

# FASPE

FELLOWSHIPS AT  
AUSCHWITZ  
FOR THE STUDY OF  
PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

FASPE operates under the auspices of the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust.

## **FASPE MEDICAL: A SUMMER FELLOWSHIP ON MEDICAL ETHICS**

*I have been asked hundreds of times what kind of doctor I want to be, but FASPE asks if that doctor is aligned with the kind of person I want to be.*

Dan Weisberg, 2012 Medical Fellow

*I was truly blown-away by this experience and this trip, with its combination of incredible students, poignant places, and powerful seminars.*

Salina Bakshi, 2014 Medical Fellow

The Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics (FASPE) offers a unique historical lens to engage journalism, law, seminary, and medical students in an intensive course of study focused on contemporary ethics in their professions. FASPE Fellows are granted an all-expenses paid 12-day trip to Germany and Poland to learn about the role of their chosen profession in Nazi Germany and to use that historic framework to explore the ethical issues facing their field today.

Pre-World War II professionals in Germany were known and respected internationally. Yet, leaders (and practitioners) in each of the professions, and often the institutions they represented, played a fundamental role in designing, enabling and/or executing the crimes of Nazi Germany.

FASPE Medical examines the roles played by physicians in Nazi Germany and underscores the reality that moral codes governing the medical profession can break down or be distorted with devastating consequences. Having learned the power of their profession, the Medical Fellows are better positioned (and more willing) to address various contemporary ethical issues facing their profession and individual doctors. The program integrates historical, medical, philosophical, and literary sources; survivor testimony; and on-site workshops in Berlin, Auschwitz, and Krakow.

The Medical program was initially developed with the assistance of Dr. Thomas Duffy, Director of Yale Medical School's Program for Humanities, and other Yale Medical School faculty. Since piloting the program in 2009, 89 Fellows have participated from medical schools including Berkeley, Duke, Emory, Harvard, Johns Hopkins, the University of Washington, and Yale. The summer 2016 program will include 12-15 new Fellows chosen through a national application process.

The Fellowships include all costs associated with the 12-day program, including international and European travel, lodging, and food. The Fellows are provided with reading materials prior to meeting in New York; and the academic component of the program is intensive and interactive. Daily seminars are led by faculty and local experts who engage the Fellows in medical issues associated with the locations visited.

FASPE Medical Fellows examine such topics as:

- The complicity of medical professionals in Nazi policies and the Holocaust;
- The relationship between state authority and medicine;
- The role and limits of contemporary bioethics (including euthanasia/physician-assisted suicide);
- The legacy of prejudice in the medical profession; and
- Contemporary ethical issues facing medical professionals including physician and torture, the rationing of medical services, and medical research on human subjects.

FASPE Medical Program Outline:

- Orientation is held at the Museum of Jewish Heritage and includes touring exhibits, meeting with Holocaust survivors, and working with FASPE staff and guest scholars.
- Fellows travel to Berlin to visit and study the city's historical and cultural sites. Educational workshops take place at such locations as the House of the Wannsee Conference, where in 1942, representatives of State and Nazi Party agencies convened to discuss and coordinate plans for the "Final Solution."
- Fellows travel to Oświęcim, Poland, the town the Germans called Auschwitz, where they tour Auschwitz-Birkenau and work with the distinguished staff at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum. They also travel to Krakow where they explore the city's rich Jewish, Catholic, and Polish history. Sessions devoted to contemporary medical ethics take place in seminar rooms at Auschwitz and at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, one of Europe's oldest and most prestigious universities.
- Each Fellow submits a final written product focused on a contemporary ethical issue chosen by the Fellow. These are included in an annual journal of essays from Fellows from all disciplines.
- An Alumni Reunion & Symposium is held each year for current and past Fellows. Fellows from the most recent Program present their papers; and all gather and discuss the impact of the Fellowships.

FASPE seeks to instill a sense of professional responsibility for the ethical and moral choices that the Fellows will make in their careers and in their professional relationships. Understanding that their voice and actions can positively influence their profession, they will be part of a growing cohort of doctors who are invested in improving the practice of all those in the medical profession.

FASPE is committed to a long-term relationship with the Fellows in order to sustain the ideas raised during the Fellowships and to provide a forum for continuing dialogue among the Fellows as they move forward in their careers. Testimonials from the Fellows have confirmed the value of FASPE as they have entered their profession. FASPE succeeds through the long term impact on its Fellows.

For more information, contact Thorin Tritter, Ph.D., Managing Director of FASPE.

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