

Turning the Tide; January 10th, 2019

Conference Report

The conference presented by the ACGP, Turning the Tide: Establishing Spiritual Care in General Practice was held at the Medical School in the University of Birmingham, and was attended by over 70 people: doctors; chaplains; faith community leaders and other healthcare professionals.

Dr Ross Bryson set the scene by laying out some of the conflicting currents between what is understood by the terms 'scientific' and 'spiritual' within healthcare.

Gordon MacDonald, a GP working in Scotland and Sarah Griffin a Primary Care chaplain each gave a presentation of the research that has been carried out with compelling evidence of proven benefits to recovery and health as a result of spiritual care and effective referrals.

There were presentations from a variety of chaplaincy services up and down the country – rural, urban, inner city, multi-cultural which highlighted the different experiences that have developed and are working effectively.

Seminars looked at ways of establishing a chaplaincy service in General Practice and how to maintain professional standards with training, supervision and accreditation.

Bishop James Newcome closed with a call to chaplains to be Prophets, Listeners, Interpreters, Connectors, Pastors and Presence.