



# Mind–Body Medicine & Spirituality

## New Knowledge and Ancient Wisdom

**Anne Harrington, PhD**  
keynote speaker

**Friday, November 13, 2009**  
Kellogg Center, Michigan State University

### The Keynote Address



If the placebo effect can produce “real” healing, what does this mean for religion and faith? Do the rites and symbols of religious belief function for the faithful as potent placebos – similar to sugar pills and syringes filled with saline water, and with as little real substance? Or is

there more to say? Are humans “wired for God” because, in the course of human evolution, believers in God were able more effectively to evoke the placebo effect (and recover from illness) than nonbelievers? Or, again, is there more to say? What about prayer? If we want to prove that its effects are “real,” don’t we have to prove that the placebo effect could not have played any role? Or, is there another way to think about this?

The speaker aims, not so much to answer these questions, as to show where they have come from, and why we are asking them now in the ways that we are. Several historical touchstones – late 19th-century medical and Catholic attempts to account for the power behind the healings at Lourdes; early 20th-century secular and religious debates over the real power behind the “power of positive thinking” – will frame and deepen our ability to engage with the issues in our own time.

Anne Harrington, PhD, specializes in the history of psychiatry, neuroscience, and the other mind sciences. She is Chair of the Department of the History of Science at Harvard University and Visiting Professor for Medical History at the London School of Economics, where she co-edits the journal *Biosocieties*.

For six years, she co-directed Harvard’s Mind, Brain, and Behavior Initiative. She was a consultant for the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Mind-Body Interactions. She serves on the Board of the Mind and Life Institute, an organization dedicated to cross-cultural dialogue between Buddhism and the sciences. She is the author of *Medicine, Mind and the Double Brain* (1987), *Reenchanted Science* (1997), and *The Cure Within* (2008).

### Agenda

*Foglio Conference on Spirituality & Medicine*

**Friday, November 13, 2009**  
Kellogg Center Auditorium, MSU

**8:00** *Registration*

**8:30** *Welcome – Marsha D. Rappley, MD*  
Dean, MSU College of Human Medicine

**8:40** *Keynote Address: Faith, Healing & the Placebo Effect – Anne Harrington, PhD*  
Professor and Chair, History of Science Department, Harvard University

**9:45** *Respondent – David Addiss, MD, MPH*  
Senior Program Officer, Fetzer Institute, Inc.

**10:30** *Break*

**10:40** *Interdisciplinary Panel/Discussion*

Panelists: David Kozishek, MA., BCC (Panel leader); Janet Osuch, MD; Michael J. Boivin, PhD, MPH; Tom Tomlinson, PhD; Edward Rosick, DO, MPH, DABHM; E. James Potchen, MD, JD, MSc; Issidoros Sarinopoulos, PhD, MS

**12:00** *Adjourn*

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#### Space limited! Please register with:

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(Photo of Dr. Harrington by Susan Kreiter,  
Boston Globe staff)

### Program Background

The Foglio Conference on Spirituality and Medicine was established in honor of Father John P. Foglio, DMin, a faculty member in the Department of Family Medicine since 1986. The Rev. Dr. Foglio has woven into his career with the MSU Department of Family Medicine a commitment to social justice, a compassionate and intense concern for the personal and spiritual well-being of students and colleagues, and a scholarly background in both theology and communication sciences. In 1993 he developed “Spirituality and Medicine,” a required Humanities-Block Course for Year II medical students in the MSU College of Human Medicine. This conference institutionalizes the educational initiatives begun by Father Foglio.

**Sponsored by Michigan State University Department of Family Medicine and the Center for Ethics and Humanities in the Life Sciences. Visit us on the web at <http://chmfamilymedicine.msu.edu>.**