

Talking About Spirituality in Healthcare

Collaborating Centre for Values-based Practice in Health and Social Care

St Catherine's College, Oxford.

Date: 25th March 2026.9.30 am-4 pm UK Time

Convenors: Ed Peile and Feroze Dada (editors of a proposed new book)



Book Free on the link below on Eventbrite. Join us online or inperson.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/talking-about-spirituality-in-healthcare-tickets-1983524204290>

Join directly on **Teams** on the day:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/33458763190443?p=Yf1HQLqbZhJaMY6xF7>

About this event:

Values-based practice has helped clinicians incorporate “What matters to you?” into patient care, improving shared decision-making around important issues like birth plans and cancer treatments.

There are still missed opportunities to further improve holistic care by opening up the consultation to explore spiritual topics which are important to the patient. These may include, but are not limited to religious faith. The seminar will expose how important discussions around meditation, mindfulness, love, creativity, compassion, and wisdom may be of fundamental importance to a patient facing difficult health challenges.

By using the tools of Values-based Practice, healthcare workers can avoid imposing beliefs, and better understand the spiritual ‘essence’ of the individual patient.

Programme

TIME	TOPICS	SPEAKERS
9.30	Arrival and Registration	
10.00	Welcome and Introduction to the Collaborating Centre	<i>Morning Chair Ashok Handa Director, Collaborating Centre</i>
10.05	Teaching Values-based Practice in Health and Social care: an educational journey from philosophy to spirituality	Ashok Handa & Bill Fulford
10.25	How does Values-based Practice facilitate conversations about spirituality?	Ed Peile
10.45	Coffee break	
11.05	Creativity and Spirituality	Emily Pedder
11.20	Moral injury impacts on the beliefs of people of all religions and none	Brian Powers
11.40	When is it important to include discussion of spirituality in a GP consultation?	Andrew Papanikidas
12.00	Small group discussions am	
12.40	Large group discussion am	
13.00	Lunch	
		<i>Afternoon Chair Ed Peile</i>
14.00	Understanding Meditation & Mindfulness	Feroze Dada
14.20	Spirituality conversations about life-changing events in gynaecology	Richard Smith
14.40	Exploring Spirituality at the End of Life	Hani Gabra
15.00	Small group discussion pm	
15.30	Large group discussion pm	
15.55	Wrapping up	Ed Peile and Feroze Dada
16.15	Tea and travel	

Small group discussion will involve groups of those people attending the symposium online as well as the participants at St Catherine's College

Speakers

Ashok Handa MA, FRCS (Eng), FRCS(Ed) is Professor of Vascular Surgery and Director of Teaching in Surgery at the Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences, University of Oxford and Director of the Collaborating Centre for Values-based practice, St Catherine's College, Oxford. His numerous publications cover clinical practice, clinical science, medical education, and shared decision making. With Ed Peile and Bill Fulford he co-edited the second edition, *Essential Values-Based Practice: Clinical Stories Linking Science with People* to be published by CUP in 2026.

KWM (Bill) Fulford is a Fellow of St Catherine's College and Member of the Philosophy Faculty, University of Oxford; Emeritus Professor of Philosophy and Mental Health, University of Warwick Medical School; and Founder Director of the Collaborating Centre. His previous posts include Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist, University of Oxford, and Special Adviser for Values-Based Practice in the Department of Health, London. Prizes: 2022 Margrit Egnér Foundation Award (Zurich) for anthropological and humanistic psychology; and 2023 Aristotle Gold Medal, International Society of Neurobiology & Psychopharmacology and the World Psychiatric Association.

Ed Peile is Emeritus Professor of Medical Education at University of Warwick and was founder education lead at The Collaborating Centre. He holds the President's Medal of the Academy of Medical Educators medal for a lifetime contribution to medical education. A Fellow of three Royal Medical Colleges. With Bill Fulford and Heidi Carroll, he edited *Essential Values-Based Practice: Clinical Stories Linking Science with People* (CUP 2012).

Ed describes creative writing as his 'third career' and his debut novel '*Fire Place*' is in submission.

Emily Pedder MA is an award-winning writer, and founder of The Book Edit. She has a deep commitment to supporting the creative journey of writers. 2025 marked the fifth anniversary of the annual Writers' Prize she runs for underrepresented and unpublished writers. For over 20 years, she has dedicated her career to the craft of writing—as an author, developmental editor, writing mentor and coach, and creative writing lecturer at City St George's, London.

Revd Brian S. Powers, Ph.D is Bernard William Vann Fellow in Christianity and the Armed Forces, and Executive Director of the International Centre for Moral Injury (ICMI) at Durham University. He is the author of *Full Darkness: Original Sin, Moral Injury and Wartime Violence*.

Andrew Papanikitas is Chair of the WONCA working party on ethics and professionalism, a medical doctor, and educator in Oxford. He co-edited the BMA award-winning *Handbook of Primary Care Ethics and Marketization, Health and Ethics*. He co-convenes the Society of Apothecaries' diploma in philosophy and teaches across all levels at Oxford University. As deputy editor of the British Journal of General Practice, he oversees the blog (www.bjgplife.com) and the Life and Times section, and volunteers with local healthcare initiatives.

Feroze Dada, a Chartered Accountant by training, actively contributes to fields beyond finance. His publications include 'Children of the Revolution', 'A Disciple', and 'Peace between Breaths'. Feroze established The Inle Trust in 2013, a UK-registered charity supporting over 1,300 orphaned and abandoned refugee children at a Buddhist monastery in war-torn Myanmar. He teaches meditation and spirituality at The Sylvan Healing Sanctuary in London. Feroze is also known for producing and interviewing on the online TV series 'Discovering Humanity' and 'Our One World'. www.ferozedada.com | www.inletrust.org.uk

Hani Gabra PhD, FRCPE, FRCP is Emeritus Professor of Medical Oncology at Imperial College London and Honorary Consultant Medical Oncologist at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, based at the Hammersmith Campus of Imperial College and he is a consultant Medical Oncologist and Lead Cancer Care Clinician at Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust. He has published over 300 medical articles, chapters and books.

Richard Smith MD, FRCOG is Consultant gynaecological surgeon at Hammersmith Hospital, Hon Consultant in Transplantation Surgery at University of Oxford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, and Professor of Practice at Imperial College. He founded and chairs the charity Womb Transplant UK and leads the research team. With a long-running interest in doctor-patient communication, he is a prolific author of books for the medical profession.