

INCORPORATING SPIRITUAL HEALTH INTO PRE-CLINICAL TRAINING

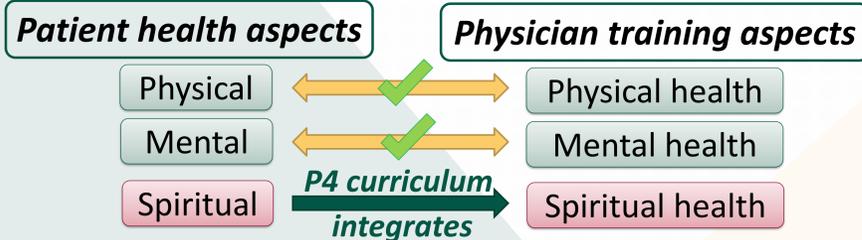


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INTRODUCTION

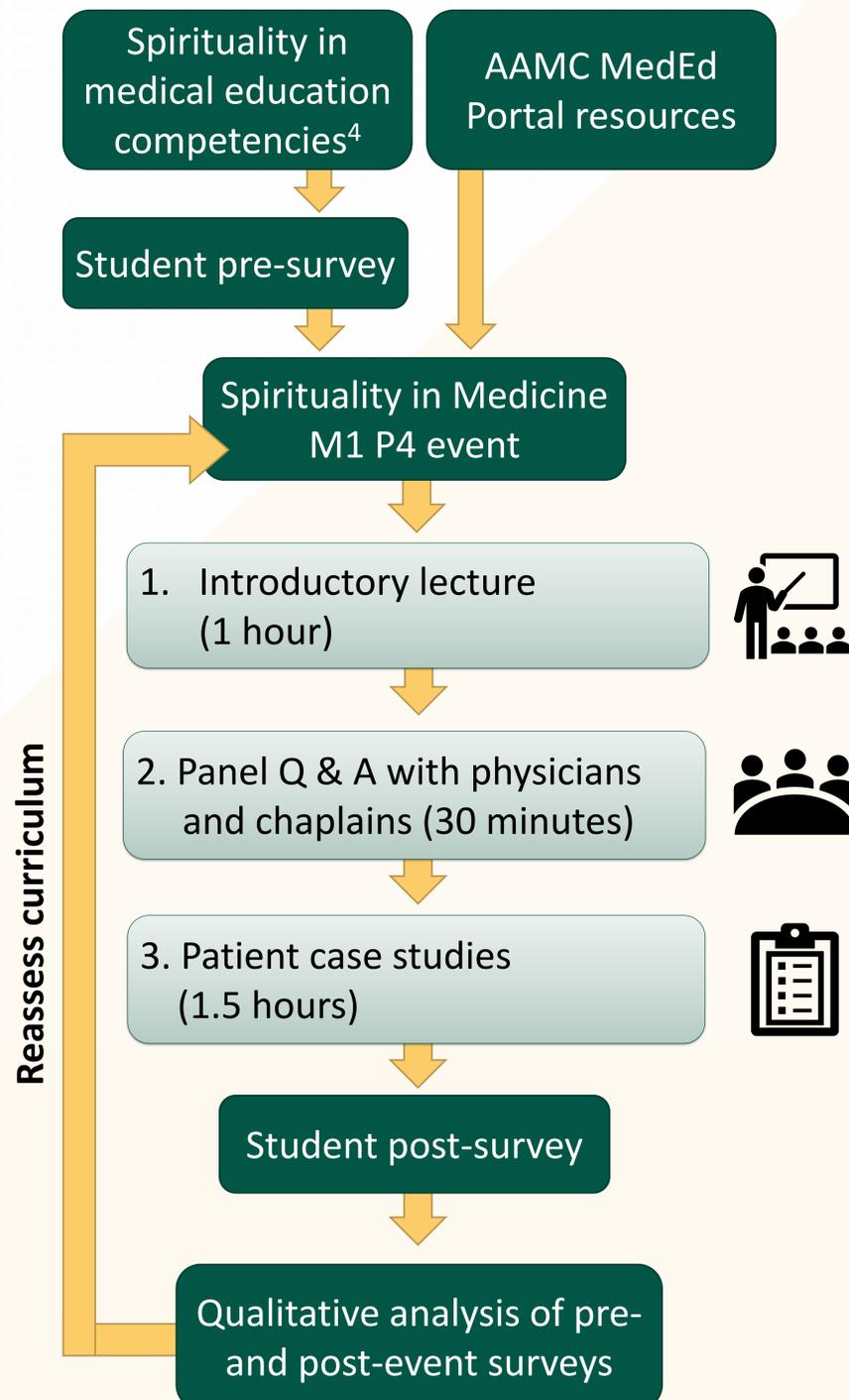
The majority of U.S. adults believe spiritual health is critical to personal well-being and often equate the importance of spiritual and physical health¹. Likewise, spiritual commitments have been found to improve recovery and life expectancy². Although physicians are willing to engage patients in discussion about their spiritual needs, most hospitalized patients report this aspect lacking from their care. Physician surveys have identified lack of training in spiritual assessments as a major barrier to addressing patient spirituality in a medical setting^{1, 3}. **To address this gap in education, the WSU first year (M1) P4 curriculum is incorporating lecture, panelists, and case studies into a Spirituality in Medicine event.**



REFERENCES

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METHODS



RESULTS

We expect this event will improve students' understanding of the role of spirituality in patient health behaviors and outcomes while helping them identify spirituality-related social determinants of health that impact healthcare access. Finally, students will learn to apply strategies to advocate for reducing barriers to spirituality related to healthcare equity.

FUTURE PLANS

To fully integrate basic training in spirituality, **the next step is to integrate spiritual assessments into the Clinical Skills curriculum for pre-clerkship students.** Specific goals include:

- Teaching students different tools for performing spiritual assessments and histories in a patient encounter
- Allowing students to practice discussing spiritual needs with standardized patients
- Developing pre- and post-encounter surveys that assess the utility of the practice session

CONCLUSIONS

Addressing patients' spirituality could improve health outcomes, but most physicians feel underprepared to address this topic. Introducing a Spirituality in Medicine event to the P4 and Clinical Skills curricula will equip future physicians to better serve their patients.