

## **The Physician's Role in Allowing a Newborn to Die**

John Freeman, MD

April 13, 2005

4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Alumni Auditorium  
Columbia University Medical Center  
650 West 168th Street  
New York, NY 10032

John Freeman, MD, who is the Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, gave the Norbert Goldenberg, MD, Ethics Lecture for the P&S Ethics Club. Dr. Freeman offered a stimulating presentation on his 30-year experience in treating newborns with severe spina bifida. In his long history of dealing with this disease, Dr. Freeman has had to face profound ethical dilemmas while deciding on the right course of action. The audience heard how complex it can be to make reasoned decisions concerning topics such as managing significant pain, defining reasonable quality of life, and how to provide support for such critically ill patients.

The event was supported by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation and co-sponsored by the Center for Bioethics and the Center for the Study of Society & Medicine.