This year’s conference will explore the intersection of science and spirituality within the realms of psychology and psychotherapy, with an emphasis on Judaism but also a comparative look at that intermingling in Christianity and less well-defined searches for meaning and transcendence. Participants include psychologists, psychiatrists, clergy, as well as humanities and religion scholars. Topics span centuries and range from considerations of problems of mental well-being in Rabbinic texts through the contemporary “positive psychology” movement and the findings of neuroscience.

This is the 10th annual meeting of the Judaism, Science & Medicine Group, an international organization of natural and social scientists, philosophers, historians, physicians, rabbis, theologians and educators acting to promote and facilitate a close relationship between Jewish religion, cultures and values and the sciences for the mutual benefit of both. The organization seeks to increase the knowledge and appreciation of the sciences, Judaism and their interrelation and to offer a forum to reflect and deliberate on the implications of scientific advances from Jewish perspectives. Working across denominational lines, the organization will disseminate its mission in academic and non-academic venues using a variety of media.

sponsors

- Center for Jewish Studies at Arizona State University
  a research unit of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
- Gale Family Foundation Annual Lectureship in Jewish Studies
  University of Texas
- Harold and Jean Grossman Chair in Jewish Studies
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- Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies
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- Dr. Michael Anbar Memorial Lecture in Judaism, Science and Medicine Endowment
  Arizona State University

jewishstudies.asu.edu/science
SUNDAY | FEBRUARY 18
AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center | 1900 University Avenue, Austin

noon - 1 p.m.  lunch
1-1:15 p.m.  welcome
Robert Abzug, Founding Director, Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies
Hava Tirosh-Samuelson, Director, Arizona State University Jewish Studies

1:15-3:30 p.m.  Mental Health in the Sources of Judaism: Premodern Paradigms
chair: Hava Tirosh-Samuelson | Arizona State University

Madness, Responsibility and Risk in Rabbinic Law
Jonathan Schofer | University of Texas at Austin

Mental Anguish in Rabbinic Narratives: Life, Death and Emotional Distress
Joel Gereboff | Arizona State University

Jacob’s Melancholia: A Case Study of Maimonides on Mental Health
Jim Diamond | University of Waterloo, Canada

3:30-4 p.m.  break
4-6 p.m.  Neuroscience, Technology and the Future of Mental Health
chair: Michael Schwartz | Texas A & M

Suffering Precipitated by Mind-Body Dualism: Toward New Integrative Solutions
Gary Goldberg | Virginia Commonwealth University

Mind-Body Integration in Jewish Thought and Laws Regarding Visiting the Sick
Eliot Dorff | American Jewish University

6-7:30 p.m.  dinner break
7:30-9 p.m.  The Dr. Michael Anbar Memorial Keynote Lecture in Judaism, Science and Medicine
chair: Eliot Dorff | American Jewish University

Religion and Psychology/Psychiatry: Just Friends or Something Deeper?
Rabbi Abraham Havivi, M.D. | University of California, Los Angeles

MONDAY | FEBRUARY 19
Liberal Arts Building (CLA) | 116 Inner Campus Drive, Austin

8-10 a.m.  Jews, Judaism and Therapeutic Approaches
chair: Robert Abzug | University of Texas at Austin

Trust in God and Anxiety: An Empirical Approach
David Rosmarin | Harvard University

Religiosity and Mental Health: New Research
Tzvi Steven Pirutinsky | Touro College

Happier? The History of Cultural Movement that Aspired to Transform America
Dan Horowitz | Smith College

10-10:15 a.m.  break
10:15 a.m.- 12:15 p.m.  Mental Health Care and the Secularization of Religion: Jewish and Christian Approaches
chair: William Cutter | Hebrew Union College

The American Road to Pastoral Psychology
Robert Abzug | University of Texas at Austin

The Therapeutic Experience of the Spiritual or Existential Crisis
Jessica Grogan | Austin, Texas

Spirituality in Family Therapy: Jewish and Christian Perspectives
David Trimble | Boston University

12:15-1:15 p.m.  lunch
1:15-3:15 p.m.  Judaism and the Spiritual Life: Pathologies and Challenges
chair: Joel Gereboff | Arizona State University

Jewish Law and Mental Illness
Jason Weiner | Cedar Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles

Mental Health and Jewish Values from the Ground Up: Jewish Textual Tradition Meets the Practice of a Synagogue Caring Community
William Cutter | Hebrew Union College, Los Angeles

Jewish Spirituality: A Path toward Mental Health
Joel Ziff | Cambridge College

3:30 p.m.  departure