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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Wendy Cadge opens a window into faith as experienced by hospital caregivers, presenting the narratives of nurses, chaplains, physicians, and other members of the hospital team as they care for people of diverse religious traditions. Fascinating and illuminating, this book is a revelation.”
Harold Koenig, MD, Center for Spirituality, Theology, and Health at Duke University Medical Center

Paging God Religion

in the Halls of Medicine Wendy Cadge

US Publication Date: February 28, 2013

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While the modern science of medicine often seems nothing short of miraculous, religion still plays an important role in the past and present of many hospitals. When three-quarters of Americans believe that God can cure people who have been given little or no chance of survival by their doctors, how do today’s technologically sophisticated health care organizations address spirituality and faith?

“We tend to see the hospital as a temple to the gods of technology, professionalism, and bureaucracy. *Paging God* looks at the human and emotional texture of lives lived—and lost—in the hospital. Focusing on the role of religion and a more amorphous ‘spirituality,’ Wendy Cadge focuses on the spaces—chapel, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and Medical Intensive Care Unit—and careers—especially the hospital chaplain—where values and individual pain are configured. In the role of the hospital chaplain she has found a particularly revealing case study in the development of a not-quite semi-profession, illuminating that borderland between the individuality of human pain and the power of technical capacity. This book should be of interest to anyone interested in the felt reality of health care in the twenty-first century.”

Charles Rosenberg, author of *The Care of Strangers: The Rise of America's Hospital System*

Wendy Cadge is associate professor of sociology at Brandeis University and the author of *Heartwood: The First Generation of Theravada Buddhism in America*, also published by the University of Chicago Press.

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More Praise for *Paging God*

“Drawing both on historical materials and on her rich first-hand field data, Wendy Cadge reveals how pervasive diverse forms of religion and spirituality are among patients and their families—and among caregivers inside American hospitals. Using a narrative case study-based framework, Cadge pays particular attention to hospital chaplains and nurses, the work they do, and the evolution of their professions. Perceptive and penetrating, *Paging God* is an absorbing, creative, and illuminating book that has ramifying import.”— **Renée C. Fox, author of *The Sociology of Medicine: A Participant Observer’s View***

“In this remarkable book, Wendy Cadge recounts the curious history of hospital chaplaincy care. With a tenor of measured appreciation, she marks out the unmistakable good that chaplains do by being fully present to those who are sick, providing a candid, detailed, and scientifically informed assessment of the state of chaplaincy today. In this comprehensive and entirely unprecedented report, Cadge shines light on the history and current shape of hospital chaplaincy in the United States. At the same time she holds up a mirror in which the field of chaplaincy can take a long look and ask whether it has become something other than what it set out to be.”— **Farr Curlin, MD, Program on Medicine and Religion, University of Chicago Medical Center**

“From the opening narrative about a Buddhist monk near death to the concluding story about a parent seeking prayer, *Paging God* is rich with insights about the challenges facing health practitioners as America becomes more religiously and ethnically diverse. This is ethnographic research at its best. Wendy Cadge has written an impressive study that should be read by everyone interested in understanding how religious diversity is reshaping our society.”—**Robert Wuthnow, author of *America and the Challenges of Religious Diversity***

“The blend of historical, archival research, in-depth interviews and participant observation, and visual analysis of archeology and design in *Paging God* is powerful, and Wendy Cadge’s attempts to make sense of this peculiar yet dominant social world will be enthusiastically received.”—**Elizabeth M. Armstrong, Princeton University**

“*Paging God* is essential reading for those interested in the ever-shifting place of spirituality in American healthcare and society. Weaving interviews from patients, staff, doctors and chaplains into a fascinating story of the power of religion and spirituality in the lives of those struggling with illness and death, Wendy Cadge’s study excels in scientific objectivity—but with sensitivity to the nuanced role of religion in the lives of people involved in the hospital experience.”—**Helen Rose Ebaugh, University of Houston**

“Combined with a historical perspective of health care chaplaincy over the past 120 years, Wendy Cadge presents a comprehensive study of the role of faith in contemporary American acute care hospitals, and of those who are especially charged with fulfilling it. This social study of how faith is experienced by clinicians in contemporary acute health care is fascinating, but above all, an invaluable contribution to the study of health care systems and of health care chaplaincy.”— **Daniel H. Grosseohme, DMin, BCC, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center**

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