

**The Pontifical Council for Culture and The Cura Foundation Unite to Prevent  
Global Leaders in Science, Faith, Medicine and Technology in Dialogue  
at the Fifth International Vatican Conference**

VATICAN CITY and NEW YORK, April 8, 2021— The Vatican’s Pontifical Council for Culture and the Cura Foundation’s Fifth International Vatican Conference will be held on May 6-8, 2021. The conference will unite the leading physicians, scientists, leaders of faith, ethicists, patient advocates, policymakers, philanthropists and influencers to engage in powerful conversations on the latest breakthroughs in medicine, healthcare delivery and prevention, as well as the anthropological significance and the cultural impact of technological advances.

The new virtual format three-day conference, originally scheduled to take place at the Aula Nuova Del Sinodo in the Vatican City, will be presented in dynamic, short-segment programs. This event is the fifth in a series over the past decade aimed at exploring and enhancing cross-disciplinary collaborations to advance human health. The series has reached global audience with Joe Biden addressing the 2016 conference in person and the 2018 #UniteToCure conference by video.

Moderated by experienced journalists, the conference will gather together a formidable group of speakers across all disciplines in the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic to share their insights about health, humanity and the future of medicine.

Conference organizers will also spotlight a conversation on “**Bridging Science and Faith**” to explore the commonalities between religion and spirituality and health and wellbeing, as well as examine the relationship between the mind, body and soul. The discussion will delve into the anthropological and cultural dimensions of being human and look for areas of convergence between the humanities and the natural sciences. Discussions around the importance of empathy and compassion, ethical implications of advances in technology, including artificial intelligence, and the impact of innovation on anthropology one of the many areas where dialogue must occur. This important conversation is made possible through the generous support of a grant from the John Templeton Foundation.

The conference will close with a message for the participants from Pope Francis. Complete conference details including the full list of speakers, topics, media moderators and supporters are available on the conference website.

“We must consider the interplay between mind, body and soul if we hope to significantly advance and improve human health care globally,” said Robin Smith, M.D., M.B.A., founder and president of the Cura Foundation. “Providing an opportunity for experts from diverse disciplines to share information and compare perspectives in a dynamic way will inspire hope for patients, families and communities around the world. The multi-disciplinary approach to this conference mobilizes global leaders to examine the world’s most pressing health challenges.”

Conference topics will address innovation in health care and how to make quality healthcare available and affordable, how to improve human health by addressing the mind, body and soul and how together with empathy and compassion we can make the world a better place. We will talk about the environment and our neighbor and how to stay connected. Complete descriptions of all conference topics are available on the conference website.

“Once again, we bring together scientists, physicians, health care providers, social workers, religious leaders of many different beliefs, representatives of law and industry, scholars of ethics, anthropology and philanthropy, and others, all representing different perspectives on the world,” said Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, president of the Pontifical Council for Culture. “No one approach can solve the perplexing and critical challenges of our times. All lenses are needed to bring into focus a complete picture of being and existence.”

Monsignor Tomasz Trafny, head of the Science and Faith Department of the Pontifical Council for Culture, said, “Together we will focus on advances in medical innovation and the creation of healthier communities and create bridges to catalyze the creation of new, interdisciplinary approaches and partnerships for improving health, wellbeing and understanding human uniqueness.”

To learn more about *#UniteToPrevent, The Fifth International Vatican Conference*, please visit: [VaticanConference2021.org](http://VaticanConference2021.org), [Cultura.va](http://Cultura.va), [TheCuraFoundation.org/](http://TheCuraFoundation.org/). Follow us on Twitter and Instagram [@CuraFdn](https://www.instagram.com/CuraFdn) and on Facebook at [facebook.com/TheCuraFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/TheCuraFoundation). Join the virtual conversation with *#UniteToPrevent* and *#UniteToCure*.

**The Cura Foundation** leads a major global health movement with the passionate purpose to improve human health. Cura unites public and private sectors, partnering with doctors, patients, business leaders, philanthropists and thought leaders to collaborate and create breakthroughs around the world. The foundation drives change by raising awareness of scientific advancements in genomics, emerging technologies and big data to usher in the future of medicine. The Cura Foundation is a nonsectarian, nonpartisan, public and tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. For more information, please visit: <https://thecurafoundation.org/>.

**The Pontifical Council for Culture** is a dicastery of the Roman Curia charged with fostering the relationship of the Catholic Church with different cultures. Established in 1982 by Pope John Paul II, the Council is committed to the dialogue with many realities in their relation to culture and faith such as Art, Music, Cultural Goods, Cultures in the World, Mysticism, Atheism, Economics, Language & Communication, International Cultural Bodies, Sport and Science. For more information, please visit: <http://www.cultura.va>.

**The Science and Faith – STOQ Foundation** is a Foundation under Vatican law promoted by the Pontifical Council for Culture. The Foundation aims to give continuity to the activities of Project STOQ, which emerged from the collaboration between the Pontifical Council for Culture and Pontifical Roman Universities following the Galileo Commission and the Jubilee of Scientists in the year 2000. Among the aims of the Foundation are research and study of the themes of dialogue between science, philosophy and theology; realization of conferences and other activities of high cultural and scientific value, even at the popular level; publication of works of merit on the main arguments of the science-faith dialogue.

**The Stem for Life Foundation** is the educational and advocacy subsidiary of The Cura Foundation and is devoted to fostering global awareness of the potential for regenerative medicine to treat and cure a range of deadly diseases and debilitating medical conditions, as opposed to merely treating their symptoms. The Foundation stands at the forefront of a fundamental shift away from traditional drug treatment in favor of amplifying the body's natural repair mechanisms to vanquish disease. For more information, please visit: <http://www.stemforlife.org>.

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