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“Spirituality and Health”: Public Program on December 4 at Rutgers University

NEW BRUNSWICK/PISCATAWAY, N.J. – What is the connection between spirituality and health? In recent years, researchers have provided compelling scientific evidence that spirituality and religious ritual can directly affect our health and well-being, and may point to a truly integrative model of health and healing for the 21st Century. On December 4 at Rutgers, the intersection of spirituality and health will be explored from religious and medical perspectives by Rabbi David Ellenson, president, and I.H. and Anna Grancell Professor of Jewish Thought at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC), and Dr. Jeff Levin, University Professor of Epidemiology and Population Health, and director of the Program on Religion and Population Health at the Institute for Studies of Religion at Baylor University. The talk will be moderated by Professor Deborah Carr, chair of the Sociology Department at Rutgers University, and a faculty member at the Rutgers Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research.

The program will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Douglass Campus Center, 100 George Street, New Brunswick. Sponsored by the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life at Rutgers University, the event is free and open to the public. Free parking is also available. The program is supported in part by the Sagner Family Foundation, and it is cosponsored by the Rutgers GAIA Centers’ 2013-2015 Biennial Theme: *Global Health!* and Rutgers Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research. Advance registration is requested by contacting csjlrsvp@rci.rutgers.edu or 848-932-2033. For more information, visit BildnerCenter.rutgers.edu.

David Ellenson has been instrumental in advancing pastoral care studies and the work of the Kalsman Institute on Judaism and Health at HUC, and his books include *After Emancipation: Jewish Religious Responses to Modernity*. Jeff Levin’s work at the interface of religion, science, and medicine has been influential in broadening the perspectives of researchers and clinicians on the connections among body, mind, and spirit. His books include *Healing to All Their Flesh: Jewish and Christian Perspectives on Spirituality, Theology, and Health* and *Judaism and Health: A Handbook of Practical, Professional, and Scholarly Resources*.

The Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life connects the university with the community through public lectures, Jewish communal initiatives, cultural events, and teacher training.

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