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Faith, Medicine, and Science: A Festschrift in Honor of Dr. David B. Larson

Jeff Levin, Harold G. Koenig

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A perfect introduction to the connection between religious faith and physical and mental health!

Faith, Medicine, and Science: A Festschrift in Honor of Dr. David B. Larson is a comprehensive collection of groundbreaking work from one of the principal figures in the establishment, expansion, and acceptance of scientific research at the interface of religion, spirituality, and health. Dr. Jeff Levin and Dr. Harold G. Koenig honor their late colleague with a retrospective of his writings on the impact of religious faith and identity on physical and mental health and on a variety of social issues, including criminal behavior, substance abuse, mental illness, juvenile delinquency, reproductive decisions, marital satisfaction, family functioning, and the quality of life. The book also features a concise history of the religion and health field, a biography of Dr. Larson, and tributes, essays, and remembrances from the leading figures in the field.

Faith, Medicine, and Science honors Dr. Larson's role in raising awareness of the health effects of religious faith and his vision and efforts in establishing coursework on religion and spirituality within undergraduate and graduate medical education programs. His body of theoretical and empirical writings serves as a permanent record of the powerful role played by religion and spirituality, and his work stands as a lasting contribution to science, medicine, and society. These articles combine with the book's supplemental features to provide social and behavioral scientists, medical researchers, and clinicians with an essential resource for clinical research and education.

Topics examined in Faith, Medicine, and Science include:

- the religious life of alcoholics
- religion, spirituality, and mortality
- the impact of religion on men's blood pressure
- the systematic analysis of research on religious variables
- a systematic review of nursing home research
- religious affiliations in mental health research samples as compared with national samples
- the associations between dimensions of religious commitment and mental health
- and much more!

Faith, Medicine, and Science: A Festschrift in Honor of Dr. David B. Larson documents the work of one of the most important writers on the interface of the human spirit and the healing arts. His death in 2002 at the age of 54 remains a profound loss, but through this book, his pioneering research will continue to serve as a thorough and accessible introduction to the religion and health field.

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