

*Center for*  
**WHOLE PERSON CARE**

STRATEGIC PLAN  
2021 - 2025



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY  
HEALTH

Many Strengths.  
One Mission.

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*Thy faith hath made thee whole.*  
– Luke 17:19, ASV



# Preface

The Japanese art of mending broken ceramics is called *Kintsugi*. A skilled artist takes the broken fragments, coats them with a special lacquer and glues each piece back together in the original shape. After days of drying, the surface is sanded to be perfectly smooth and the skillful artisan paints over the joints with gold. What once was broken and worthless is now even more valuable than before. This Japanese practice highlights and enhances the brokenness of the vase but adds a special value to the object.

Just like the *Kintsugi* technique, Whole Person Care invites us to see beyond the brokenness of our patients, hoping the time spent in this interaction will be the beginning of restoration and healing. Inspired by the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus, the Whole Person Care approach compels us to go beyond the physical disease and explore the emotional, spiritual and social aspects of each other's being in order to understand the individual as a whole person.

As a faith-based institution, Loma Linda University Health (LLUH) will continue to advocate wholeness for each of our patients, with a special interest on the spiritual component. Dr. Wil Alexander, the founder of the Center for Whole Person Care called us to adopt a view in which spirituality is part of the experience of every human being we interact with even when they're not fully aware of it. He reassured us that ultimately, "the spiritual can be seen to connect the visible and invisible phenomena in human experience—and in personal and communal events—past, present, and future."<sup>1</sup> Just like the golden lacquer is used in the art of *Kintsugi*, we believe spirituality can help us mend the brokenness of our patient's experience.

The following strategic plan builds on the work of those who came before us. Our team is committed to helping our campus understand and implement the Whole Person Care approach, prioritizing the research, education and practice of these concepts. Similarly, our team will work on implementing initiatives that will support the mission of LLUH and will make the Center a resource for students, residents, employees, clinicians and faculty.



Saul Barcelo, PhD  
Director



Anne Nicolas  
Manager

<sup>1</sup> Wil Alexander, *Innerweave: Creating the Spiritual-Faith Connections in Whole Person Medicine* (Loma Linda University Press 2008) 33.

## Mission Statement

To continue the **teaching** and **healing** ministry of Jesus Christ by integrating **faith** and **healing**.

## Mission Priorities

Implementation of the following mission priorities will unfold in the context of faith:

- ♦ Research
- ♦ Education
- ♦ Practice





# RESEARCH

## Mission Aim

**Expand and nurture academic research in the area of Whole Person Care with a specific focus on the role of spirituality and faith in healthcare.**

### Initiative 1

The Center's Advisory Committee, composed of faculty members of the eight schools of Loma Linda University (LLU), will meet quarterly in order to explore opportunities for individual and collaborative research on the role of spirituality and faith in healthcare.

### Initiative 2

The Center will feature faculty and student research and publications on its website.

### Initiative 3

The Center will create and maintain a blog devoted to reflections on Whole Person Care written by students, clinicians and faculty.

### Initiative 4

The Center will sponsor an electronic journal which features developing and published research on Whole Person Care, authored by students, clinicians and faculty.

### Initiative 5

The Center will make financial resources available, for which graduate students and faculty members can apply, for presentations of their research on Whole Person Care at regional and national conferences.

### Initiative 6

The Center will update and expand the resources of the Wil Alexander Library to assist those engaged in Whole Person Care research.



# EDUCATION

## Mission Aim

Collaborate with the School of Religion and faculty scholars from the other seven schools of LLU to oversee the development, content and cohesiveness of the Whole Person Care curriculum taught in LLU's academic programs.

### Initiative 1

The Center will consult with faculty leadership in the different healthcare programs offered by LLU to promote the concepts of Whole Person Care in the context of each profession.

### Initiative 2

The Center will collaborate with Loma Linda University Health (LLUH) Staff Development to offer an online CEU course to help LLUH employees and alumni understand and incorporate Whole Person Care into their practice.

### Initiative 3

The Center will plan and organize an annual conference on the topic of Whole Person Care. When feasible, this will be done in collaboration with other LLUH and/or Adventist healthcare entities.



# PRACTICE

## Mission Aim

Expand the practice of Whole Person Care in the clinical setting by the ongoing development of experiential learning materials and opportunities for students, residents, employees, clinicians and faculty.

### Initiative 1

The Center will expand Whole Person Care Rounds in the various clinical settings of LLUH.

### Initiative 2


The Center, in collaboration with the Advisory Committee, will organize six Whole Person Care Grand Rounds a year. The approach will be interdisciplinary, open to all, and will focus on the various aspects of faith and spirituality in healthcare.

### Initiative 3

The Center will continue to capture, develop and archive video content for the purposes of teaching Whole Person Care.

### Initiative 4

The Center will develop an electronic newsletter focused on learning materials available and latest research and events. This will be distributed biannually to subscribers (students, faculty, alumni, LLUH employees, donors and friends).



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