



HEBREW UNION COLLEGE - JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION

KALSMAN INSTITUTE
on Judaism & Health

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Kalsman Institute on Judaism and Health to Hold 2011 Roundtable on Judaism and Health Research, Funded by the John Templeton Foundation

From January 30-February 1, 2011, the Kalsman Institute on Judaism and Health at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion/Los Angeles will gather 30 top Jewish leaders, such as Rabbi David Ellenson, Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson, Dr. Arnie Eisen, Rabbi Eric Yoffie, Rabbi Elliot Dorff, Rabbi David Teutsch, Rabbi David Wolpe, with Jewish medical practitioners and scholars, such as Dr. Alexandra Levine, Dr. Paul Root Wolpe, Dr. Jeff Levin, and Dr. Kenneth Pargament for the *2011 Roundtable on Judaism and Health Research*. This is the first time such a group of high level leaders will come together across the denominations to talk about the health of the Jewish people and the importance of Judaism on health, healing, and medicine.

The Kalsman Institute on Judaism and Health is nearing the culmination of a two-year grant from the John Templeton Foundation in support of the *Kalsman Institute Roundtable on Judaism and Health Research*. By now, there has been a 20-plus-year investment and thousands of studies on religion and health, most of which funded by the John Templeton Foundation, but to date, few systematically focus on Jews. Kalsman aims to change that. With the support of the John Templeton Foundation, the *Roundtable's* goal is to address these deficiencies. The Jewish community cannot read itself into thousands of interfaith and Christian studies correlating religion and spirituality with experiences and rates of illness and wellness. Jewish religious belief, spiritual practice and community involvement are conceptually distinct.

The task of the 30 individuals gathered at the Brandeis-Bardin Institute is to collaborate together and deliberate on how to expand research efforts focused explicitly on the Jewish population. The Roundtable, through its deliberations and its products, will establish and provide creativity, direction and leadership to this research field. The Kalsman Institute was invited this month to submit a second grant proposal to the John Templeton Foundation to conduct research at the intersection of Judaism, health, and medicine.

The Kalsman Institute provides pastoral education to students at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion/Los Angeles, and Kalsman promotes awareness and facilitates discourse as a center for education, training, research, and dialogue on illness and wellness through conferences, workshops and collaborative dialogue at the intersection of Judaism and Health.

www.kalsman.org

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The mission of the John Templeton Foundation is to serve as a philanthropic catalyst for discovery in areas engaging life's biggest questions. These questions range from explorations into the laws of nature and the universe to questions on the nature of love, gratitude, forgiveness, and creativity. www.templeton.org