

**Race, Genetics, and Medicine:  
Is Race a Social Construct or a Factor for Optimal Prescribing of Medication?**

May 12, 2005

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Columbia University Medical Center  
College of Physicians and Surgeons  
630 West 168th Street  
New York, NY 10032

The Center for Bioethics was honored to present an interdisciplinary panel of scholars to discuss the difficult question of whether race is a social construct or a constructive biological way to use a proxy for "ethnic" medicine. This controversial debate has many grappling with the relationship between race, genetics, and medicine. Some of the questions addressed by our panel included: What is "race"? Is race a relevant construct to be considered by public health and medical professionals? Is there such a thing as "ethnic medicine"?

The speakers included Drs. Charles K. Francis, the Director of the Office of Health Disparities and a Rudin Scholar in Urban Health at the New York Academy of Medicine; Linwood Lewis, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Sociomedical Sciences at the Mailman School of Public Health; Andrew Moran, a third-year Medical Resident at New York-Presbyterian Hospital; and Ann Morning, Assistant Professor of Sociology at New York University.

We would like to thank Christa Myers for her dedication to coordinating this event.