



# FACULTY COUNCIL EVENING SPEAKER SERIES

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**Weill Cornell  
Medicine**  
Psychiatry

## Orthodox Judaism, Spirituality and Mental Illness: A Psychiatric Perspective



**Rabbi Richard Louis Price, MD**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry  
Weill Cornell Medical College

SPEAKER DISCLOSURE: Dr. Price has served on the advisory boards and as a national speaker for Abbvie, Alkermes, Allergan, Axsome, Idorsia, Intracellular, Janssen, Jazz, Lumbeck, Neuronetics, Otsuka, and Supernus. All views expressed are her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Abbvie, Alkermes, Allergan, Axsome, Idorsia, Intracellular, Janssen, Jazz, Lumbeck, Neuronetics, Otsuka, and Supernus

### DATE



**Tuesday December 5th 2023 | 7pm-8pm**

### Live online Webinar:

<https://weillcornell.zoom.us/j/92477153371>

Passcode: 728638



### CONTINUING EDUCATION (Optional)



**1 CE is available for a \$20 fee**, available to **Psychologists** and **Social Workers** who sign in with their full name, attend the entire lecture and complete a survey which will be emailed following the completion of the workshop. *CME credits are NOT available for this event.*

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Content is appropriate for beginner, intermediate and advanced level practitioners.

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### Abstract

Orthodox Judaism represents a broad continuum of beliefs, spirituality, practices, and lifestyles with varying degrees of integration within contemporary society, culture, and values. Examples of its sub-communities include "Chassidic," "Modern-Chassidic," "Yeshivish," "Modern-Yeshivish," "Modern Orthodox-Machmir," "Modern Orthodox-Liberal," and "Sefardic." Orthodox Judaism presents unique opportunities that can be protective against the development of mental illness while also posing potential challenges that can exacerbate mental health conditions.

### Biography

Rabbi Richard Louis Price, MD is a Yale & Columbia University-trained Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medical College. He has treated more than 20,000 Orthodox Jewish patients over the past 20 years as a medical director of Achieve Behavioral Health-Bikur Cholim in Monsey; Rockland TMS & Wellness; New York State Hamaspik Association for Developmental Disabilities of Orange and Rockland Counties; Volunteer Counseling Services in New City; ParCare FQHC in Brooklyn, Chai Urgent Care Centers of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Florida, and through his child, adult, and couples psychotherapy and psychopharmacology private practice in Monsey. Dr. Price is triple board certified in Psychiatry, Consultation-Liaison, and Addiction Medicine and has been awarded numerous patents in the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Israel for a novel pharmacotherapy for the treatment of both core and associated symptoms of autism spectrum disorder. He resides in Suffern with his wife, has 1 married daughter and 3 sons, one of whom, Maxwell, is a current medical student and aspiring psychiatrist with whom Dr. Price has published 20 peer-reviewed articles in the past 2 years, including in *Lancet* and *CNS Drugs*. Dr. Price received Orthodox Rabbinical Ordination at Yeshiva Ohr Somayach in Monsey, served as a synagogue Cantor for 4 years during medical school, released a Kabbalistic Musical Healing CD, and has a black belt in taekwondo.

### Learning Objectives

1. Explain differences between segments of Orthodox Judaism
2. Describe three protective factors that Orthodox Judaism can confer for mental health
3. Identify two potential challenges that Orthodox Judaism can pose to mental health
4. Demonstrate a culturally sensitive approach to the Orthodox Jewish patient

### Suggested Reading

1. Bloch, A. M., Gabbay, E., Knowlton, S., & Fins, J. J. (2018). Psychiatry, cultural competency, and the care of Ultra-Orthodox Jews: achieving secular and theocentric convergence through introspection. *Journal of Religion & Health*, 57(5), 1702–1716. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10943-018-0678-z>
2. Price, M. Z., & Laidlaw, I., (2021). Child telemental health - moving us forward. *Psychiatric Research and Clinical Practice*, 3(3), 142. <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.prcp.20210009>
3. Ungar-Sargon, B (2016, September 7). Healing Hasidic adulterers with psychiatric drugs. *Medium*. <https://medium.com/the-establishment/healing-hasidic-adulterers-with-psychiatric-drugs-8e4fa663c035>