Physician Responses to Common Mental and Behavioral Health Concerns

**Brief Description:** We mailed questionnaires to a national probability sample of 1500 primary care physicians and 500 psychiatrists. Questionnaires included multiple vignettes (several with experimental designs) of patients reporting common mental and behavioral health concerns. We assessed how physicians responded to these, including to what extent physicians described patients' problems as spiritual in nature and recommended spiritual resources as a response. We also measured the extent to which physicians' religious characteristics accounted for their reported ideas and practices. Embedded in this study is a study of physician burnout, sense of calling, and plans for reducing or discontinuing patient care. The study design allows comparisons between psychiatrists and primary care physicians for most measures.

**Funding:** This work was funded by grants from the John Templeton Foundation and the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (1 K23 AT002749, to Dr. Curlin).

**Methodology:**
- [Methods Report](#)
- [Survey for Primary Care Physicians](#)
- [Survey for Psychiatrists](#)

**Published Papers:**

- Lawrence RE, Rasinski KA, Yoon JD, Curlin FA. Religion and Beliefs about Treating Medically Unexplained Symptoms: A Survey of Primary Care Physicians and Psychiatrists. International Journal of Psychiatry in Medicine. 45(1); 2013: 31-44.
- Lawrence RE, Rasinski KA, Yoon JD, Curlin FA. Primary care physicians’ and psychiatrists’ willingness to refer to religious mental health providers. Int J Soc Psychiatry 2014;60(7):627-36.
- Brauer SG, Yoon JD, Curlin FA. US Primary Care Physicians’ Opinions about Conscientious Refusal: A National Vignette Experiment. Journal of Medical Ethics. 2015 Jul 1 [Epub ahead of print].