

PRESENTATION TYPE: Roundtable Discussion

CATEGORY/THEME: Culture, Context, Cells and Prevention

TITLE: Using genetic and other neurobiological markers to identify children and adolescents at risk: Forging new prevention science frontiers or walking on thin ice?

ABSTRACT BODY:

This Scientific Dialogue session will bring together individuals representing viewpoints from basic laboratory sciences, from clinical/treatment sciences, from prevention program science, community participation in prevention, and most importantly from bioethics. The latest IOM report *Preventing Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral Disorders Among Young People* (2009) has raised a very important issue for the field of prevention science to consider. Specifically, "The prospect of using genetic and other neurobiological markers to identify young people at risk for mental, emotional, and behavioral (MEB) disorders raises important concerns, such as potential stigma, bias, and denial of insurance coverage. However, knowingly withholding scientific knowledge from populations who can benefit from them also raises ethical concerns... The NIH should lead efforts to study the feasibility and ethics of using individually identified genetic and other neurobiological risk factors to target preventive interventions for MEB disorders." In this Roundtable session the panelists will discuss this important issue and invite dialogue from the audience. There has been great interest in incorporating neurobiological measures into prevention science research over the past decade. The tools and technologies are now sufficiently available and the costs of genotyping and assaying are becoming more and more reasonable. Are we forging new science frontiers or are walking on thin ice from an ethical standpoint? How should the prevention science field proceed?