



Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.
Sigma Nu Zeta Chapter
New York City, NY

*****MEDIA ALERT ***MEDIA ALERT*** MEDIA ALERT*****

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Event Date: Friday May 9th, 2003

Location: Abyssinian Baptist Church 132 W. 138th St.

Time: 6:00pm-9:00pm

X-MEN... A Real Life Tuskegee Experiment?: Leaders in Genetics Research Calm Anxiety Through Education

NEW YORK, NY- May 7, 2003 One week after the release of *X-MEN*, the box office blockbuster that explores the world in crisis when genetically mutated humans are exposed, the members of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Sigma Nu Zeta Chapter and the Abyssinian Baptist Church are inviting the Central Harlem Community and local leaders to discuss the ethical, legal and societal implications for the Minority community in human genome research. The event takes place, May 9th, 6p.m. at Abyssinian Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 132 W. 138th Street. The forum is free and open to the public.

Sigma Nu Zeta chapter, based in New York City, has secured a grant from The National Educational Foundation of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. to raise awareness, in minority communities about human genome research and the potential impact and benefits of this research. "Our communities need to be aware of what genetic research is, how it is being used to cure diseases that affect the human race as well as those that primarily affect people of color. It is also important that the community is aware of the potential for abuse of this research so that they can take a stand against the unethical use of this important research", said Cheryl A. Pemberton, the Sigma Nu Zeta chapter president.

Dr. Kwame Anyane-Yeboah, Director of the Division of Clinical Genetics in the Department of Pediatrics at Columbia University, the Director of the Genetic Residency Training Program at The New York Presbyterian Hospital (Columbia Campus), and Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics and Genetics at Columbia University, Dr. Wendy K. Chung, an assistant professor of pediatrics and an assistant attending physician in the division of molecular genetics at Columbia University, Dr. Jerro Kotval Associate Professor and Director of the Center for Minority Health Research, Education and Training at the University of Albany and author of several major policy reports in the area of biomedical sciences policy and bills, in areas such as reproductive technology and DNA based testing, Dr. Gerald Hoke, Director of the African American Hereditary Prostate Cancer Study at Columbia University, Harlem Hospital Center and author numerous papers in health services research, male sexual dysfunction, prostate cancer prostate diseases and health status measures will all discuss the issues in the panel discussion.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. was founded January 16, 1920 on the historically black campus of Howard University located in Washington, D.C. The mission of the sorority is to encourage the highest standards of service to the community. The international headquarters is located on the historic Embassy Row section in Washington, D.C.

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