

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Tavis Smiley Moderates
The Medicalization of Race Science Matters Panel
At the California Science Center November 21, 2009

Los Angeles – Broadcaster Tavis Smiley will moderate a panel discussion on ***The Medicalization of Race November 21, 2009*** from 1:00-2:30 pm. The program is part of *Science Matters*, a Science Center panel program series that explores current science issues in the forefront of public concern. It is free to the public and will take place in the Loker Conference Center at the California Science Center.

How valid is the concept of race from a biological standpoint? Should race matter or should medicine be colorblind? How much should doctors and researchers place on the role of race in health issues? Scientists will explore these issues and offer different viewpoints on the science and policy of racial categorization in medical research and disease treatment.

The Human Genome Project shows that 99.9 percent of the human genome is the same in everyone regardless of race. Based on this, many scientists argue that 'race' has no biological meaning and is used to perpetuate harmful social inequities. Others contend that racial groups can genetically differ from one another and that the differences can have medical importance.

The program moderator is **Tavis Smiley**, host of *Tavis Smiley* on PBS and *The Tavis Smiley Show* from PRI. Program panelists will include:

Pragna Patel, Ph.D.

Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Institute for Genetic Medicine, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California

Yolanda T. Moses, Ph.D.

Professor of Anthropology; Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Excellence and Equity; and Vice Provost for Conflict Resolution at the University of California, Riverside

Esteban González Burchard, M.D., M.P.H.

Associate Professor, Departments of Biopharmaceutical Sciences and Medicine, University of California, San Francisco

Michael J. Montoya, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of California, Irvine

To register online for this free program please go to www.californiasciencecenter.org .

Related Exhibits at the California Science Center

Guests at the Science Matters program also have an opportunity to deepen their understanding of the topic by visiting related exhibits and films at the Science Center, The California African American Museum (CAAM) and at The Skirball Cultural Center. Currently the Science Center is featuring two exhibits:

RACE: Are we so Different? On view through Dec. 31, 2009

RACE: Are We So Different? encourages guests to examine the science, history and everyday impact of race. In the area of science, visitors discover that human beings are more alike than any other living species, and no one gene or set of genes can support the idea of race.

America I Am: The African American Imprint On view through April 15, 2010

America I AM: The African American Imprint, presented by Tavis Smiley, is a collection of pivotal moments in courage, conviction and creativity that celebrates the imprint of African Americans on our nation and the world. Through more than 200 historic artifacts, visitors can examine how African Americans have contributed to and shaped American culture. This special exhibition charges admission. Please check the Science Center website at www.californiasciencecenter.org

Related IMAX films include *Pulse: A Stomp Odyssey* and *Across the Sea of Time*.

About the California Science Center

The California Science Center's mission is as follows: "We aspire to stimulate curiosity and inspire science learning in everyone by creating fun, memorable experiences, because we value science as an indispensable tool for understanding our world, accessibility and inclusiveness, and enriching people's lives."

The **California Science Center** and **IMAX Theater** are located in historic Exposition Park just west of the Harbor (110) Freeway at 700 State Drive, Los Angeles. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., except on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. Admission to the exhibits is free. For recorded information, including IMAX show times, call 323.SCIENCE (323.724-3623). IMAX ticket prices range from \$4.75 to \$8.00. For advance ticket purchases, group rates, or to make free reservations for any visiting group of 15 or more (*required*), call 213.744-2019. Parking is available in the guest lot at Figueroa and 39th Street at \$6 per car, \$10 for buses or oversized vehicles. Both the Science Center and IMAX Theater are wheelchair accessible. For further information, please visit our website at www.californiasciencecenter.org.