Healing By Killing: The Role of Healthcare Professionals in the Nazi Era
A Film Screening and Discussion

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7:00pm - 9:30pm

Columbia University Medical Center
Alumni Auditorium
650 West 168th Street
New York, NY

Co-sponsored by the Columbia University Center for Bioethics and the Gold Humanism in Medicine Honor Society at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons

This evening the Center for Bioethics and the Gold Humanism in Medicine Honor Society, with support from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, co-sponsored the documentary Healing By Killing. After the film was shown, a vigorous discussion, led by Dr. David Muller, Dean of Medical Education and The Marietta and Charles C. Morchand Chair in Medical Education at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, followed. All Columbia University students were encouraged to attend this important event. Attendees were provided with a light dinner.

Healing by Killing, which is based on Robert Jay Lifton's *The Nazi Doctors: Medical Killing and the Psychology of Genocide*, is a moving documentary that depicts the early to mid years of the Nazi regime and its adoption of the Hegelian philosophy that a society can be seen as an organism, and that to “treat” the society, all so-called “useless eaters” should be eliminated. Starting with children in institutions, then adults, and leading to the Holocaust, children and adults were systematically put to death. Healing by Killing shows how doctors, nurses, dentists and other health professionals aided and abetted this evil. Indeed, without their cooperation – that was even enthusiastic at times – this horrific era could never have succeeded as it did.

This film is a warning that professional morals must never be usurped by political powers.

David Muller, MD received his BA from Johns Hopkins University and his MD from New York University School of Medicine. He completed his Internship and Residency in Internal Medicine at the Mount Sinai Medical Center, where he spent an additional year as Chief Resident. Upon completing his training Dr. Muller co-founded and directed the Mount Sinai Visiting Doctors Program. Visiting Doctors is now the largest academic physician home visiting program in the country. In May 2005 Dr. Muller was appointed Dean for Medical Education. His recent honors include the Department of Medicine's Ruth Abramson Humanism in Medicine Award in 2005, induction into the Gold Humanism Honor Society in 2004, and the Casita Maria Community Builder Award in 2002. Dr. Muller is Associate Professor of Medicine and Medical Education and is a Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine.