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Lecture Series Examines Mass Consciousness on Medical Ethics and Assisted Suicide through Cinema, Religion, Science and Legal Issues

HOUSTON (October 15, 2007) – "Medical Ethics and the Holocaust," a 15-part lecture series and exhibit that reveals how the practices of the Third Reich influence today's modern medical practices, continues as the Holocaust Museum Houston presents an array of speakers and topics throughout the month of November.

On Nov. 6, 2007, **Glen O. Gabbard**, M.D., the Brown Foundation Chair of Psychoanalysis and professor of psychiatry at Baylor College of Medicine, will present "Cinematic Perspectives on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide." Gabbard will discuss the desensitization of these issues through Hollywood's attempts at providing easy answers.

George J. Annas, J.D., M.P.H., the nation's most cited law professor in the field of health policy and chair of the Department of Health Law, Bioethics & Human Rights at Boston University School of Medicine and School of Law, will discuss the impact of the Nuremberg trials as a turning point in medical ethics. He will present "The Legacy of the Nuremberg Doctor's Trial to American Bioethics and Human Rights" on Nov. 13, 2007.

On Nov. 20, 2007, the topic of discussion will turn to religion's role in medicine. **Rabbi Irving Greenberg**, Ph.D., a co-founder of Birthright Israel and the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education, will discuss religion as a means of keeping science and medicine within ethical boundaries in, "Power for Life or Power for Death? How and Why Science and Religion Can Work Together for Life After the Holocaust."

On the same evening, John M. Hass, Ph.D., S.T.I., M. Div., president of the National Catholic Bioethics Center, will discuss how the Catholic Church has dealt with the medical practices of the Holocaust and how they have worked to provide dignity and equality in today's medical ethics in "Science, Medicine and Religion after the Holocaust."

November will conclude with a thought-provoking debate on euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide. **Kathryn L. Tucker**, the director of legal affairs for Compassion & Choices, will present "Physician Aid in Dying – When and Why Should This Option be Available? What Happens When Aid in Dying is Legal?" Tucker will contend that allowing a person to decide their time and place of death can be handled ethically, compassionately and professionally. **Wesley Smith**, an attorney for the International Task Force on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide, will present "Is Physician-Assisted Suicide Ever Permissible?"

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All the lectures will take place at Holocaust Museum Houston, 5401 Caroline St., and will begin at 6 p.m.

The lectures are a continuation of a 15-part series designed to help understand how the Holocaust's horrific medical practices shape modern medical ethics. Other upcoming lectures will feature such compelling topics as doctors building bombs, educating future medical professionals, and genetics throughout the 21st century.

All lectures are free, but advanced registration is required. For information on CME and CNE credits for medical professionals attending this program, visit www.utcme.net. All lectures also can be accessed through the World Wide Web via webcast or through The University of Texas' teleconferencing system at participating facilities. Please visit www.hmh.org/medethics for more information on viewing the lecture via the Web or at an off-site location.

An exhibit, "How Healing Becomes Killing: Eugenics, Euthanasia and Extermination," complements the lecture series and provides provocative historical documentation of the role played by scientists, physicians and government officials at the six "euthanasia" centers where they murdered thousands of Germany's most vulnerable citizens. There is no admission charge to view the exhibit, now in the Minberg Gallery at the Museum's Morgan Family Center (5401 Caroline St.) in Houston's Museum District. The exhibit runs through Feb. 3, 2008. Viewing hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

For more information about "Medical Ethics and the Holocaust," visit www.hmh.org/medethics.

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About Holocaust Museum Houston Holocaust Museum Houston is dedicated to educating people about the Holocaust, remembering the 6 million Jews and other innocent victims and honoring the survivors' legacy. Using the lessons of the Holocaust and other genocides, the Museum teaches the dangers of hatred, prejudice and apathy.