

# DIALOGUES IN RESEARCH ETHICS

## Dialogue 2

# Research on Prisoners: Nuremberg to Guantanamo?

Steven Miles, M.D.  
*University of Minnesota*

1:30 p.m., Friday, December 18, 2009 **Note variant time**  
Mailman Center for Child Development, Room 3023

—————→ Please bring your lunch  
(No RSVPs required) ←————

The Nuremberg doctors trials were in part about the conduct of experiments on prisoners – experiments that were largely designed for protection of the Nazi armed forces, although some were designed to validate the false science of Nazi anthropology or to implement the Nazi program of race hygiene. From these trials arose the Nuremberg Code, the predecessor document for research ethics internationally and in the United States. There is increasing evidence of coerced interrogational research in the “war on terror” prisons. (There is no evidence of U.S. medical complicity with regard to anything like the euthanasia or race hygiene programs.) This Dialogue will explore and discuss the Nuremberg Code and look at select war-on-terror government documents.

Dr. Miles is Professor of Medicine and Bioethics at the University of Minnesota Medical School in Minneapolis. He is an Affiliate Faculty for the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and for the Law School’s Concentration in Health Law and Bioethics. He is board certified in Internal Medicine and Geriatrics and teaches and practices internal medicine at the University of Minnesota. He has served as President of the American Society of Bioethics and Humanities and received its Distinguished Service Award. Among his other awards is the National Council of Teachers of English’ George Orwell Award for Distinguished Contribution to Honesty and Clarity in Public Language. Dr. Miles has published four books, more than 20 chapters and more than 200 articles on medical ethics, human rights, tropical medicine, end-of-life care and geriatric health care.

*Dialogues in Research Ethics is a series of monthly conferences. For more information, phone UM Ethics Programs at 305-243-5723 or send E-mail to [ethics@miami.edu](mailto:ethics@miami.edu).*

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