

ACADEMIC SESSION

“THE STUDIES ON HUNGER DISEASE IN THE WARSAW GHETTO”

15 MARCH 2023, 12 NOON – 8 PM, POLIN MUSEUM

The Warsaw Ghetto, where approximately 100,000 people died of starvation and disease, became a unique medical laboratory. In 1942, a team of doctors headed by Dr Israel Milejowski performed world-pioneering clinical research into the physiological changes that occur as a result of prolonged starvation. The project was clandestine, since the Germans did not allow Jews to conduct scientific research. Its results were published in 1946 in the work “Choroba głodowa” (The Hunger Disease), edited by Emil Apfelbaum.

The POLIN Museum is organising an academic session to commemorate the work of these Warsaw Ghetto doctors and highlight the importance of their research into the hunger disease. The session will be complemented by a lecture addressed to the general public, delivered in Spanish by a globally-recognized Argentinian journalist Martín Caparrós, author of the celebrated non-fiction book “Hunger”. Simultaneous Polish-English interpretation will be provided for the audience.

This event is a part of the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

Wednesday, 15 March 2023, 12 noon - 5 PM CET, conference room A, POLIN Museum

12 noon

Formal opening of the Session

Marian Turski;
Zygmunt Stępiński, director of POLIN Museum

12:30-1:30 PM

Lecture: Research on hunger disease in the Warsaw Ghetto and its significance for medicine

Prof. Abraham Ohry (Tel Aviv University)

2:00-3:00 PM

Panel I: Medicine in the ghetto and contemporary bioethical challenges

Chair: prof. Stanisław Obirek

Ethical dilemmas of physicians in the Warsaw Ghetto – with special reference to research on hunger disease

Dr Miriam Offer (Western Galilee College, Akko;
The Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv University)

Medicine in Adversity: Lessons from the Past

Dr Tessa Chelouche (M.D Department of Bioethics and the Holocaust
International Chair of Bioethics)

3:00-4:00 PM

Coffee break

4:00-5:00 PM

Panel II: Legacy of Warsaw Ghetto doctors

Chair: Karolina Głowacka

Reception of the results of the Warsaw Ghetto hunger disease research in post-war Poland and the world

Dr hab. Maria Ciesielska
(Faculty of Medicine, Lazarski University, Warsaw)

Memories on Prof. Juliusz Zweibaum, one of the editors of the book “The Hunger Disease”

Zofia Karłowicz-Perzyńska, granddaughter of Prof. Juliusz Zweibaum

Lecture by Martín Caparrós, author of the acclaimed book “Hunger”

Wednesday, 15 March 2023, Auditorium, POLIN Museum

6:30-8 PM

Lecture: Hunger now

Martín Caparrós

The lecture will be delivered in Spanish, simultaneous translation into Polish or English will be provided for the audience.

The session is organized within the Global Education Outreach Program.



This program was made possible thanks to Taube Philanthropies, the William K. Bowes, Jr. Foundation, and the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland.



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Project is supported by the EEA Grants from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, and by the state budget



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prof. Waldemar Kostewicz

