

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  
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- Harold and Jean Grossman Chair in Jewish Studies  
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### with support from

- Dr. Michael Anbar Memorial Lecture in Judaism, Science and  
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February 18-19, 2018

# Judaism and Mental Health: Psychotherapy, Neuroscience, and the Spiritual Life

**Judaism, Science & Medicine Group Conference**  
organized by the Center for Jewish Studies at Arizona State University  
and Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies at The University of Texas at Austin

University of Texas at Austin | Austin, Texas

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## 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-Samuelsan, Director, Arizona State University Jewish Studies

1:15-3:30 p.m. **Mental Health in the Sources of Judaism:  
Premodern Paradigms**

**chair:** Hava Tirosh-Samuelsan | *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**

Elliot 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:** Elliot Dorff | *American Jewish University*

**Religion and Psychology/Psychiatry:  
Just Friends or Something Deeper?**

Rabbi Abraham Havivi, M.D. | *University of California, Los Angeles*

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## 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 break**

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**

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