Dear fellow physician,

About four weeks ago we sent a questionnaire to you regarding religion and the practice of medicine. To the best of our knowledge, it has not yet been returned.

If you haven’t returned the questionnaire, we would greatly appreciate it if you would please take a moment to do so. You were uniquely selected in such a way as to be sure that the study represents physicians nationwide, so your participation is essential to the study’s success.

It doesn’t matter whether you are religious or not, whether you deal with controversial issues often or not. It is critical that we hear your perspective.

Again, thank you so much for your time. I know it is very valuable.

Sincerely,

Farr Curlin, MD

The questionnaire takes about 10 minutes to complete. Your responses will be confidential and your name will not be matched to your answers. If you are not comfortable answering any items, just leave those items blank. Please feel free to write additional comments on your questionnaire.
SECTION A: YOUR RELIGIOUS OR SECULAR CHARACTERISTICS

Some of the following questions are asked more than one way. Please complete all items if possible, whether you consider yourself spiritual, religious, or neither.

1. Which of the following statements comes closest to your beliefs about God?
   - [ ] 1. I do not believe in God
   - [ ] 2. I believe in one God
   - [ ] 3. I believe in more than one god

2. To what extent do you consider yourself a spiritual person?
   - [ ] 1. Very spiritual
   - [ ] 2. Moderately spiritual
   - [ ] 3. Slightly spiritual
   - [ ] 4. Not spiritual at all

3. To what extent do you consider yourself a religious person?
   - [ ] 1. Very religious
   - [ ] 2. Moderately religious
   - [ ] 3. Slightly religious
   - [ ] 4. Not religious at all

4. How often do you spend time in prayer, meditation in your spiritual tradition, or study of scriptures?
   - [ ] 1. More than once a day
   - [ ] 2. Once a day
   - [ ] 3. Several times a week
   - [ ] 4. Once a week
   - [ ] 5. Less than once a week
   - [ ] 6. Never

5. How often do you attend religious services?
   - [ ] 1. Never
   - [ ] 2. Less than once a year
   - [ ] 3. About once or twice a year
   - [ ] 4. Several times a year
   - [ ] 5. About once a month
   - [ ] 6. Two to three times a month
   - [ ] 7. Nearly every week
   - [ ] 8. Every week
   - [ ] 9. Several times a week

6. How important would you say your religion is in your own life?
   - [ ] 1. The most important
   - [ ] 2. Very important
   - [ ] 3. Fairly important
   - [ ] 4. Not very important
   - [ ] 9. Not applicable. I have no religion
7. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) I try hard to carry my religious beliefs over into all my other dealings in life</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) My whole approach to life is based on my religion</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) My faith involves all of my life</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) I seek God’s guidance when making every important decision</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) My faith sometimes sets limits on my actions</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) Nothing is as important to me as serving God as best I know how</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g) It doesn’t matter so much what I believe, as long as I lead a moral life</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h) In my life I experience the presence of the Divine</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i) I feel a transcendent or spiritual connection to those around me</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j) I look for the presence of the sacred in others</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) There is very little truth in any religion</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) There are basic truths in many religions</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) There is truth in one religion</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8a. Now please circle the statement above which comes closest to your own views.

9. Which of the following statements comes closest to your own views?

- No religion is true
- Many religions are true
- One religion is true
10. Among the following, which best indicates your religious affiliation?

- [ ] None / I have no religion → Please skip to item #14.
- [x] Buddhist
- [x] Hindu
- [x] Jewish
- [x] Muslim
- [x] Christian

2a. How often do you chant or meditate?
- [ ] Daily or more often
- [ ] Two or more times/week
- [ ] About once a week
- [ ] Less than once a week
- [ ] Never

2b. Do you maintain a shrine in your home?
- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

3a. How often do you pray?
- [ ] Daily or more often
- [ ] Two or more times/week
- [ ] About once a week
- [ ] Less than once a week
- [ ] Never

3b. What dietary restrictions do you observe?
- [ ] Vegan (no animal products, no dairy)
- [ ] Vegetarian (no meat, no seafood)
- [ ] Eat some meats but not others
- [ ] No dietary restrictions

4a. Would you say you are…?
- [ ] Orthodox
- [ ] Conservative
- [ ] Reform
- [ ] Secular
- [ ] Other

4b. To what extent do you keep kosher?
- [ ] Not at all
- [ ] Somewhat
- [ ] Strictly

5a. About how often do you pray?
- [ ] Five times a day or more often
- [ ] At least once a day
- [ ] At least once a week
- [ ] Rarely or never

5b. To what extent do you keep the Ramadan fast?
- [ ] Not at all
- [ ] Somewhat
- [ ] Strictly

6a. Which of these statements comes closest to your own views about the Bible?
- [ ] The Bible is inspired by God and is without error in its original form.
- [ ] The Bible is inspired by God but has many errors even in the original form.
- [ ] The Bible is a human creation

6b. Would you say you have been “born again” or had a turning point in your life when you committed yourself to Christ?
- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Not sure

6c. Which of the following best indicates your Christian tradition?
- [ ] Roman Catholic
- [ ] Eastern Orthodox
- [ ] Protestant
- [ ] Other Christian

6d. In the past year, how many times have you been to confession (or “The Sacrament of Reconciliation”)?
- [ ] None
- [ ] Once or twice
- [ ] Three to six times
- [ ] More than six times

6e. Do you consider yourself evangelical?
- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

7. Other Religion (please specify) ____________________________________________
11. How observant would you say you are of your religion’s practices and rituals?
   - 1. Very observant
   - 2. Moderately observant
   - 3. Slightly observant
   - 4. Not observant at all

12. Would you say your theological orientation is …?
   - 1. Very conservative
   - 2. Somewhat conservative
   - 3. Somewhat liberal
   - 4. Very liberal

   - 9. The terms “liberal” and “conservative” do not apply to my religion.

13. If possible, please provide the specific name of your denomination (For example, if you are Lutheran, are you Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, or some other Lutheran denomination): ________________________________________________
    ____________________________________________________________________

14. **To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) I am constantly questioning my religious beliefs</td>
<td>□ 1</td>
<td>□ 2</td>
<td>□ 3</td>
<td>□ 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) There are many religious issues on which my views are still changing</td>
<td>□ 1</td>
<td>□ 2</td>
<td>□ 3</td>
<td>□ 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) It is better for a person's religious beliefs to be firm and free of doubt</td>
<td>□ 1</td>
<td>□ 2</td>
<td>□ 3</td>
<td>□ 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) Religious doubt allows us to learn</td>
<td>□ 1</td>
<td>□ 2</td>
<td>□ 3</td>
<td>□ 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) Different religions have different versions of the truth, and each may be equally right in its own way</td>
<td>□ 1</td>
<td>□ 2</td>
<td>□ 3</td>
<td>□ 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) There is no one, true, right religion</td>
<td>□ 1</td>
<td>□ 2</td>
<td>□ 3</td>
<td>□ 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g) People who are very religious are often too intolerant of others</td>
<td>□ 1</td>
<td>□ 2</td>
<td>□ 3</td>
<td>□ 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h) People who are skeptical or secular are often too intolerant of others</td>
<td>□ 1</td>
<td>□ 2</td>
<td>□ 3</td>
<td>□ 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i) The U.S. would be a better country if religion had less influence</td>
<td>□ 1</td>
<td>□ 2</td>
<td>□ 3</td>
<td>□ 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SECTION B: YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON SOME COMPLEX AND/OR CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES IN MEDICINE

15. A 60 year old patient presents to you with continued deep grieving two months after the death of his wife. If you were to refer the patient, to which of the following would you prefer to refer first?

- 1. Health-care chaplain or clergy member
- 2. Religious counselor
- 3. Clinical psychologist
- 4. Psychiatrist
- 5. Other (please specify) ________________________________

16. Please indicate whether you object, for religious or other moral reasons, to each of the following medical practices.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practice</th>
<th>I object</th>
<th>I do not object</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Physician assisted suicide</td>
<td>□ 1</td>
<td>□ 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Growth hormone injections for a child of normal but short stature</td>
<td>□ 1</td>
<td>□ 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Abortion because of failed contraception</td>
<td>□ 1</td>
<td>□ 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) Abortion because the fetus has Down Syndrome</td>
<td>□ 1</td>
<td>□ 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) Physician-initiated prayer with patients</td>
<td>□ 1</td>
<td>□ 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) Cosmetic surgery for enhancement of breast size/appearance</td>
<td>□ 1</td>
<td>□ 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recently, there has been some controversy about the appropriate clinical role of physicians’ own moral convictions. With respect to the following issues, please indicate your views.

17. If a patient requests a legal medical procedure or treatment, but the patient’s physician objects to the procedure/treatment for religious or moral reasons:

   a. Does the physician have an obligation to provide the procedure/treatment him/herself?
      - □ 1 Yes
      - □ 2 No
      - □ 3 Undecided

   b. If the physician will not provide the procedure/treatment, does he or she have an obligation to refer the patient to someone who will?
      - □ 1 Yes
      - □ 2 No
      - □ 3 Undecided

18. In your own practice, how often do patients request a medical procedure or treatment that you find morally problematic?

   - □ 1 Daily
   - □ 2 Two or more times/week
   - □ 3 Once a week
   - □ 4 A few times a month
   - □ 5 Once a month or less
   - □ 6 Never
19. **To what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) A physician should never do what he or she believes is morally wrong,</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no matter what experts say</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Sometimes physicians have a professional ethical obligation to</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>provide medical services even if they personally believe it would be</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>morally wrong to do so</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Physicians should not let their religious beliefs keep them from</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>providing patients legal medical options</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

20. **When making an ethically complex medical decision, how much weight should physicians give to each of the following considerations?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consideration</th>
<th>Little to no weight</th>
<th>Some weight</th>
<th>A lot of weight</th>
<th>The highest possible weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) The patient’s expressed wishes and values</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) The physician’s own judgment about what is in the patient’s best interest</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Standards and recommendations from professional medical bodies</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) Moral guidelines from religious traditions</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

21. **To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about what a person’s conscience does?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) A person’s conscience judges whether the person’s actions are right or</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wrong</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) A person’s conscience reflects that person’s own values and desires,</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not whether an action is right or wrong</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) A person’s conscience, if working properly, tells the person whether</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>his/her actions are consistent with the universal moral law</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) A person who has carefully considered an issue should never act against</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conscience</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

22. What should a physician do if he/she believes that a patient needs a medical intervention, and the hospital in which the physician works prohibits that intervention because of its religious affiliation?

- [ ] 1 The physician should provide the intervention openly, even if doing so risks his/her job or hospital privileges
- [ ] 2 The physician should provide the intervention but should do so discretely in order to avoid risking his/her job or hospital privileges
- [ ] 3 The physician should encourage the patient to seek the intervention at a hospital where that intervention is not prohibited
- [ ] 4 The physician should recommend another treatment option that is permitted at his/her hospital
23. Have you ever taken care of patients in a religiously-affiliated practice or hospital?

☐ 1 Yes ➔ If Yes: 23a. What is the affiliation of that hospital/practice?
☐ 2 No

☐ 2 Jewish  ☐ 1 Roman Catholic  ☐ 3 Christian, non-Catholic  ☐ 4 Other

23b. Have you ever had a conflict with that practice/hospital regarding its religiously-based policies for patient care?

☐ 1 Yes  ☐ 2 No

SECTION C: YOUR DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

24. Do you consider yourself Hispanic or Latino?

☐ 1 Yes
☐ 2 No

25. How do you classify your race? (Check only one)

☐ 1 Asian ➔ 25a. Do you think of yourself as …

☐ 1 East Asian or Pacific Islander
☐ 2 South Asian
☐ 3 Other Asian

☐ 2 Black or African-American
☐ 3 American Indian or Alaskan Native
☐ 4 White or Caucasian
☐ 5 Other _____________________________

26. Which of the following best describes how long you have been in the United States?

☐ 1, I immigrated to the United States as an adult.
☐ 2 I immigrated to the United States as a child.
☐ 3 One or both of my parents immigrated to the United States before I was born.
☐ 4 Both of my parents were born in the United States

27. Please use the following space for anything else you would like to tell us about religion and the practice of medicine.

If you would be willing to participate in a 15-30 minute confidential phone interview about religion and the practice of medicine, please check this box ☐ and indicate below the preferred way to reach you. A portion of respondents who volunteer will be contacted.

• Phone number: (_____) _________________
• E-mail: ______________________________

Please return this survey in the enclosed, postage-paid envelope.
THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!