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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Differences or Disorders?

Student organizations join together to host a panel discussion on the treatment of infants with variations of sex anatomy and Cornell's role in the medical community.

Ithaca, NY, October 3, 2010 ---On Monday, October 4th, from 5:00-6:30pm in the Hollis E. Cornell Auditorium in Goldwin Smith Hall, panelists will seek to address the topics of current medical practices targeting developmental sexual disorders, the associated ethical questions and controversies, as well as the medical practices Cornell has recently partaken in, in an attempt to advance a national dialogue in an open, academic setting. Each panelist will give a brief introductory, informational presentation of these topics from their unique perspective before they begin taking questions from the audience.

The event will be moderated by Professor Carla Golden of the Psychology and Women's Studies Departments at Ithaca College. Speakers will include Janet Green, a patient advocate on the advisory board of the Accord Alliance, Anne Tamar-Mattis, the founder and executive director of Advocates for Informed Choice, Associate Professor Ellen Feder of the Philosophy and Religion Departments at American University, and Dr. Ralph Nachman, Professor of Medicine and Associate Dean of Clinical Research at Weill Cornell Medical College.

Alpha Epsilon Delta: Pre-Medical Honors Society, The Cornell Progressive, The Cornell Undergraduate Health Cooperative, and Women in Science at Cornell have joined together along with the Department of Ethics and Public Life to co-sponsor this event.

The organization of the panel discussion was prompted by the spread of awareness of these issues in the Cornell student community that occurred after recent studies performed at Weill Cornell Medical College, in part by Dr. Dix Poppas, were widely publicized.

“We had so many questions and concerns after hearing about these studies, but realized we had very little knowledge or understanding of these topics,” says student organizer Ida Bernstein, Class of '12. “Through this event, we hope to be able to educate ourselves and our audience so that we may understand the context in which these studies were performed and come to our own informed conclusions.”

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If you' d like more information about this event please call Ida Bernstein at 832/326-0021 or email Ida at imb23@cornell.edu. To schedule interviews please email Janet Green at FirstDoNoHarm@comcast.net, Anne Tamar-Mattis at director@aiclegal.org, and Ellen Feder at ekfeder@gmail.com.