
Informed Consent for Participation in a Research Study

Title of Study: Advancing Spiritual Care – Interprofessional Spiritual Care Education Curriculum (ISPEC)
Train-the-Trainer Program
IRB #: NCR224112
Principal Investigator Name: Christina Puchalski, MD
Version Date: to be added per course date

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 Interprofessional Spiritual Care Education Curriculum (ISPEC) Course. Your participation in this evaluation study will provide ongoing assessment of participant satisfaction and program effectiveness, facilitating ongoing innovation in curriculum development, participant mentorship, and goal implementation. Data from this study will further allow for sharing of best practices and recommendations for spiritual care education. Further information regarding this study may be obtained by contacting Dr. Christina Puchalski, Principal Investigator, at telephone number +1.202.994.6220.

This course is being offered as part of a generous grant from The John Templeton Foundation. As part of your participation in this 2-day course and one-year post-course mentorship, you will be required to complete eight ISPEC evaluation surveys. The total amount of time you will spend in connection with this study is approximately 100 minutes. Participants may be contacted by email/phone for retention purposes and to improve survey response rates. We will be collecting your survey responses. 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 two daily course evaluations, you will be asked to provide information at five points in time including the course application and two pre-course surveys, and four post-course online evaluations at the following intervals: Course completion, 3 months, 6 months, and 12 months.

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

Application and pre-course surveys - 25 minutes

Daily Evaluations - 5 minutes each

Post-course survey - 10 minutes

3-month evaluation – 10-15 minutes

6-month evaluation – 15-20 minutes

12-month evaluation – 15-20 minutes

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 evaluations primarily involve participants' satisfaction with educational programming and successes at implementing related goals 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 ISPEC 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.