

Myles Jackson, New York University, New York City: *“The CCR5-Delta32 Allele: Reintroducing Race at the Level of DNA”*

ABSTRACT: The *CCR5* gene has been used to reintroduce race at the level of the DNA. Interestingly, the U.S. federal government has paved the way for the gene to enter into the treacherous world of race and ethnicity. The gene and its various alleles have become the center of a heated debate about whether or not one can speak of race at the molecular level. How do biomedical researchers and geneticists deal with human diversity and the corresponding politics thereof? Such genetic diversity and how it was defined and characterized are precisely what fuels pharmacogenomics, as scientists claim that single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) found throughout the genome may explain our specific responses to medications. Billions of dollars are in play: we truly are in the age of biocapitalism.