



BAYLOR
UNIVERSITY

INSTITUTE FOR
FAITH AND LEARNING

Call for Papers

**2010 BAYLOR SYMPOSIUM ON
FAITH AND CULTURE**

Human Dignity and the Future of Health Care

Thursday, October 28-Saturday, October 30, 2010
Baylor University, Waco, Texas

In the practice of health care a complicated array of issues converges: public policy and economic considerations impinge on a myriad of social and moral demands related to medical research and the distribution and delivery of medical care. As the recent debate concerning health care reform in the United States illustrates, not only have these issues largely been argued about in isolation from one another, they too often have been removed from an account of what it means to be human—a person endowed with dignity and therefore deserving of care—and the role of doctors, nurses, and other medical practitioners in offering that care.

Inspired by the conviction that a Christian understanding of the dignity of the human person should inform these fundamental questions, the 2010 Baylor Symposium on Faith and Culture seeks to explore the future of health care, not only in the United States but around the world. In an often compartmentalized debate, how might an acknowledgment of human dignity shape our understanding of the moral, political, and economic dimensions of one of the most pressing concerns of our time?

Confirmed speakers include:

- **Elias Bongmba**, Rice University—distinguished chair of Christian theology;
- **Toyin Falola**, University of Texas—historian and fellow of the Historical Society of Nigeria;
- **Paul Griffiths**, Duke Divinity School—distinguished professor of Catholic theology;
- **Jeff Levin**, Baylor University—pioneering biomedical scientist and religious scholar;
- **Gilbert Meilaender**, Valparaiso University— theologian and member of the President's Council on Bioethics (2002-09);
- **Stephen Post**, Stony Brook University—bioethicist

and director of the Center for Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care, and Bioethics;

- **Margaret Somerville**, McGill University—legal scholar, ethicist, and founding director of the McGill Centre for Medicine, Ethics and Law;
- **Daniel Sulmasy**, University of Chicago—Franciscan friar, physician, and ethicist;
- **John Swinton**, University of Aberdeen—founding director of the Centre for Spirituality, Health and Disability; and
- **S. Kay Toombs**, Baylor University—medical ethicist and associate professor emeritus of philosophy.

We invite participants from a broad range of fields—health care professionals, theologians, social workers, economists, philosophers, aid workers, public policy specialists, and others—to contribute to an intellectually rich and faith-informed discussion about the future of health care.

Possible topics include:

- human dignity and human rights;
- the Church's role in health care;
- models of Christian response;
- economic models for health care reform;
- theological accounts of the human person;
- health care in the developing world;
- medical care as a vocation;
- public health programs;
- educating doctors and medical students;
- care of the unborn, barely born, disabled, and elderly; and
- ethics and medical research.

Abstracts of no more than 750 words should be submitted by **July 1, 2010** online at www.baylor.edu/ifl/bsfc2010. Call 254-710-4805 or send e-mail to ifl@baylor.edu for more information.