



15TH ANNUAL
**The Collective Soul
Symposium**

Living the Integration of Spiritual Care
and Creating Healing Environments
in Our Daily Clinical Practice

April 10-11, 2026 | Virtual

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
**MDAnderson
Cancer Center**

Making Cancer History®

ISH Institute
for Spirituality
and Health
AT THE TEXAS MEDICAL CENTER

INTRODUCTION

Spirituality and religiosity are recognized as factors that contribute to the quality of life and coping strategies in many people facing life-threatening illnesses. These life-threatening events can also give rise to spiritual distress. When combined with chronic or acute pain and other physical and psychological symptoms, spiritual distress can be a component of a patient's total suffering which the palliative care team (The Collective Soul) seeks to alleviate, enhancing the human spirit and creating a healing environment in the middle of distressful situations. The purpose of this course is to provide a better understanding of the Clinical Care Team's role in enhancing the Human spirit and relieving a patient's bio-psychosocial and spiritual suffering.

Attention to spirituality and addressing spiritual or religious needs is an essential component of person-centered care and may ameliorate suffering and console patients as they try to find life's meaning and purpose. Spiritual care is a key component of compassionate, dignified, and holistic care of patients and families struggling with advanced illnesses that we All are called to provide.

DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this educational event is to provide to community-based, hospital, chaplains, ministers and Clinical Healthcare professionals with skills for a better understanding of the role of the Palliative Care Team (The Collective Soul) and the Integration of Spiritual Care while caring patients living with Serious Illnesses and their caregivers; embracing the human spirit of those in suffering and creating healing environments for them and ourselves.

Attendees at this conference will learn the principles of Palliative Care and Hospice, state-of-the-art physical, emotional, and spiritual symptom management, effective communication with patients and families at the end of life, and the integration of spiritual care into Clinical Care practice.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SYMPOSIUM:

1. Explain the importance and role of the interdisciplinary team in palliative care and hospice settings, focusing on the care of patients with advanced illnesses and their families in a multicultural context.
2. Describe the principles for managing various distressing physical symptoms in patients with advanced illnesses.
3. Analyze principles for managing distressing emotional and spiritual symptoms in patients with advanced illnesses and their families.

EDUCATIONAL GOALS:

- Describe the importance of integrating Spiritual Care in our daily clinical practice. Creating healing environments in our daily interactions with our patients and their families/caregivers.
- Describe the importance and the role of the Interdisciplinary Team in the General Clinical and Palliative Care and Hospice settings in the care of patients with serious illnesses and their families in a multicultural environment.

- Describe the principles of management of different distressing Physical symptoms of patients with advanced illnesses.
- Describe the principles of management of Distressing Emotional and Spiritual symptoms in patients with advanced illnesses and their families.

AUDIENCE

This important educational event is aimed at physicians, chaplains, ministers, clergy, spiritual care counselors, nurses, social workers, psychologists, and other healthcare professionals delivering clinical and spiritual care in the community and healthcare facilities.

Certificates for Attendance: CMEs, CNEs, CEUs, and Ethics credits will be provided.

EVALUATION/CERTIFICATES

An online course evaluation tool will provide participants with the opportunity to comment on the value of the program content to their practice decisions, performance improvement activities, or possible impact on patient health status. Participants will also have the opportunity to comment on any perceived commercial bias in the presentations as well as to identify future educational topics. Certificates provided upon completion of symposium evaluation.

ACCREDITATION/CREDIT STATEMENT

In support of improving patient care, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

CREDIT DESIGNATION

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center designates this live activity for a maximum of 13.75 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center designates this live activity for a maximum of 13.75 credit(s) of education in medical ethics and/or professional responsibility.

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center designates this live activity will award 13.75 Nursing Contact Hour(s).

The University of Texas MD Anderson (CEU Provider #4607) is an approved continuing education provider for Social Workers through the Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners. This activity has been approved for 13.75 continuing education units.



THE 2026 STEVE THORNEY LECTURE IN SPIRITUAL CARE AWARD RECIPIENT

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15TH ANNUAL THE COLLECTIVE SOUL SYMPOSIUM

AGENDA | FRIDAY, APRIL 10

All times are Central Standard Time (CST)

8:00 - 8:15 am	Welcome to our “Collective Soul Symposium”	Marvin Omar Delgado Guay, MD
8:15 - 8:30 am	Opening Blessings	Marvin Omar Delgado Guay, MD Smitha G. Mallaiah, MS, C-IAYT Steve Thorney, MDiv Donna Zhukovsky, MD
8:30 - 9:10 am	The Palliative Care Team: Decreasing Distressful Symptoms of Patients Living with Serious Illness.	Eduardo Bruera, MD
9:10 – 9:50 am	Practicing Inclusive and Equitable Spiritual Care for Everyone in Our Daily Practice. A Human Right for All.	Marvin O. Delgado Guay, MD
9:50 - 10:00 am	History and Introduction of the 2026 Steve Thorney Award Recipient, Followed by Keynote Lecture by Dr. Enric Benito	Marvin Omar Delgado Guay, MD Eduardo Bruera, MD
10:00 - 11:00 am	The 2026 Steve Thorney Keynote Lecture in Spiritual Care: History and Introduction of the 2026 Steve Thorney Award Recipient, Followed by Keynote Lecture by Dr. Enric Benito	Enric Benito, MD, PhD
	The 2026 Steve Thorney Keynote Lecture in Spiritual Care: “Cultivating Presence Is A Path We Can Take Every Day to Creating Healing Environments for Those in Suffering”.	
11:00 – 11:10 am	Break	
11:10 – 11:50 pm	Fostering Forgiveness, Gratefulness, and Peace	Marianne P. Florian, PhD, MTS, MA.
11:50–12:30 pm	Living with a Serious Illness, When Hope is The Only Thing We Have in Our Lives.	Ana Isabel Fernandes Querido, PhD
12:30 – 1:10 pm	Fostering Compassionate Presence in Our Clinical Encounters.	Christina Puchalski, MD, OCDS, FACP, FAAHPM
1:10 – 1:30 pm	Lunch	
1:30 – 3:00 pm	Creating Channels Of Union in the Care of People Living with Serious Illness: Spiritual and Religious Perspectives About Communication With Clinical Teams, Miracles, Medical Care Decision-making and Death.	Islam: Shaykh Basem Hamed, MD Jewish: Rabbi Dan Gordon Hindu: Smitha G Mallaiah, MS, C-IAYT Buddhist: Tenzin Namdul, TMD, PhD Christian: Joe R. Crosby, MDiv
3:00 – 3:40 pm	The Language of Compassion: Towards A Healing Environment for Our Patients and Ourselves.	Jennifer Mascaro, PhD
3:40 – 4:20 pm	From Despair to Well-being: Finding Meaning and Purpose in Life While Living with A Serious Illness.	Gale Kennebrew, DMin, BCC, ACPE
4:20 – 4:30 pm	Break	
4:30 – 5:20 pm	Providing An Ethical and Compassionate Spiritual Care During Organ Transplant. Walking Together with Patients and Caregivers on a Journey for Life	Ruquiaya Akhtar, MDiv Julie Whelan, MBA, MA, BCC, LCSW
5:20 – 6:00 pm	Creating Sacred Spaces for Our Own Healing and Spiritual Well-Being	Stephen Findley, MDiv
6:00 pm	Adjourn	

15TH ANNUAL THE COLLECTIVE SOUL SYMPOSIUM

AGENDA | SATURDAY, APRIL 11

8:00 – 8:05 am	Welcome	Marvin Omar Delgado Guay, MD
8:05 – 8:15 am	Opening Blessings	Richard W. Bauer, BCC, MSW
8:15 – 9:15 am	Living the Integration of Bio-Psychological and Spiritual Care Models for Children in Suffering	Sujin Ann-Yi, PhD Richard W. Bauer, BCC
9:15 – 10:00 am	The Interdisciplinary Collective Soul in Action: Creating Healing Environments for Those in Suffering and Caring for Ourselves.	Marvel Bartley, MSRN, RN, CMSRN, FNP-C Avery Eshenroder, MS, APRN, FNP-C, ACHPN-C Phuong N. Tran, AGNP-C
10:00 – 10:40 am	Cultivating Integration Among Clinicians, Community Spiritual/Religious Leaders, and Chaplains. A Call for All of Us.	Paul Galchutt, MDiv, MPH, BCC
10:40 – 11:20 am	Art as Sanctuary: Cultivating Connection, Compassion, and Care with Art Therapy	Marie J Deschamps, PhD
11:20-11:30 am	Break	
11:30-12:10 pm	When Health Care Community Services and Church Communities Work Together to Improve the Quality of Life of Patients Living with Complex Chronic Conditions	Kurt Merkelz, MD Randy Bartosh, OTR Sara M. Bailey, RN
12:10 – 12:50 pm	Navigating and Providing Compassionate Care for Patients and Caregivers' Hopes and Prayers for a Miracle	Edward Peñate, DMin, BCC Miriam Garcia-Hocker, MS, APRN, AGNP, AOCNP
12:50-1:30 pm	Musical Therapy Interventions: A Healing Melody for Those in Suffering	Ingrid Moeller, MA, MT-BC
1:30 pm	Adjourn, Evaluation	Marvin Omar Delgado Guay, MD

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center has implemented a process whereby everyone who is in a position to control the content of an educational activity must disclose all financial relationships with any commercial interest that could potentially affect the information presented. Specific disclosure will be made to the participants prior to the educational activity.

Agendas are subject to change because we are always striving to improve the quality of your educational experience. MD Anderson may substitute faculty with comparable expertise on rare occasions necessitated by illness, schedule conflicts, and so forth.

Photographing, audio taping and videotaping are prohibited.

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Please let us know what specific topics, issues or questions you wish to see addressed or emphasized in this activity. E-mail Continuing Professional Education at ContinuingEducation@MDAnderson.org. All responses will be forwarded to the Activity Directors for consideration.

All statements and opinions contained herein are solely those of the individual speakers and may not reflect those of The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

All times are Central Standard Time (CST)

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REGISTRATION INFORMATION

LIVE INTERNET EVENT

The two-day Collective Soul Symposium will begin on Friday, April 10, 2026, with Opening Remarks at 8:00 a.m. and will adjourn for the day at 6:00 p.m. The symposium will reconvene on Saturday, April 11, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. and adjourn at 1:30 p.m.

Advanced registration is encouraged.

Course registration includes on-line materials, presentation video recordings and PowerPoint presentations.

Registration Fees

- Physicians: \$175.00
- Nurses: \$100.00
- General Attendees: \$85.00
- All Students: \$50.00
(Students need to write a statement with reasons requesting assistance for a reduced rate)

To Register, visit:

<http://www.spiritualityandhealth.org/events/css2026>

When registering online a receipt /confirmation letter will be automatically e-mailed to the e-mail address you list on the registration form.

