Judaism includes a rich tradition of reasoning about virtually every aspect of the practice of medicine and the experience of illness. Yet health care professionals today, both Jewish and non-Jewish, have only a cursory knowledge of that tradition, and there are few opportunities for medical students and trainees to be formed as Jewish physicians or to study Judaism as a resource for understanding what it means to be a good physician.

This symposium gathers leading scholars of Judaism and medicine to consider how best to introduce traditional halachic Jewish scholarship regarding medicine to health care professionals, and particularly physicians-in-training. What is the current state of the study of Judaism and medicine among health care professionals? How can the moral and intellectual traditions of Judaism more significantly shape the formation of physicians and other health care professionals? What are the current models for passing the tradition of halachic reasoning on to the next generation of clinicians? How can those models be improved and best practices be disseminated.

This symposium will address these questions and consider how the Program on Medicine and Religion at the University of Chicago can foster greater scholarship and study of the Jewish tradition regarding the practice of medicine and the experience of illness, within academic medicine in the United States.

To register, please visit http://pmr.uchicago.edu/events/judaism-and-medicine-symposium
Monday, September 10, 2012

8:00am-9:00am Registration & Continental Breakfast

9:00am Welcome. Farr Curlin, MD & Roy Weiss, MD, PhD, University of Chicago

9:05am Avraham Steinberg, MD, Conference Chair. What is the essential content of a curriculum in Jewish medical ethics?

9:45am-12:30pm Taking Stock: Experiences and Lessons Learned from Past and Current Efforts to Promote the Study of Traditional Jewish Medical Ethics

9:45am Beni Gesundheit, MD, PhD. Online Education in Jewish Medical Ethics: Experience with www.jewishmedicalethics.org

10:10am Daniel Eisenberg, MD. The Initiative for Medical Ethics in the Jewish Tradition

10:35am Kenneth Prager, MD, FACP. Reflections at the Intersection of Living Traditional Jewish Ethics and Teaching Medical Ethics: Consulting in a Secular Institution

11:00am Break

11:15am Shimon Glick, MD. The Jewish Physician’s Relations with His/Her Patients

11:40am Panel of Morning Speakers. Roy Weiss, moderator

12:45pm Lunch. Divinity School Commons Room

1:45pm Avraham Steinberg, MD. Conference Chair. What is the essential content of a curriculum in Jewish medical ethics?

2:50pm Daniel Eisenberg, MD. The Initiative for Medical Ethics in the Jewish Tradition

3:40pm Break

4:00pm Rabbi Yossi Brackman. Hitting the Attention and Interest of Pre-med and Medical Students: The Chabad Experience

4:25pm Panel of Afternoon Speakers. Avraham Steinberg, moderator

5:30pm Symposium Adjourns

6:30pm Dinner with speaker HaRav Gedaliah Dov Schwartz, shlit”a.

Rabbi Yossi Brackman serves as the director of the Rohr Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning at the University of Chicago. He was born in the UK and studied at the Rabbinical College of Johannesburg and the Central Lubavitch Yeshiva where he received his ordination. As part of his work at the Chabad center at the University of Chicago, Yossi has been actively involved in teaching Jewish medical ethics to physicians and students at the medical school.

Baruch Brody, PhD has recently retired from serving as the Leen Jaworski Prof. of Biomedical Ethics and Director of the Center for Medical Ethics and Health Policy at Baylor College of Medicine. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Jewish Philosophy and a member of the Governing Board of the Leon Jaworski Prof. of Biomedical Ethics and Director of the Center for Medical Ethics and Health Policy at Baylor College of Medicine. He has served as the medical ethics scholar-in-residence for the New England Institute for Jewish Studies in Jerusalem since 1999.

Shimon Glick, MD is Professor emeritus in medicine at the Ben Gurion University. He is a recognized scholar and rabbinic leader and final authority for Jewish Medical Ethics. In the past, he has served as president of the Association of Or thodox Jewish Scientists, USA, and as co-chair of the Medical Science Section of the Committee of Concerned citizens for Soviet Jewry. He developed a website with an online course (www.jewishmedicalethics.org, Hebrew). He worked in the department of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology at Soroka University Medical Center in Beer Sheva and in the department of Bone Marrow Transplantation in Hadassah University Hospital, Jerusalem, Israel. Currently he works on a project in stem cell research and autism. He holds a rabbinical degree and a PhD from the University of Toronto in Bioethics.

Benjamin Gesundheit, MD, PhD teaches Jewish Medical Ethics in the Department of Jewish Philosophy at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and in the medical faculty of Bar-Ilan University. He developed a website with an online course (www.jewishmedicalethics.org, Hebrew). He worked in the department of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology at Soroka Hospital, Beer Sheva and in the department of Bone Marrow Transplantation in Hadassah University Hospital, Jerusalem, Israel. Currently he works on a project in stem cell research and autism. He holds a rabbinical degree and a PhD from the University of Toronto in Bioethics.

Laurie Zoloth is Director of the Brady Program in Ethics and Civic Life, Professor of Medical Ethics and Humanities, Professor of Religion, and member of the Jewish Studies faculty at Northwestern University. From 1995-2003, she was Professor of Ethics and Director of the Program in Jewish Studies at San Francisco State University. She has served on national boards for the Society for Scriptural Reasoning, the Louis Finkelstein Institute for Jewish Social Ethics, The Park Ridge Center’s Project on Scriptural Reasoning, the Louis Finkelstein Institute for Jewish Social Ethics, The Park Ridge Center’s Project on Scriptural Reasoning, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science’s Dialogue on Science, Ethics and Religion.