Yale ISM Fellows Luncheon Series

Yale Institute of Sacred Music cordially invites you to join the ISM Fellows for lunch: Thursday, February 20th at The Graduate Club (155 Elm Street).

Our presenter will be Mark Lazenby. His presentation is titled: “Spiritually Sensitive Palliative Care for Muslims Undergoing Treatment for Cancer in the United States”

To attend, please RSVP by Tuesday, February 18th, to raymond.vogel@yale.edu.

Abstract
In this talk, Mark Lazenby will describe his journey from being a philosopher to a philosopher-nurse who studies palliative care that is aligned with the beliefs and practices of Muslims undergoing treatment for advanced cancer in the United States. In a minority setting, spiritual beliefs and practices can take on greater significance for people facing health crises, even though they do not express their beliefs or engage in their practices as openly as they would in a setting in which their religion is predominant. Lazenby has found that this is true among Muslims undergoing treatment for cancer at a major academic cancer center in New York City, where he conducts his American Cancer Society-funded research. He will describe the differences he has seen between Muslims undergoing treatment for cancer in the Middle East and in New York. He will also explain what Muslims here have told him and his team what is important to them regarding palliative and end-of-life care. He will end with a description of the spiritually sensitive intervention he and his team have developed and are piloting in a randomized controlled trial.

Biography
Mark Lazenby became a nurse during his career as a professional philosopher (Ph.D., Boston University) because he witnessed that nurses did not turn away from his loved ones who needed care when other healthcare professionals did. He has devoted his nursing career to developing culturally and spiritually sensitive palliative care interventions in Botswana, Jordan, and the United States; research on cancer-related distress; and to being a thought leader on the profession’s significance in contemporary times. His philosophy of nursing books, Caring Matters Most: The Ethical Significance of Nursing and Toward a Better World: The Social Significance of Nursing, are published by Oxford University Press, and Bloomsbury Press published his book on Ludwig Wittgenstein’s philosophy of religion, The Early Wittgenstein on Religion. Lazenby received his MSN from the Yale School of Nursing, where he was on the faculty for ten years. He had secondary appointments on the Council of Middle East Studies and the Yale Divinity School. As of July 2019, he is Professor of Nursing and Philosophy and the School of Nursing’s Associate Dean for Faculty and Student Affairs at the University of Connecticut.