LCLI Briefing #5

ILLUSTRATION BY TEBO GOCHRANE, FROM *THE*

- FOUR NEW FELLOWS
- ADVISORY GROUP MEETING
- SOME LCLI-RELATED PUBLICATIONS
- GENERAL NEWS

This fifth LCLI Briefing has been a while coming, and there is much to share.

First we introduce four new LCLI Fellows. All were participants in a consultation in Winston-Salem in late February, part of an Advisory Group we put together to consider the proposal we plan to put before the Templeton Foundation and others in due course. We are delighted that they have accepted our invitation to join the LCLI Fellows group.

The Fellows group is actually strong enough and diverse enough to carry significant weight. That fact has fundamentally reshaped the way we plan to seek funding support for the LCL Initiative. This is the most important shift that has emerged from the Advisory Group consultation that helped us to rethink our way forward. A short account of that is also part of this Briefing.

Its most significant aspect was a clear and strong consensus that any major proposal we now put forward should be based on taking seriously the work and interests of the 32 Fellows we now have (with any others to come).

Publications that feature the 'leading causes of life are also emerging. We list some here for your interest.

THE **LCLI** INITIATIVE

@ http://www.leading-causes.com

WHAT'S ON OUR WEBSITE?

The Leading Causes of Life Initiative website menus playfully reflect something of the ethos we hold dear – a moving, nomadic web of people who are not afraid of complexity and risk but who find it meaningful to stay in touch. We think of the image of a Bedouin tent: ready to move, open on all sides, held up by a few well-founded but flexible supports. Our home page is our virtual 'Tent', and here you will also find the LCLI Manifesto. 'Our Journey' has info on the LCLI, its core group, and Fellows. "Waystations' is where we capture some of our meetings, 'Drumbeats' is our blog, and 'Backpack' is where we will put resources.

Keep in touch!

Our four new **LCLI** Fellows

LCLI Fellows include people who have attended one of our consultations and others who are part of one or another LCLI activity. This living web of transformational connections is open to each Fellow to draw upon. All Fellows inevitably inhabit other networks. One dimension of the LCLI Fellows web, then, is also to help make those networks visible, to grasp the rich complexity within which we all live and work and help grow human connections that can contribute to enhanced life and flourishing for all. In due course we shall share more about that. Here we introduce our four new Fellows.

Sunny Anand

Kanwaljeet J. S. ('Sunny') Anand is Professor of Pediatrics, Anesthesiology and Neurobiology at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. A Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University (D. Phil), he trained in India as a medical doctor, with post-doctoral training at Harvard Medical School. He was a Fellow at Massachusetts General Hospital, is recognized in U.S. Top Doctors, and has Pediatric Advanced Life Support Certification and Advanced Cardiac Life Support Certification from the American Heart Association. Awarded the 2009 Nils Rosén von Rosenstein Medal from the Swedish Academy of Medicine and Swedish Pediatric Society (the highest international award given to pediatricians every 5 years), he has also received the Father Joseph Biltz Award (2007, NCCJ) for community service activities, and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 'Salute to Greatness' Individual Award (2008, State of Arkansas). He has published more than 250 peer-reviewed articles, and edited multiple books and journal issues on neonatal pain and stress, pain system development, long-term effects of early adverse experiences in infancy, and chronic stress in infancy.

Ellen Idler

Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Sociology at Emory University and Director of Emory's Religion and Public Health Collaborative, with additional appointments at the Rollins School of Public Health, Emory's Center for Ethics, and the Graduate Division of Religion. In this very interdisciplinary environment she teaches graduate and undergraduate courses across schools on a variety of topics including religion and public health, sociological aspects of health and illness, epidemiology of aging, comparative health systems, and social gerontology. She is the editor and contributing author of *Religion as a Social Determinant of Public Health* (Oxford 2014). Current research interests include the determinants and consequences of global self-ratings of health, the role of chaplains in palliative care, and religion as a factor in community and individual health.

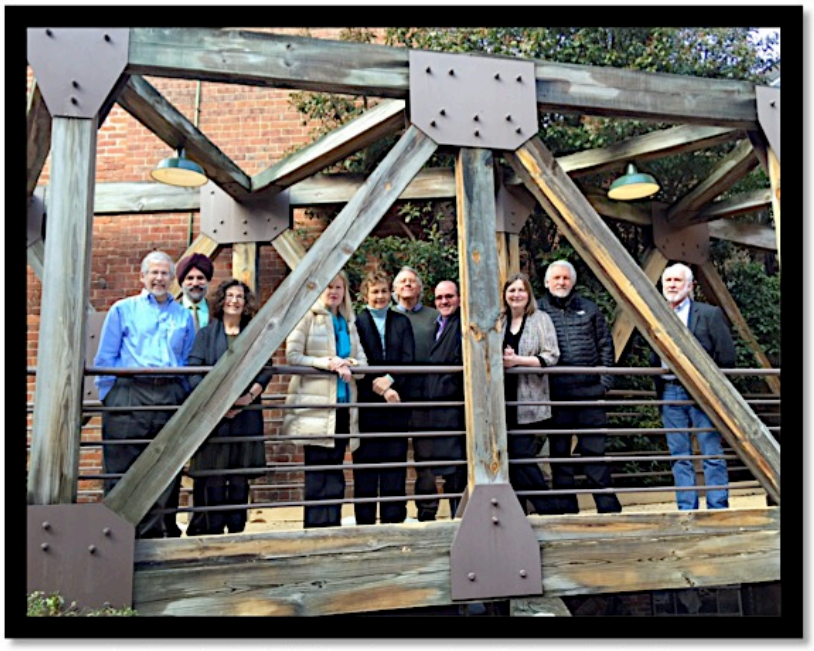
Jeremy Moseley

Jeremy (B.S. in Public Health Policy & Administration, UNC-Chapel Hill; Master's in Public Health Analysis & Management, East Carolina University) is Program Administrator for Community Engagement, Wake Forest Baptist Health's FaithHealth Division. He has worked to improve community-based care transitions, increase community engagement and access to services, and link community resources to healthcare systems. He has designed regional projects for the CDC to address heart disease and stroke prevention and systems of care, and for the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services to address care transitions and hospital readmissions, and health system programs to improve transitions of care and the health of individuals residing in socially complex communities. He staffed a state heart disease and stroke prevention legislative committee, and served on workgroups for Stakeholder Health to transform health through community partnership. Exposed to the complexities of a small town where racial divides, economic distress, and high levels of crime were profound and persistent, Jeremy is a product of a father who gave his life to improving the lives of those who face challenges of mental health, substance abuse, and developmental disabilities, and of a mother who educated three generations of elementary students in a small rural town in eastern North Carolina.

Tom Petersen

Tom Peterson is principal at Thunderhead Works, which is focused on communications for world change. He teaches marketing for non-profits and social change at the Clinton School of Public Service. Previously, he led Heifer International's marketing efforts for most of two decades, growing the annual revenue from $3 million in 1992 to $90 million in 2008—raising about $900 million and making Heifer one of the fastest growing non-profits in the U.S. Many online, direct mail, PR, and branding programs he led won national awards. In the 1980s he edited Seeds, a magazine about U.S. and World Hunger. Peterson holds a BA in philosophy from the Univ. of Texas and an MDiv from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

A way forward – Supporting what LCLI Fellows can do



Participants from the LCLI Advisory Group meeting at Brookstown Inn, the old cotton mill built in 1837 by Moravians in Salem, now part of Winston-Salem, North Carolina

What if we are the ones we've been waiting for? What if the Fellows we need are the Fellows we already are? What if what is possible among us and between us is more important than what we might ask someone else to give us in addition to what we can be together? What if?

The peculiar work of LCL Fellows lies not in slaying some great beast, but in developing our grasp of the intellectual, practical and moral potential of a 'leading causes of life' lens for our world and its peoples and societies. That's enough! And it's possible. What if, in developing our grasp of the intellectual, practical and moral potential of a 'leading causes of life' lens for our world and its peoples and societies, instead of looking elsewhere we were able to support the thinking and doing of our LCLI Fellows?

That's the major shift that occurred in the recommendations we got from our Advisory Group in considering asking the Templeton Foundation (or anyone else) to invest in the Leading Causes of Life Initiative and its critical goals. We had shaped a proposal around finding anyone and everyone who might be doing or want to do work that would enhance our purposes. Turns out that 'outsourcing' the task in this way is not a good idea according to our Advisory Group – and needless to say, we agree.

As the Advisory Group put it, we have a pretty powerful body of Fellows already (with a handful of new ones on board, no doubt still others to come); powerful enough to make quite a difference in a diverse range of fields and activities. It makes much more sense to find ways of helping Fellows do what they do already in ways that strengthen them and that help us to achieve our goals at the same time. The meetings we have already had on testing the viability and robustness of the LCL ideas make it equally clear that we can now move ahead. We don't actually need to argue for them as much as show how they make sense, help things change, in practice.

What, however, is distinctive about the LCL framework or lens? Again, the Advisory Group shared a strong consensus here, one that is particularly evocative: the specific elements of our 'lens' (agency, connection, coherence, intergenerativity/blessing, hope) are not unique even if they provide a particularly helpful articulation of 'causes of life.' Rather, it is the integrative perspective the LCL framework offers for understanding the adaptive, emergent complexity of living systems that is unique—that and the morally rooted vision and its intellectual justification. We should develop and strengthen these distinctives, they recommended, and that should include as many opportunities as possible for Fellows to come together to engage in that task.

These, then, are the positions that are helping us reshape our proposal to the Templeton Foundation. Clearly, we have no guarantees that Templeton (or anyone else) will want to fund this, but we do not see ourselves as constrained by that. On the contrary, convinced about what we are trying to do—with all the necessary questions and cautions in mind that must prevent rigid thinking, premature conclusions or unhelpful hubris—it is the work rather than any funding agenda that is definitive. That's what we take with us. We look forward to our Fellows joining in that task in whatever way makes sense to them as we go forward.

Some LCLI-related publications

Some of us (Fellows underlined) have been writing about aspects of 'the leading causes of life'. Where we can, we will put materials on the website; otherwise we might well be able to share with you a copy for your personal use – if you would like an item, please let us know. We list a few, some published, some in process or only available privately.

In process:

- Anand, KJ Sunny, Laurienti Paul J, Cutts Teresa F, Ion Heather W, Cochrane Jim, Gunderson Gary. 2015. Changing health care and the Leading Causes of Life.
  [Initiated by Sunny, this piece is being revised for submission to various journals, but we can make a draft available].
- Heather Wood Ion, James R. Cochrane & Gary R. Gunderson, 2015-6 (anticipated). Religion, health, and wellbeing. International Encyclopedia of Anthropology (Wiley-Blackwell), 2575 words.
  [LCL is a key thrust of this entry.]
- Sandy Lazarus, James R. Cochrane, Naiema Taliep, Candice Simmons and Mohamed Seedat. FC. 2015 (anticipated). Identifying and Mobilising Intangible Factors that Promote Community Peace. In Mohamed Seedat, Shahnaaz Suffla and Kopana Ratele (eds), [prov. Title] *Contributions to Peace Psychology*, Springer.

Completed:

- Heather Wood Ion, *The Lens of Leading Causes of Life: Working in Living Systems*. A review of the case histories of the Congregational Health Network, Memphis, and of the Supporters of Health, Wake Forest Baptist Health, Winston-Salem. 21pp.
  [Commissioned by Gary Gunderson, available for personal use only, this sharp analysis illumines the use of the LCL lens for probing practice and policy.]
- James R. Cochrane, 2015. Fundamental Evaluation Criteria in the Medicine of the 21st Century. In Michael Lauerer and Eckhard Nagel (eds), *Legitimization and Framework of Decisions on Prioritization in Medicine: An International Dialog*. Springer.
  [The chapter, originally a keynote address to a European research forum, deals with LCL and medical priorities in the context of a critical view of the political economy of health that currently frames much of our world.]
- Cutts, Teresa F., Gunderson, Gary, ProescholdBell, R. J., & Swift, R. (2011). The Life of Leaders: An intensive health program for clergy. Journal of Religion and Health. 51(4), 1317-1324.
  [Reflects on a special program for clergy shaped by the LCL logic; that goes well beyond 'physicals' and the like.]
- Doug McGaughey, 'Freedom on this and the other side of Kant', access at http://criticalidealism.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Freedom-on-This-and-the-Other-Side-of-Kant.pdf. It will also be presented at a conference in Vienna soon.
  [These ideas, on Doug's 'Critical Idealism' website, have been a key part of his contribution to LCL in its meta-dimensions, including the moral purpose that motivates LCL – for which, see http://criticalidealism.org/m-word-blog/]

Another of Fellow Larry Pray's watercolours with which has blessed many of us. His many strokes have not taken him from us entirely, but they have badly affected him …. Yet on the occasions he can communicate he continues not only to hold onto him life but still notices it vividly and reflects on it with astonishing power. He is the iconic exemplar of what the leading causes of life is