

GRAND ROUNDS

Co-Sponsored by SNMA- RSOM Chapter, the Center for Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care and Bioethics, Stony Brook Cancer Center, RSOM Office of Student Affairs/Office of the Dean, and the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention

Thursday, February 10, 2022

Location: MART Auditorium and Zoom- Please [RSVP](#)

5:00pm- 6:00pm

Ending the Legacy of Racism in Medicine

Dorothy Roberts

False biological concepts of race, structural racism, and conscious or unconscious racial bias all contribute to racial inequities in health. The medical profession has long defined disease and treated patients according to race. But race-based medicine can be traced back to false assumptions about innate biological differences and to excuses for slavery and medical exploitation. Today, race-based medicine diverts attention and resources from the social determinants that cause appalling racial gaps in health. By understanding how racism has helped to structure medical knowledge, practice, and policies, we can end this backward legacy and collectively build a more equitable and healthier society.

[TEDMED talk: The problem with race-based medicine](#)

Please RSVP [here](#) or to

Bioethics@stonybrookmedicine.edu



Dorothy Roberts is the 14th Penn Integrates Knowledge Professor and George A. Weiss University Professor of Law & Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania, with joint appointments in the Departments of Africana Studies and Sociology and the Law School, where she is the inaugural Raymond Pace and Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander Professor of Civil Rights. She is also the founding director of the Penn Program on Race, Science, and Society. An internationally recognized scholar, public intellectual, and social justice advocate, she has written and lectured extensively on race, gender, and class inequities in U.S. institutions and has been a leader in transforming public thinking and policy on reproductive freedom, child welfare, and bioethics. She is the author of *Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty* (Pantheon, 1997/Vintage, 2017), *Shattered Bonds: The Color of Child Welfare* (Basic Books, 2001), and *Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, and Big Business Re-create Race in the Twenty-First Century* (The New Press, 2011), as well as co-editor of six books. She has also published more than 100 articles and essays in books and scholarly journals, including the 2019 Foreword to *Harvard Law Review's* Supreme Court issue, "Abolition Constitutionalism."

Roberts's research has been supported by fellowships from American Council of Learned Societies, National Science Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Brocher Foundation, Harvard University Program in Ethics and the Professions, Stanford Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity, Northwestern Institute for Policy Research, and the Fulbright Program. She has served on the boards of directors of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, the Black Women's Health Imperative, and the National Coalition for Child Protection Reform and on the advisory boards of the Center for Genetics and Society, Generations Ahead, and Still She Rises. Recent recognitions of her work include 2019 New Voices for Reproductive Justice Voice of Vision Award; 2019 Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Rutgers University-Newark; 2017 election to the National Academy of Medicine; 2016 Tanner Lectures on Human Values; 2016 Society of Family Planning Lifetime Achievement Award; 2016 Harvard Women's Law Association "Women Inspiring Change;" 2015 American Psychiatric Association Solomon Carter Fuller Award; and 2011 election as a Hastings Center Fellow. Her TEDTalk, "The Problem with Race-Based Medicine," has more than one million views. Roberts is currently writing a book on abolishing the family policing system.