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National Medical Museum Opens Exhibit on Two-Time Nobel Laureate Linus Pauling

Washington, DC, Oct. 14 -- Linus Pauling and the Twentieth Century, an exhibition tracing the life and influence of two-time Nobel laureate Dr. Linus Pauling (www.paulingexhibit.org) opens October 20th through June 8, 2000 at the National Museum of Health and Medicine (www.natmedmuse.afip.org).

Designed for an audience of all ages, the 2,000-plus square-foot interactive exhibition demonstrates Dr. Pauling's influence as scientific discoverer, dedicated humanitarian, crusader against the testing of nuclear weapons, defender of civil liberties, and prominent researcher in orthomolecular medicine, vitamin C, nutrition and health.

"The exhibition demonstrates how scientific pursuits and efforts to minimize human suffering need not be mutually exclusive," said Dr. Linus Pauling, Jr., chairman of the Linus Pauling Exhibition Advisory Committee. "We hope that the legacy of Linus Pauling's courageous work in science, health and peace will serve as inspiration for new generations to meet humanity's challenges in the 21st century."

During his long career, that spanned much of the 20th Century, Dr. Pauling described the nature of the chemical bond, discovered the structure of proteins, intuited the cause of sickle-cell anemia, and engaged in the race to identify the structure of DNA and popularized the benefits of vitamin C. He remains the only person to have been awarded two unshared Nobel Prizes (Chemistry in 1954, Peace in 1962).

Dr. Pauling was also an energetic peace activist who stood courageously for his beliefs. Shortly after World War II, he joined Albert Einstein and others who sought to limit the spread of nuclear weapons. His numerous campaigns, that helped achieve the 1963 Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty to stop atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons, led eventually to Pauling's 24-year investigation by the FBI, the revocation of his passport, and vilification in the press.

“It is a privilege and fitting for the National Museum of Health and Medicine to host an exhibit highlighting Dr. Pauling's life and his accomplishments,” says Adrienne Noe, Ph.D., director of the National Museum of Health and Medicine. “Dr. Pauling spent a great part of his career researching human physiology and health. This exhibit provides a wonderful opportunity for people of all ages to learn about this research as well as his other extraordinary contributions to science, medicine and humanity.”

The exhibition is co-sponsored by the Linus Pauling family; Oregon State University, that has loaned the exhibition photographs, diaries, molecular models and historical artifacts from its Special Collections, The Ava Helen and Linus Pauling Papers; and Soka Gakkai International, a Buddhist association with which Dr. Pauling was particularly close until his death in 1994 at the age of 93.

The seed for a touring exhibition about Dr. Pauling's life was first planted in 1987 during a conversation that he held with Soka Gakkai International President Daisaku Ikeda. The two men in 1992 jointly authored a book entitled *A Lifelong Quest for Peace*.

The National Museum of Health and Medicine, founded as the Army Medical Museum in 1862 to study and improve medical conditions during the American Civil War, is a division of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. Open daily except Christmas from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., the Museum is

located at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, 6900 Georgia Avenue and Elder Street, NW, Washington, D.C. Public telephone number is 202-782-2200. Admission is free.