



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The Vatican's Pontifical Council for Culture and The Cura Foundation
Announce 'Unite To Cure', the Fourth International Conference
to be Held at The Vatican April 26-28th, 2018**

* * *

***Meghan McCain, Dr. Sanjay Gupta, Meredith Vieira, Dr. Mehmet Oz
and Dr. Max Gomez to moderate discussions with global thought leaders
on advancing human health, fighting disease and protecting the environment***

VATICAN CITY, Rome and NEW YORK, NY [February 26, 2018] – The Vatican's Pontifical Council for Culture, the Cura Foundation, the Stem for Life Foundation and STOQ (Science, Theology and the Ontological Quest) announced The Fourth International Vatican Conference, *Unite to Cure: A Global Health Care Initiative*, which will be held from April 26-28, 2018 at the Aula Nuova del Sinodo in Vatican City.

- The Holy Father, Pope Francis, is scheduled to receive participants during the three-day event.
- World renowned journalists will moderate discussion panels comprised of global thought leaders, covering a variety of topics, including drug development and delivery, technology, nutrition, ethics and the environment.

This historic, international event will gather the world's leading scientists and physicians, patients, families, ethicists and leaders of faith, government, business and philanthropy to engage in powerful conversations about the latest scientific innovations and hope for the future. The 2018 event will have a unique focus on advancing breakthrough technologies and disseminating knowledge that improves human health, prevents disease, protects the environment and considers cultural, religious and societal implications. "This is one of the most unique healthcare events in the world — it's a 'Davos for healthcare'", said Dr. Robin Smith, President of the Cura Foundation. "By uniting stakeholders and decision makers in this unique and inspirational setting, and including patient voices, we can address ways to impact human health globally."

"This event, and the three that came before, help to send a clarion call to the world that by sharing knowledge, collaborating and understanding different perspectives we can advance human health and protect our environment in an ethically viable way, preserving humanity, culture and society," said his Eminence Cardinal Ravasi, President of the Pontifical Council for Culture.



Monsignor Tomasz Trafny, Head of the Science and Faith Department, at the Pontifical Council for Culture, said: “The world all around us is changing very quickly, bringing with it both promise and peril. As the pace of innovation accelerates, and what was once thought to be impossible becomes possible, we must ask the important questions that underlie great scientific discoveries and human progress and understand the cultural and anthropological impact. We must consider the consequences for all mankind, whether ethical, sociological, anthropological or impacts on faith and beliefs. This event was born in this spirit, and we’re looking forward to having an inspired conversation in April.”

To learn more about The Fourth International Vatican Conference on *How Science, Technology and 21st Century Medicine Will Impact Culture and Society*, please visit: <http://vaticanconference2018.com/>. Follow us on Twitter [@CuraFdn](https://twitter.com/CuraFdn) and on Facebook at facebook.com/TheCuraFoundation, and join the conversation with #UnitetoCure.

The Pontifical Council for Culture traces its origins to the Second Vatican Council and its opening up to that great, dynamic, worried and multiform world of contemporary culture. In its Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et spes*, the Council Fathers expressed the need for the Church to continually place itself before the needs of the cultures of the world. It was a new period of history where a new humanism was arising, and the Church, faithful to its own traditions, was aware of the universality of its mission, entering into communion with the different forms of culture, a communion that would enrich the Church as much as the cultures. The Pontifical Council for Culture is committed to the dialogue with many realities in their relation to culture and faith such Art, Music, Cultural Goods, Cultures in the World, Mysticism, Atheism, Economics, Language & Communication, International Cultural Bodies, Sport and Science. For more information, please visit: <http://www.cultura.va/content/cultura/en.html>

The Science and Faith Foundation (STOQ) is a Foundation under Vatican law promoted by the Pontifical Council for Culture. The identity and mission of the Foundation have their main Magisterial references in the Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et spes*, in the talks of St John Paul II and Benedict XVI on the relations between science and faith, particularly in the Encyclical *Fides et ratio*. The Foundation aims to give continuity to the activities of Project STOQ, which emerged from the collaboration between the Pontifical Council for Culture and Pontifical Roman Universities following the Galileo Commission and the Jubilee of Scientists in the year 2000. Among the aims of the Foundation are research and study of the themes of dialogue between science, philosophy and theology; realization of conferences and other activities of high cultural and scientific value, even at the popular level; publication of works of merit on the main arguments of the science-faith dialogue. For more information, please visit: <http://stogfoundation.org/>



The Cura Foundation is a 501(c)(3) global charitable organization dedicated to the advancement of cellular therapies and technologies that improve human health, increase quality of life and enhance patient care. Through its programs and initiatives, The Cura Foundation seeks to catalyze the funding of the advancement of a wide array of cellular therapies, whether immunotherapies, adult stem cell treatments, gene therapies, technology or emerging cell-based therapies that enhance cellular health and longevity. For more information, please visit: <https://thecurafoundation.org/>

The Stem For Life Foundation (SFLF) is the educational and advocacy subsidiary of The Cura Foundation and is devoted to fostering global awareness of the potential for regenerative medicine to treat and cure a range of deadly diseases and debilitating medical conditions, as opposed to merely treating their symptoms. The Foundation stands at the forefront of a fundamental shift away from traditional drug treatment in favor of amplifying the body's natural repair mechanisms to vanquish disease. For more information, please visit: <http://www.stemforlife.org>

Contacts:

The Vatican
Pontifical Council for Culture
Msgr. Tomasz Trafny
00120 Vatican City
or
The Cura Foundation
Robin Smith, MD, +1-212-584-4176
rsmith@thecurafoundation.com
or
Allison+Partners
Todd Aydelotte, +1-646-428-0644
cura@allisonpr.com

#