Editorial

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A recent feature article in *The New York Times* (August 9, 2012) describes a newly instituted program at Teachers' College of Columbia University. The article is entitled "Merging Spirituality and Clinical Psychology at Columbia." This program is designed to engage graduate students in the integration of psychological methods and theory with spiritual approaches in the practice of psychotherapy with those suffering from severe anxiety and stress reactions in coping. The program to date employs a variety approaches among which are Buddhist meditation, ancient Judeo-Christian traditions, the psychological theories of Carl Jung, and insights from quantum physics. The article goes on to say that this integration is "seldom seen in major research universities" where programs are devoted to an intentional effort in an empirical and clinical exploration of the relationship between spirituality and health. Moreover, the program has gained great popularity among entering students.

Readers of this *Journal* might wonder if those involved in implementing this program would be surprised given the growing number of sites, national and international, engaging in similar enterprises. Rather than assume an attitude of smugness at this current revelation, it would be well for all to applaud and celebrate another example of collaboration among traditions and disciplines. Put another way, no one field or discipline "owns" the truth in the collaborative efforts chronicled in these pages over the years.

From its earliest days, the *Journal of Religion and Health* has done its best to avoid the pitfalls of therapeutic or clinical Gnosticism where one group or school claims "special knowledge" in research and practice. In so doing, we have been able to avoid the trap of naïvete that neglects the complexity of our respective callings in dialogue with the human condition and with one another. This stance recognizes equally the efficacy of research as well as philosophical and literary inquiries into the dialogue between spirituality and health.

Former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Oliver Wendell Holmes, one of the greatest jurors in American history and an acknowledged founder of the school of philosophical pragmatism, made the phrase "the market place of ideas" a part of common parlance. The

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Journal and those who join with us embrace Holmes' vision of continual discovery, careful reflection, and impassioned debate as cornerstones of an ever emerging democratic society. It is well for all to remain conscious of Holmes' words and life example as we do our part in that endeavor.