

**THE PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR CULTURE AND THE CURA FOUNDATION PROMOTE
THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

#UniteToPrevent and #UniteToCure
Explore mind, body and soul

VATICAN CITY and NEW YORK, NY, February 25, 2020. The Pontifical Council for Culture and Cura Foundation have announced the **Fifth International Conference** scheduled to take place at the Aula Nuova del Sinodo in Vatican City on May 28-30, 2020. Organized in partnership between the Pontifical Council for Culture, the Cura Foundation, the Science and Faith STOQ Foundation and Stem For Life (SFLF), the Conference brings together the world's leading physicians, scientists, leaders of faith, ethicists, patient advocates, policymakers, philanthropists, and influencers to engage in powerful conversations on the latest breakthroughs in medicine, health care delivery, and prevention as well as the anthropological outcomes and the cultural impact of technological advances. Together, within the halls of Vatican City, they will focus on advances in medical innovation and seek to catalyze the creation of new, interdisciplinary approaches and partnerships for curing disease and improving health, wellbeing and understanding human uniqueness. Participants will explore the role of religion, faith and spirituality, and the interplay of Mind, Body and Soul and look for areas of convergence between the humanities and the natural sciences.

The Conference Goals include:

- Unite people and promote a culture of encounter (build bridges) to stimulate an open dialogue and encourage an interdisciplinary approach to tackle major health care challenges around the globe. This is consistent with the mission of the Pontifical Council of Culture to enriched human experience by bringing together people of diverse backgrounds and religions and advocating for the vulnerable.
- To fulfill the Pope's teaching expressed in *Laudato Si'*, that we must facilitate conversation and "a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. (...) which includes everyone," *LS 14*.
- Translate complex science into an accessible language to catalyze the conversation and inform the general public on the progress in the rapidly advancing medical science toward cures of many intractable diseases and the financial, social and societal implications of its success.
- Examine the mind, body and soul interaction and discuss what it means to be human, and how transformative medical technologies are raising new challenges around human enhancement and the interpretation of the mind-body-soul.
- Explore the field of neuro-cognitive sciences in reference to traditional ideas about consciousness, human identity and our uniqueness.
- Discuss the effects of emerging medical technologies and their anthropological, ethical, cultural, religious and societal implications.
- Inspire people to be more empathic, caring and helpful to one another.
- Initiate the global *Unite to Prevent* campaign and promote preventative measures to reduce cancer, inflammation, cardiometabolic syndrome, and communicable and non-communicable diseases and emphasizes healthier communities, prevention through education.
- Discuss holistic approaches to disease treatments and the mental and emotional aspects of chronic diseases.
- Continue the global *Unite to Cure* campaign to promote access to care and accelerate collaborations to develop novel treatments with the ultimate goal of advancing cures and improving human health.
- Forge new public-private-academic partnerships to deal with major health issues and support sustainable communities.
- Explore how new technology, data and artificial intelligence can improve and extend health care.

"It is necessary for the scientist to avoid the temptation that science alone is synonymous with explaining the totality of being and existence, meaning and values, and theologians and philosophers reflect on the profound implications scientific research may have in explaining phenomena of existence with tangible evidence" said His Eminence Cardinal Ravasi, President of the Pontifical Council for Culture.

"We believe in order to tackle major health care issues and advances human health, it is critically important to create a hotspot for interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration", said Dr. Robin Smith, Founder and President of the Cura Foundation. "This conference is like Davos but focused on health care and wellbeing."

"In order to truly improve humanity and human health we must foster a dialogue between natural sciences and humanities to identify convergences and encourage multidisciplinary collaboration. It is important to understand how religion or more broadly spiritual practices can influence our wellbeing and health," commented Mons. Tomasz Trafny, Head of Science and Faith Department at the Pontifical Council for Culture. "In addition, this project was possible through by the support of a grant from the John Templeton Foundation, The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, Sanford Health and other supporters who believe in the importance of working together to benefit humanity and we are grateful. Therefore, we hope other will unite with us to #UniteToPrevent and #UniteToCure."

For more information, please visit: vaticanconference2020.org and/or: www.cultura.va, thecurafoundation.org/