



# All Things Ignatian



## Incorporating Ignatian Values in Health Sciences Continuing Education Programs

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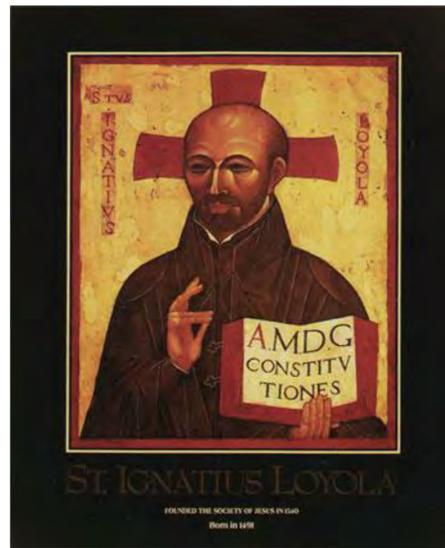
### Background:

Creighton University's Health Sciences Continuing Education, formerly Continuing Medical Education, has become the first such program at a US academic health sciences center to earn joint accreditation from three professional organizations. This joint accreditation, first available in 2010, includes endorsements from the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education and the American Nurses Credentialing Center, and recognizes organizations that offer team-focused continuing education to health care providers with the ultimate goal of improving patient care.

Creighton's leadership role in inter-disciplinary Health Sciences Continuing Education provides a unique opportunity to integrate Ignatian values into a full range of continuing education programs for healthcare professionals in Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy. In addition to providing crucial continuing education, HSCE programs introduce Creighton faculty, departments and programs to a wider audience, assist in faculty recruiting, increase patient referrals, and introduce our own health science students and residents to lifelong learning.

### The Project:

Our project aims to enhance Creighton's Continuing Education programs in Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy through the inclusion of explicitly Ignatian values and themes, where appropriate, thereby extending Creighton's mission to a broad range of health care professionals and further differentiating our Continuing Education offerings. These Ignatian themes are at the heart of "the Creighton difference" and provide a vocabulary for articulating that difference.



### The Process

A working committee has been established, made up of members of HSCE and representatives from the Schools of Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy and Health Professions. The committee's tasks include the following:

*Identify appropriate Ignatian values and themes* that are particularly applicable to health care and articulate the chosen values and themes in a concise format that includes examples of real-life application of those themes and values. Examples of such themes and values include *Cura Personalis*, or concern for the whole person; a special concern for those most in need; doing those things which we are uniquely able to do, or those things which no one else is willing to do; an emphasis on the *magis*, which involves dedication to "the more," the better, or continuous quality improvement; and a special concern for justice.

*Create a variety of resources* that will introduce HSCE course directors, planners and faculty to the Ignatian themes and values. Resources would include a concise written guide, a brief video presentation, and a web site.

*Review present and planned HSCE programs* to identify those which might include content to which the Ignatian themes and values are particularly applicable.

*Work with course directors, planners and faculty* to include explicit mention of applicable Ignatian themes and values in their program. Serve as a resource for assistance in development of the Ignatian content or identify additional possible resources.

*Develop a method for evaluating the effectiveness* of the inclusion of Ignatian themes and values in HSCE programs. Some programs could include a specific learning objective involving an Ignatian value, with evaluation of whether that objective was met; other program evaluations might include a question measuring attendee's interest in the inclusion of specific Ignatian values in a future HSCE program.

*Identify possible future HSCE programs* whose focus might be primarily Ignatian; evaluate likely interest and work to solicit a program director to develop such a program.

*Collaborate with other Jesuit colleges and universities with health science programs* in order to benefit from their experience and explore the possibility of jointly sponsored HSCE programs.

### Conclusion

Building upon our Ignatian heritage and mission and our leadership role in accreditation in Continuing Education in medicine, nursing and pharmacy, Creighton University's Health Sciences Continuing Education program is in a unique position to integrate Ignatian values into a wide range of programs that will affect the future provision of health care locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. Saint Ignatius' dynamic vision of *finding God in all things* finds wonderful expression in HSCE's initiative to integrate the very best health care research and practice with our Ignatian heritage, all for the *greater glory of God*.

*Sponsored by the Creighton University Jesuit Community, in association with the Deglman Center for Ignatian Spirituality.*