



HEBREW UNION COLLEGE - JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION
KALSMAN INSTITUTE
on Judaism & Health



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

For eight years, the Academic Coalition for Jewish Bioethics held dialogues, conferences, and meetings to foster the academic side of Jewish bioethics. Many fine papers and the book, *QUALITY OF LIFE IN JEWISH BIOETHICS*, were produced. In the past two years, we collaborated in two *Society for Jewish Ethics* (SJE) meetings -- in Atlanta and in San Jose. After this partnership and exploration, the Coalition has agreed to become a working group within the SJE. A relationship that began informally will now be formalized, and institutional sponsors have been sought.

We are writing to you at this time, on behalf of our chair Rabbi Leonard Sharzer, M.D., to encourage your interest in this new phase of our work. Our first venture will be participating in the next conference of the SJE in New Orleans, on **January 6-9**. The Society for Jewish Ethics has traditionally conducted its often innovative meetings in conjunction with the annual sessions of the Society for Christian Ethics and the Society for Muslim Ethics. Bill can attest from his two recent years' participation that these gatherings are stimulating -- fostering new intersections of thinking, new opportunities for dialogue, and even occasional difference.

Within the next several weeks you will be receiving a call for papers from Professors Elliot Dorff and Noam Zohar, and we look forward to a robust response. The Jewish Bioethics component of the broader ethics meetings will take place on **Thursday afternoon, January 6** and **Friday morning, January 7**, and most of us will remain in New Orleans for the sessions of the larger associations, **January 7-9**.

Dietary laws will be observed during our portion of these meetings, and provided for during the general conference.

This brief message solicits both your interest in the January Conference, and your participation in our larger association: The Society for Jewish Ethics, of which our bioethics community will now be a full partner. You can join the SJE by visiting: <http://apps.carleton.edu/hosted/jewishethics/>. Read about the conference details as they unfold on their webpage.

Please hold the date for:

2011 Annual Meeting
Jan 6 - 9, 2011
Astor Crowne Plaza, New Orleans, LA

Please join us.

Sincerely,

William Cutter and Michele Prince, on behalf of Leonard Sharzer, Chairman of the Working Group

The working group, formerly known as the ACJB, includes Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Jewish Theological Seminary, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Shalom Hartman Institute, University of Judaism, University of Pennsylvania - Center for Bioethics. Support is provided by the Gimprich Family Foundation, Solomon and Sylvia Bronstein Foundation, Whizin Foundation and the Maurice Amado Foundation.