

Tom Gordon, Ewan Kelly, and David Mitchell, *Spiritual Care for Healthcare Professionals: Reflecting On Clinical Practice* (London: Radcliffe Publishing, 2011), 162 pp.

A recent multisite study by Michael Balboni and several other authors found the primary barrier to patients receiving spiritual care at end of life was the lack of training in spiritual care for physicians and nurses.¹ *Spiritual Care for Healthcare Professionals: Reflecting on Clinical Practice* is a resource that could provide such training. Its authors posit that creating greater self-awareness of one's individual spirituality, disentangling spirituality from religion, learning the basics of doing a spiritual assessment and providing spiritual care, and thinking through numerous case scenarios will prepare healthcare professionals to respond to patients' spiritual care needs with greater confidence and competence. All three authors have worked as chaplains. Although they write from the context of the National Health Service in Scotland, most of the book's material has wider application.

This book's primary audience is healthcare professionals, and much of the expository material is too basic for professional chaplains, even the sections aimed at the chaplain as spiritual care specialist. Nevertheless, *Spiritual Care for Healthcare Professionals*, with its accessible prose and overview of core topics such as communication, spiritual assessment, ethics, grief, and bereavement, deserves a place on our bookshelves. The descriptions of spiritual care in the healthcare setting may help professional chaplains translate their work to other healthcare professionals or provide introductory material for seminary students and CPE residents.

The most compelling features of *Spiritual Care for Healthcare Professionals* are the Reflective Activities and Case Scenarios sprinkled through each chapter. These are thought- and spirit-provoking, meant to promote self-awareness and help the reader integrate faith, culture, and belief in order

1. Michael J. Balboni et al., "Why Is Spiritual Care Infrequent at the End of Life? Spiritual Care Perceptions among Patients, Nurses, and Physicians and the Role of Training," *Journal of Clinical Oncology* 31, no. 4 (Feb. 1, 2013): 461–67.

to understand his or her own spirituality and the diversity of spirituality. These exercises could be useful at any stage of formation and, for professional spiritual care providers, might help us reconnect with what is meaningful in our work.

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