

Medicine and Religion

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Abstract: In this book the author is trying to find answers to many questions about the past and the future of two important parts of human life - medicine and religion. The living connection between the medicine and the religion is based on thousand years of collaboration, because they both are created to help and cure people. The important place of the medicine, physicians and medical ethic in the world religious principles, proved by many facts demonstrates a strong connection and joined responsibility of the medicine and religion for the patients. The last decades show the new perspectives and possibilities for modern and effective co-operation between medicine and religion.

In a time, when man is in the centre of all scientific research, there is a natural aspiration that the investigations range over a large number of problems about human existence and spirit. For that reason it is easy to explain the increased interest in the theme "Medicine and religion", not only from the side of theologians and chaplains, but also from the side of physicians, scientists in medical ethics, psychologists, social workers.

There exist in the real milieu of the modern hospital many therapeutic and ethical problems, whose solution requires a holistic approach to the patients' personality. Unfortunately the wonderful Orthodox healthcare traditions are destroyed, the Church is out of the hospitals, but patients, their relatives, medical staff, and the whole of society needs pastoral care and spiritual support during the time of suffering. Nowadays hospital treatment of patients is a complex and responsible process, which demands the combined efforts of the therapeutic team, leading from valuing of human life and human dignity at the highest level. There is only one right way: we all - society, church and state - must discover again (after 50 years) the place of the chaplain in the Bulgarian hospital and his responsibility for the treatment of patients. This book shows that the problem is important and its solution must be found as a top priority.

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The ICU Patient

Dr Jordan Vuchkov

Abstract: The remarkable progress in all scientific areas today leads on the one hand to the obliteration of the margins between different scientific disciplines and, on the other hand, to the building of permanent relations between them. In addition, the mark of modern scientific thinking is its interdisciplinary character. In a time, when man is in the centre of all scientific research, there is a natural aspiration that the investigations range over a large number of problems about human existence and spirit. For that reason it is easy to explain the increased interest in the theme "ICU - patient", not only from the side of physicians and scientists in medical ethics, but also from the side of psychologists, social workers, theologians and chaplains.

Nowadays, the hospital treatment of the ICU - patients is a complex and responsible process, which demands the common efforts of the therapeutic team, highly qualified and motivated physicians, nurses and other staff, who place the highest value on the human life and dignity. However, the therapeutic team is saddled with numerous tensions - physical, mental, spiritual and social stress. The pressures on individual members of the team to adapt are therefore very high. Often, in spite of their scientific, technical competence, and therapeutic abilities, the members of the team are unable to stabilize the patients psychologically and thus to give them faith and hope.

There exist in the real milieu of the modern hospital many therapeutic and ethical problems, whose solution requires a holistic approach to the patients' personality. For that reason we will show the need for an interdisciplinary therapeutically team and the variability in patient care in the ICU. Then we will characterize an interdisciplinary team and their key members in Bulgaria and in foreign countries. There is only one right way: we all - society, church and state - must discover again (after 50 years) the place of the chaplain in the Bulgarian hospital and his responsibility for the treatment of patients.

An empirical study, investigating the attitude of staff and patients to the necessity of Healthcare chaplaincy, shows that the problem in Bulgaria is important and its solution must be found as a top priority.

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