

HEALTHCARE CHAPLAINCY PRESENTS ‘PIONEER MEDAL FOR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP IN HEALTH CARE’ TO MAJOR INFLUENCERS
Spiritual Care Researcher and Advocate for the Aging Each Earn the Prestigious Honor

NEW YORK, N.Y. (April 12, 2016)—HealthCare Chaplaincy Network (HCCN) today presented its prestigious Pioneer Medal for Outstanding Leadership in Health Care to two renowned professionals whose careers have advanced health care with the domino effect of improving quality of life for countless individuals now and in the future.

The 2016 recipients are George Fitchett, D. Min., Ph.D., professor and director of research, Department of Religion, Health and Human Values, Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, Ill., for his significant influence in fostering evidence-based research in spiritual care; and Joseph F. Prevratil, J.D., president and CEO of the Archstone Foundation, Long Beach, Calif., for his transformational advocacy to improve the lives of the nation’s growing aging population.

HCCN’s president and CEO, Rev. Eric J. Hall, presented the two leaders with this prestigious honor at HCCN’s 3rd annual Caring for the Human Spirit Conference in San Diego, Calif., which is being attended by hundreds of professional chaplains and other health care professionals who have directly or indirectly been impacted by the recipients’ efforts. HCCN introduced the Pioneer Medal in 2011 to annually recognize distinguished leaders in the field.

“This year’s recipients of HealthCare Chaplaincy’s Pioneer Medal for Outstanding Leadership in Health Care have led the way in their respective sectors with valuable insight and noteworthy commitment. Their monumental efforts to change the status quo have not only helped to transform the health care field; they have helped to improve lives,” Hall said.

Fitchett developed the research program in Rush University’s Department of Religion, Health, and Human Values in 1990, one of the first in any chaplaincy department and considered a model program. Backed by \$4.5 million in grants from the John Templeton Foundation, he is currently co-leading a team to advance research literacy for health care chaplains. He has been a board certified chaplain and pastoral supervisor for more than 30 years. Fitchett’s latest book, with co-editor Steve Nolan, Ph.D., “Spiritual Care in Practice: Case Studies in Healthcare Chaplaincy,” lays the groundwork for further research into the quality and efficacy of spiritual care by detailing chaplains’ actual interventions.

At the Archstone Foundation, Prevratil has been a board member since 1987 and chief executive since 1995, and was instrumental in moving the foundation’s grant making from a focus on general health to addressing the emerging and unmet needs of society’s aging population, including end-of-life issues, depression in late life, aging in place, and family caregiving. He has had a prominent business career in

the Long Beach area, including serving as president and CEO of the Queen Mary and as CEO of the Port of Long Beach.

About HealthCare Chaplaincy Network™

HealthCare Chaplaincy Network™ is a global health care nonprofit organization that offers spiritual-related information and resources, and professional chaplaincy services in hospitals, other health care settings, and online. Its mission is to advance the integration of spiritual care in health care through clinical practice, research and education in order to improve patient experience and satisfaction, and to help people faced with illness and grief find comfort and meaning—whoever they are, whatever they believe, wherever they are. For more information, visit www.healthcarechaplancy.org, call 212-644-1111, and connect with us on twitter and Facebook.

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