

For Immediate Release
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Dr. Francis Collins of the Human Genome Project
To Give Hilledale Lecture at UW-Madison

Francis Collins, M.D., Ph.D., will give this year's Hilledale Lecture for the Biological Sciences on Tuesday, March 20, 2001, at 3:30 pm, in 125 Agricultural Hall on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus.

Collins, who is currently director of the Human Genome Research Institute of the National Institutes of Health, will discuss "Consequences of the Human Genome Project for Medicine and Society." The lecture is free and open to the public.

The abstract for the lecture reads, "In February 2001, major papers were published on the sequencing and initial analysis of the human genome. Much work remains to understand how this "instruction book for human biology" carries out its multitudes of functions. But the consequences for the practice of medicine and for society are likely to be profound. Genetic prediction of individual risks of disease, and responsiveness to drugs will reach the medical mainstream in the next decade or so. The development of designer drugs, based on a genomic approach to targeting molecular pathways that are disrupted in disease, will follow soon after. Potential misuses of genetic information, such as discrimination in obtaining health insurance and in the workplace, will need to be dealt with swiftly and effectively." A reception in the Biotechnology Center Atrium will follow the lecture.

Dr. Collins received his B.A. in 1970 from the University of Virginia (Chemistry), his M.Phil. and Ph.D. from Yale in 1972 and 1974 (Chemistry), and his M.D. in 1977 from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. He did his residency in internal medicine at North Carolina Memorial Hospital, Chapel Hill (1977-80), followed by a Fellowship in Human Genetics at Yale from 1981 to 1984. In 1993, he became the Director of the National Center for Human Genome Research at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland.

The Hilledale Lectures, inaugurated in 1973-74, are sponsored by the four faculty divisions of the University of Wisconsin-Madison: Arts and Humanities, Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Social Studies. Annually, each division has the opportunity to present a distinguished thinker whose contributions to contemporary culture have received international recognition.