

# Towards Embracing Holistic Care

Exploring the role and significance of religion and spirituality in the Dutch medical curriculum and medical practice.

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# Mentors

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# Towards Embracing Holistic Care:

*“Religion and medicine have been in alliance with each other in every land, among all people and almost throughout the entire course of record human history” (Levin, 2020:1)*

*“Institutions of healing and care were birthed by religion”*

*“Cure, not care, has become medicine’s primary purpose, and physicians have become warriors engaged in combat with death.” Hauerwas (1986)*

*“The need to bring the art of compassionate caregiving back into the medical curriculum”*

# Contextual background

## **“A brief history of medicine**

- ♦ *I have an earache.*
- ♦ *2000BC: Here, eat this root,*
- ♦ *1000CE: Here, say this prayer.*
- ♦ *1850CE: Here, drink this potion*
- ♦ *1940CE: Here, swallow this pill.*
- ♦ *1986CE: Here, take this antibiotic*
- ♦ *2000CE: Here, eat this root and say this prayer.”*

# *Research Question*

“What is the role and significance of religion and spirituality (R&S) in the Dutch medical curriculum and in medical practice to ensure a holistic Dutch healthcare system”?

How is religion and spirituality (zingeving) as an important determinant for holistic care (positive health) embedded in medical education for general practitioners and nurses?

How is religion and spirituality (zingeving) embedded and practiced in Primary health care education?

What do students understand and expect to know about the importance of religion and spirituality (zingeving) in the context of holistic care / positive health?

# *Benefits of Research*

How to treat the patient as a whole individual and not as a subject?

capture the perspective of healthcare professionals, medical doctors, and the nursing staff regarding the role of religion and spirituality in their daily patient interactions,

to determine the role of (R&S) in the medical curriculum to educate the future generations of healthcare professionals how to approach health as a holistic model and address the patients spiritual needs in addition to their biological and psychological needs.

how significant it is to address the spiritual needs of the patients,

What are any potential advantages and disadvantages/challenges they foresee for this?

what are the implications of religion and spirituality on health outcomes of patients.

# Conceptual Framework

*“The good physician treats the disease; the great physician treats the patient who has the disease.” Sir William Osler. (Centor, 2007)*

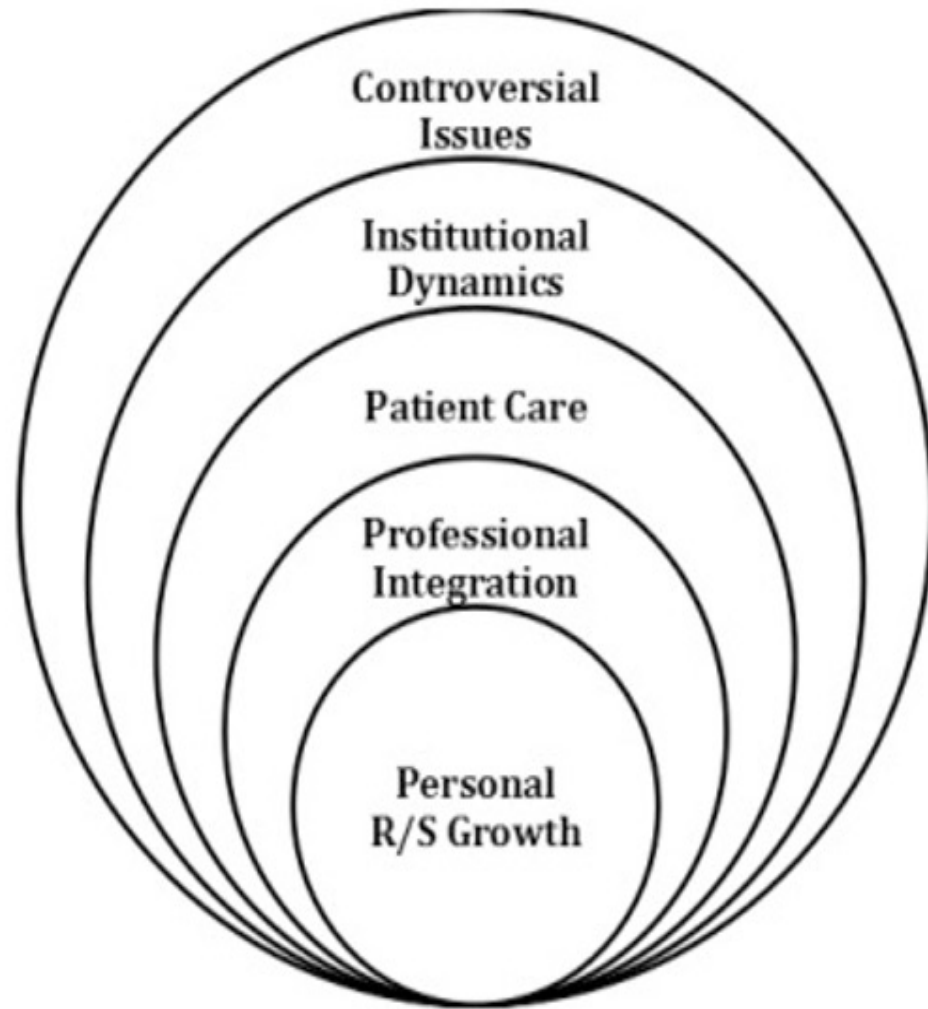
The Biomedical Model of Health

Holistic Care/ Patient-centered Care

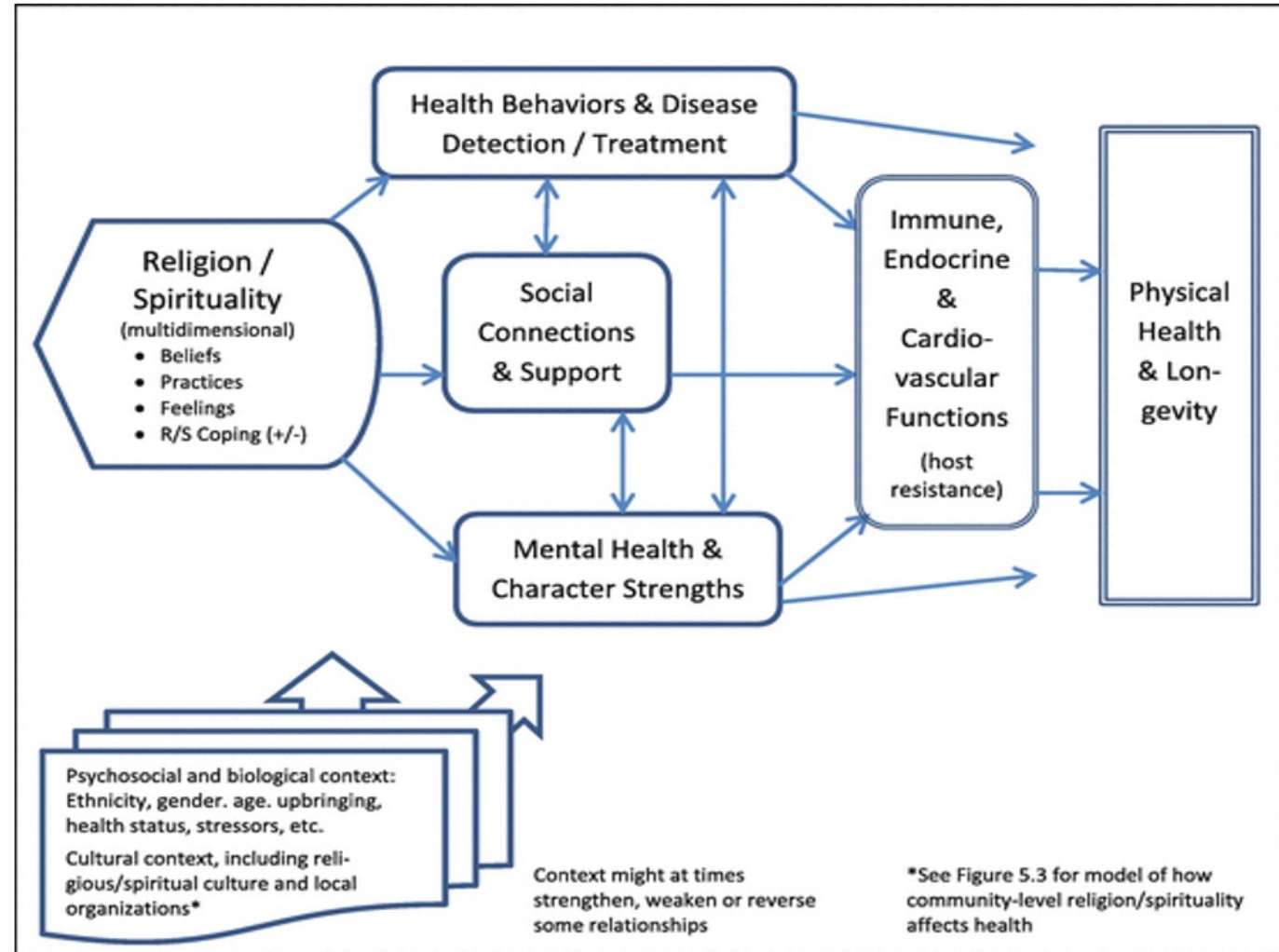
Biopsychosocial-spiritual Model of health

The Positive Health Model

Exploratory model for developing a medical school curriculum for psychological, moral, and spiritual wellness

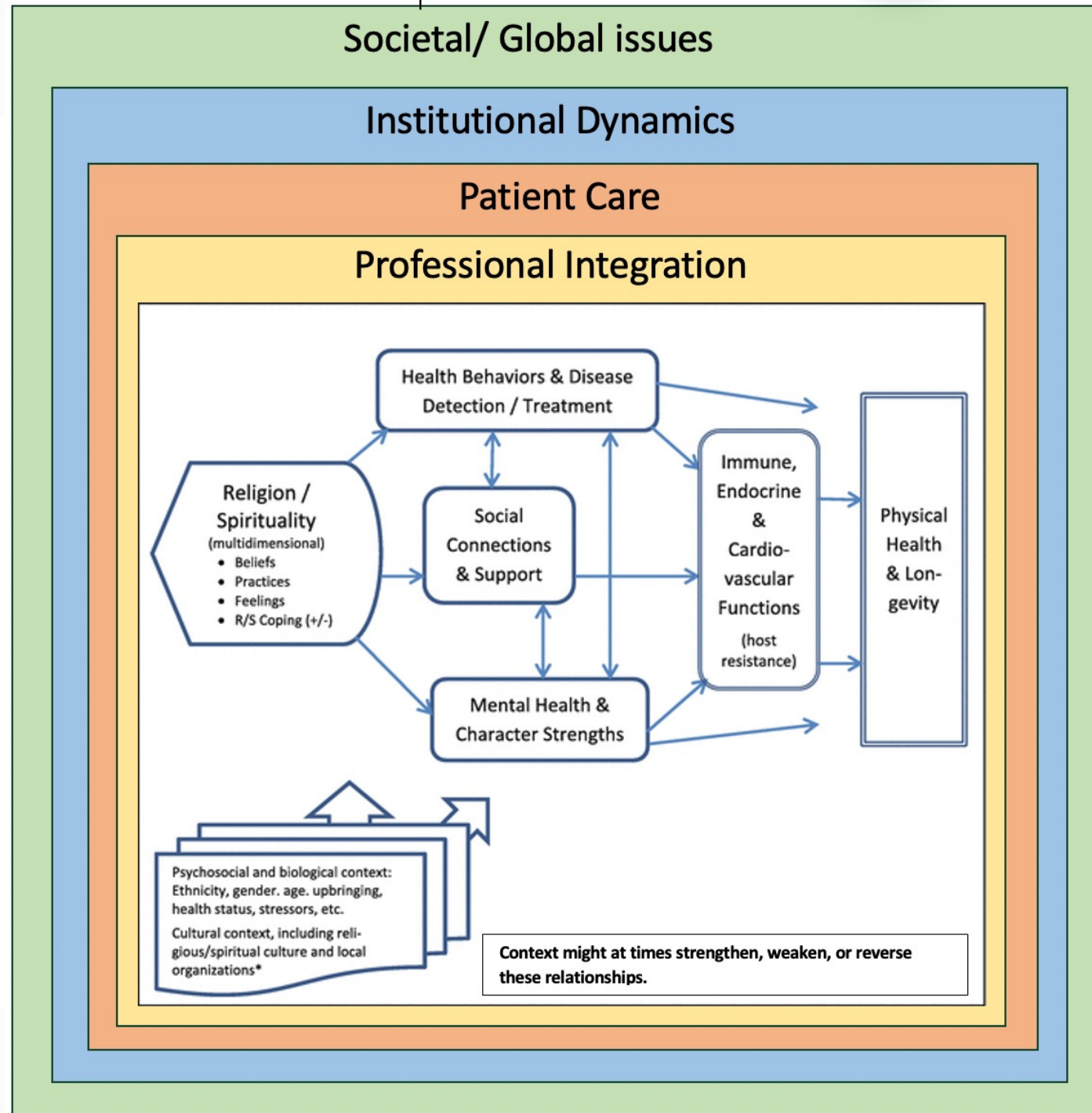


The model of individual's health effects from religion and spirituality





# Conceptual Model: Combined



# Research design

1

Sequential exploratory  
research

quantitative and  
qualitative

2

Mixed method design  
study mixed methods  
research is about  
heightened knowledge  
and validity.

3

Sampling: VUMC  
purposive sampling

4

Convergent parallel  
design  
quantitative and  
qualitative strands of  
the research are  
performed  
independently, and  
their results are  
brought together in the  
overall interpretation

# Survey Participants: Demographics



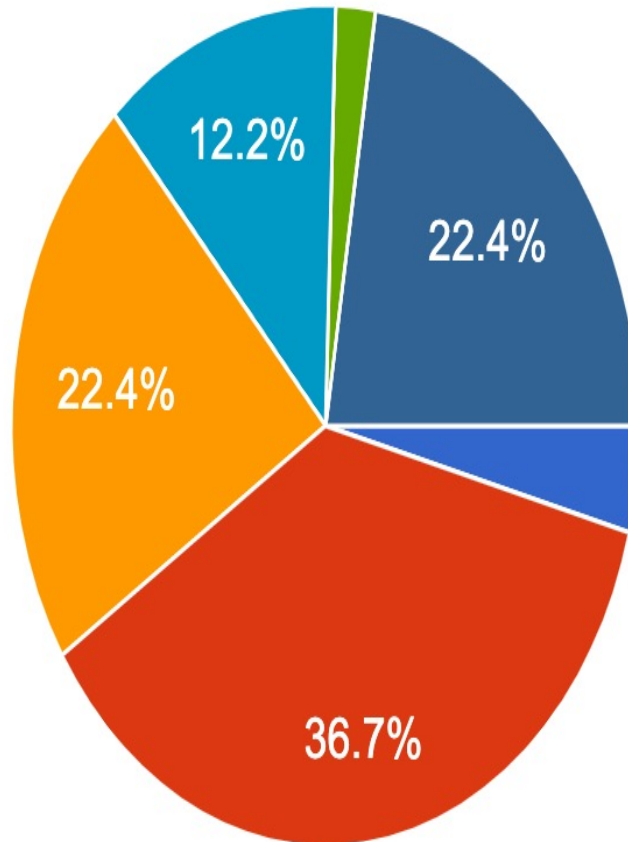
Multiple  
Stakeholders



49  
Questionnaire responses



10  
interviews

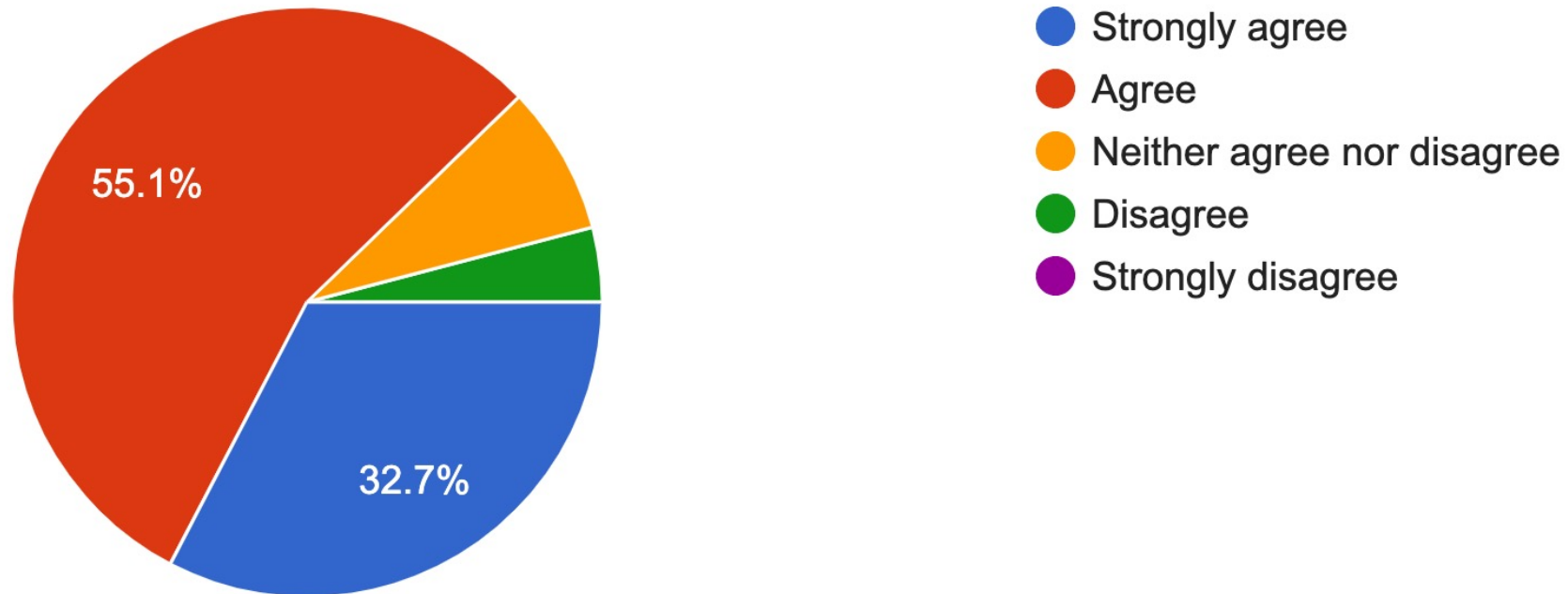


- Medical Doctor / General Practitioner
- Medical Student (Bachelors)
- Medical Student (Masters)
- Medical Faculty/ lecturer
- Medical Course Coordinator
- Nurse
- Nursing Student
- Nursing Faculty/ lecturer

# Key Finding: 1/3

3. It is important to address patients' religious and spiritual needs to provide holistic care (biopsychosocial-spiritual) when dealing with severe/chronic health conditions.

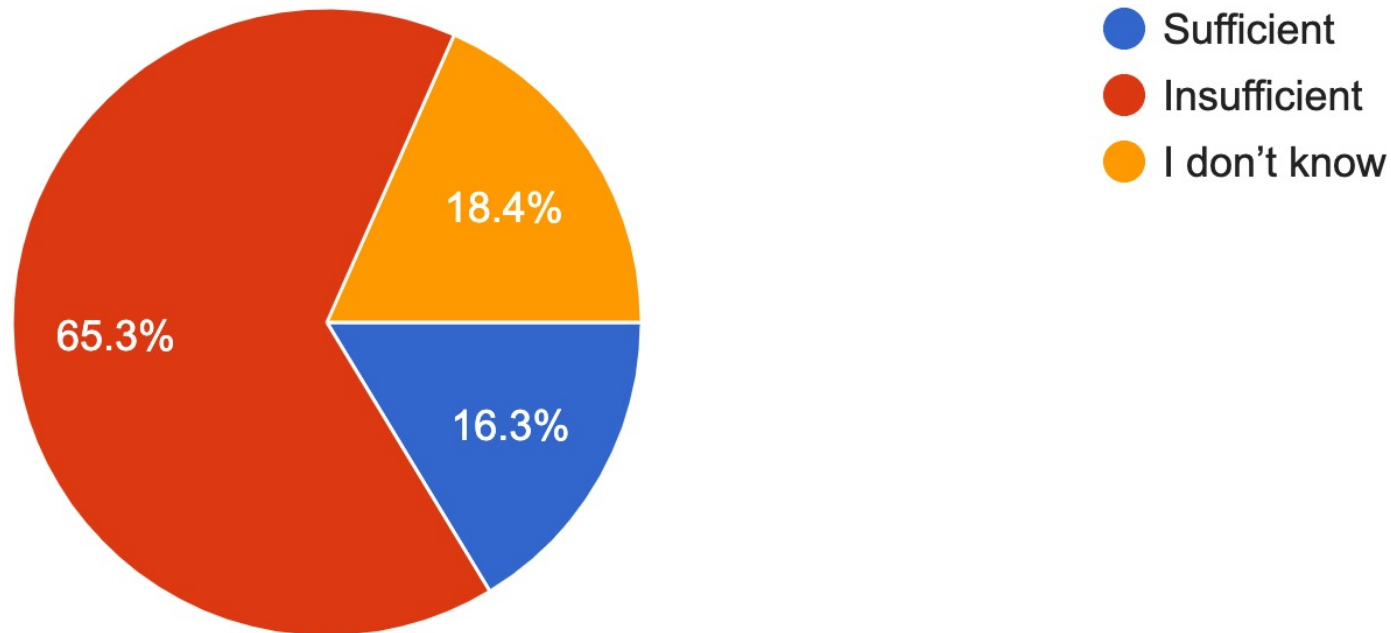
49 responses



# Key Finding: 2/ 3

4. Do you think the current medical education pays sufficient attention to the spiritual aspect of holistic care?

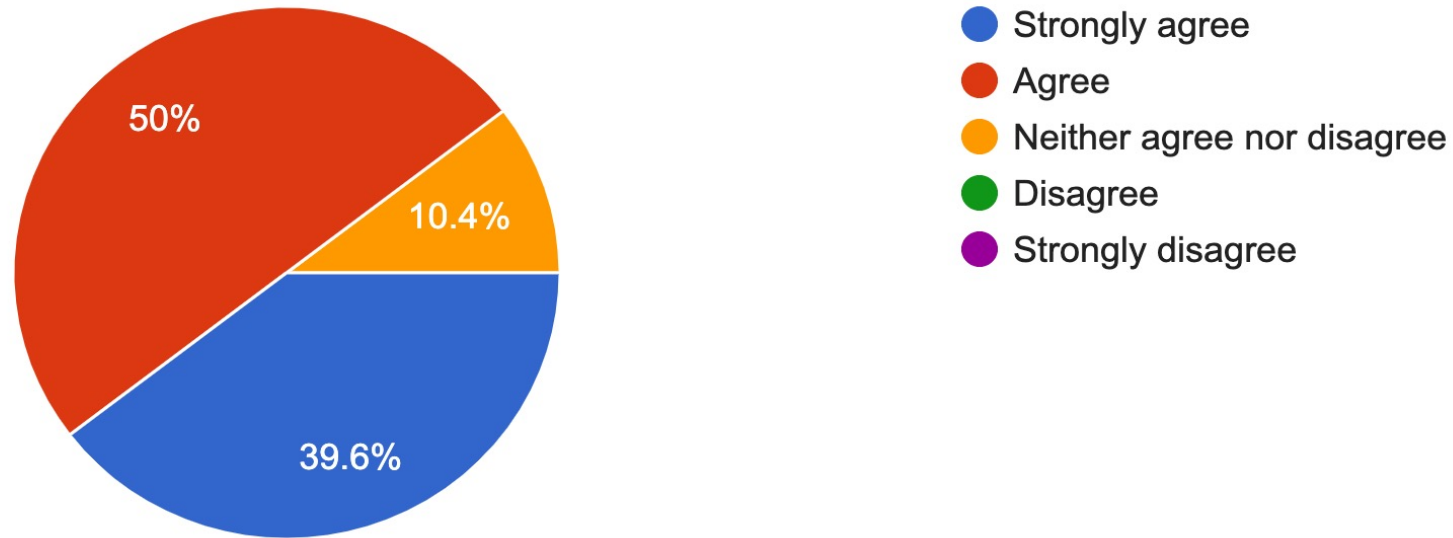
49 responses



# Key Finding: 3/3

8. Religion and spirituality may positively influence patients' physical and mental well-being.

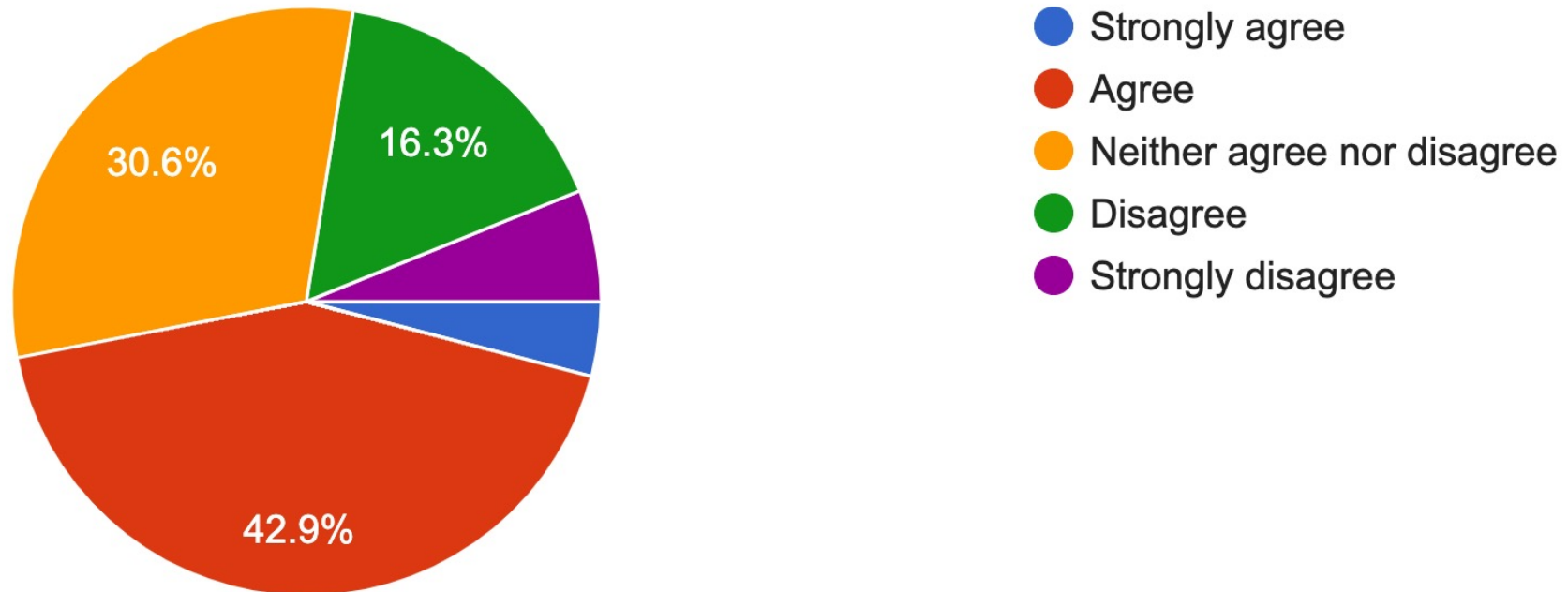
48 responses



# Key Finding: 3/3

9. Religious and Spiritual experiences may have a negative influence on a patient's psychological health.

49 responses



# Conclusion – Work in Progress

- ♦ Data analysis is not complete yet!
- ♦ Correlate the findings with the qualitative analysis and interpret the results.
- ♦ Discussion points:
  - ♦ Decreased influence of religion in the Europe.
  - ♦ Self reflection on concepts like spirituality and healthcare.
  - ♦ Knowledge gaps in medical curriculum.





Questions?