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Religious Studies Professor Helps Ministers Respond to Persons with AIDS; Drug Delivery Research May Benefit Persons with AIDS

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RELIGIOUS STUDIES PROFESSOR HELPS MINISTERS RESPOND TO PERSONS WITH AIDS

A new ministry has grown up to fit the times—ministry to persons with AIDS. Not all ministers are emotionally prepared to engage in AIDS ministry, says Dennis Doyle, an assistant professor of religious studies at the University of Dayton who teaches a course, "Ministry and Values in Response to AIDS."

The minister does not need to be a "super-person" but must be someone who scorns between distinguishing "innocent" and "guilty" victims of the disease and has worked out personal feelings about AIDS, death, sex, homosexuality and illicit drug use. "The minister should be in touch with his or her own brokeness, can listen closely to discern the hidden meanings in the 'charged language' of the dying and can hold hands and hug without fear or awkwardness," said Doyle, who has conducted workshops for military chaplains and produced a videotape, "Ministering to Persons With AIDS," with Jeffrey D. Hamilton, a pastoral care chaplain at Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton. Doyle recently published an article in "Commonweal" on "The Meaning of AIDS" and has received a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to support his work. On a personal level, his parish priest was diagnosed with AIDS earlier this year.

For media interviews, contact Dennis Doyle at (513) 229-4219.

DRUG DELIVERY RESEARCH MAY BENEFIT PERSONS WITH AIDS

Hamed Benghuzzi, a Ph.D. candidate in biology, and Praphulla K. Bajpai, a biology professor, hope to make a significant contribution to the intense AIDS research taking place in laboratories around the world.

Benghuzzi and Bajpai have researched a delivery system for a drug that has been used to treat African Sleeping Sickness and pneumonia in terminally ill persons with AIDS. According to their tests, an implanted ceramic capsule is an effective way to deliver the drug, DFMO, in a sustained manner for long periods without the negative side effects associated with oral administration.

In September, the research was accepted as the premier paper published in the first volume of the "Journal of Investigative Surgery," the official journal of the Academy of Surgical Research.

Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, of Cincinnati, has petitioned the Food and Drug Administration for DFMO approval. Currently, the drug is being used in "compassionate cases" when all other means fail to treat Pneumocystis pneumonia, a parasitic infection usually fatal to AIDS patients.

For media interviews, contact Hamed Benghuzzi at (513) 229-2135 or Praphulla Bajpai at (513) 229-3029.