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DEADLY MEDICINE: CREATING THE MASTER RACE
TO OPEN AT ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM &
EDUCATION CENTER IN JULY

Museum Hosts Film Series and Special Guest Speakers – Including Stars of TLC’s “Little People, Big World” – to Coordinate with Travelling Exhibition About Nazi Eugenics

“Nazism is applied biology.”

Rudolf Hess, Deputy to Adolf Hitler

SKOKIE, IL — *Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race*, an exhibition about the role of science in Nazi ideology, will open at the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center on Friday, July 23. The exhibition examines how the Nazi leadership, in collaboration with individuals in the professions traditionally charged with healing and the public good, used science to help legitimize persecution, murder and, ultimately, genocide. Produced by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, *Deadly Medicine* will be on display through January 2, 2011.

“As the Museum’s first major installation of a temporary exhibition since our opening last year, we’re particularly enthusiastic about the arrival of *Deadly Medicine*,” said Richard S. Hirschhaut, Executive Director of the Museum. “We’ve planned a broad spectrum of events to complement this powerful, thought-provoking exhibition and translate its themes -- of medical ethics, eugenics, perceptions of disability and ‘otherness’ -- into diverse programs exploring these issues in a global modern-day context.”

“*Deadly Medicine* explores the Holocaust’s roots in then-contemporary scientific and pseudo-scientific thought,” explains exhibition curator Susan Bachrach. “At the same time, it touches on complex ethical issues we face today, such as how societies acquire and use scientific knowledge and how they balance the rights of the individual with the needs of the larger community. We are pleased to be bringing this important exhibition to the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center and a new Midwest audience.”

Eugenics theory sprang from turn-of-the-century scientific beliefs asserting that Charles Darwin’s “survival of the fittest” theory could be applied to humans. Supporters, spanning the globe and political spectrum, believed that through careful controls on marriage and reproduction, a nation’s genetic health could be improved. The Nazi regime was founded upon the conviction that “inferior” races and individuals had to be eliminated from German society so that the fittest “Aryans” could thrive. The Nazi state fully committed itself to implementing a uniquely racist and anti-Semitic variation of eugenics to “scientifically” build what it considered to be a “superior race.”

By the end of World War II, six million Jews had been killed. Millions of others had become victims of persecution and murder through Nazi “racial hygiene” programs designed to cleanse Germany of “biological threats” to the nation’s “health,” including “foreign-blooded” Roma and Sinti (Gypsies), persons diagnosed as “hereditarily ill,” and homosexuals. In German-occupied territories, Poles and others belonging to ethnic groups deemed “inferior” were also murdered.

Over the course of *Deadly Medicine's* five-month run, the Illinois Holocaust Museum will host a series of related events. Planned programs will feature the Roloff family, stars of TLC's "Little People, Big World;" Emmanuel Yeboah, a disabled athlete and internationally-renowned advocate for the disabled in his native Ghana; and Dr. Patricia Heberer, an expert on Nazi medical policy and historian at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Additionally, the Museum will present a film series on the themes of disability, eugenics and the Holocaust; titles include David Lynch's "The Elephant Man," and the documentaries "Architecture of Doom," "Liebe Perla" and "Selling Murder: the Killing Films of the Third Reich."

For more information on *Deadly Medicine* and related programs, please visit www.ilholocaustmuseum.org.

Deadly Medicine opened to wide acclaim at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in April 2004. Since then, it has traveled to Canada, Germany, and across the United States. An online version of the exhibition is available at www.ushmm.org/deadlymedicine.

This exhibition is made possible through the support of the following donors: The Samberg Family Foundation, the Dorot Foundation, the Viterbi Family Foundation of the Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego, and the Rosenbluth Family—Al, Sylvia, Bill, and Jerry. Additional support was provided by the Takiff Family Foundation and the David Berg Foundation.

Likely the last international institution of its kind built with the active participation of Holocaust survivors, the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center is the largest facility in the Midwest dedicated to preserving the memories of those lost in the Holocaust and to teaching current generations to fight hatred, indifference and genocide in today's world.

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CALENDAR INFORMATION:

DEADLY MEDICINE: CREATING THE MASTER RACE

What: *Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race* examines how the Nazi leadership, in collaboration with physicians, psychiatrists, and other medical professionals, used science to help legitimize persecution, murder and, ultimately, genocide. The exhibition chronicles the Nazi campaign, from 1933 to 1945, to "cleanse" German society of individuals viewed as biological threats to the nation's "health." The objects, photographs, documents and historic film on display provoke reflection on the continuing attraction of biological utopias. This exhibition was produced by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

When: **Opens Friday, July 23**
Runs through January 2, 2011

Tickets: **Free with Museum admission.** For information on hours and admission prices, please call 847-967-4889 or visit www.ilholocaustmuseum.org.

Where: **Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center**
9603 Woods Drive, Skokie

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