutions. Since some aspects of the evaluation process involve linked data, there is a possible loss of confidentiality prior to data being deidentified for evaluation purposes.

Every effort will be made to keep your information confidential, however, this cannot be guaranteed. We will link participants' pre- and post- survey responses, but subject names will not be used for linking the data. The personally identifiable information collected will be coded using a unique ID# or fake name (pseudonym). The coded lists are only accessible to the research team. The information that has your personally identifiable information will be kept separately from the rest of your data for data analysis. De-identified data may be used for future Demonstration Project related research. If results of this research study are reported in journals or at scientific meetings, the people who participated in this study will not be named or identified.

You will not benefit directly from your participation in the study. Indirect benefits of participation include personal growth and increased self-knowledge. The benefits to science and humankind that might result from this study include support of our ongoing efforts to promote curricular improvement and advance the field of interprofessional spiritual care in health settings.

The Office of Human Research of George Washington University, at telephone number (202) 994-2715, can provide further information about your rights as a research participant.

By agreeing to be in this research, you are consenting to the researcher's use of your survey responses for research purposes, which is voluntary. Your willingness to participate in this research study is implied through your application submission.

*Please keep a copy of this document in case you want to read it again.