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**EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE PROFESSOR NAMED  
SUNY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE PROFESSOR**

(New York, NY — May 21, 2004) Isaac Rabino, Ph.D., of Great Neck, Long Island, a professor of biological and health sciences at Empire State College, has been named a State University of New York Distinguished Service Professor. Professor Rabino has conducted research on the societal, ethical and policy implications of genetic engineering, which has had local, regional, statewide, national and international impact. Rabino joined Empire State College in 1985, and was awarded the rank of full professor in September of 1997. An appointment to Distinguished Faculty rank is the State University's highest faculty designation.

The State University appointed 25 faculty to the rank of either Distinguished Teaching Professor, or Distinguished Service Professor. "I am very pleased to congratulate our faculty members on achieving this most prestigious honor," said Chancellor Robert L. King. "These individuals have earned the rank of Distinguished Teaching Professor and Distinguished Service Professor through their enormous contributions and dedication to the State University as scholars, educators and researchers. They serve as models of excellence for the entire university community."

The focus of Rabino's research is the attitudes of the scientific community (in academia, government and industry) both on the national and international levels, on the potential social and ethical impact of progress in biotechnology and genetic engineering, including policy implications. His latest study, "Stem Cell Controversies" focuses on the ethical, social, political and legal issues relevant to the promising but highly controversial field of stem cell research, human embryo research and therapeutic cloning. Dr. Rabino's article "Stem Cell and Cloning Controversies: Human Genetics Researchers Tackle the Issues" was published in *Genetic Engineering News*.

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## Isaac Rabino Promotion

His nominating statement says, “Through his research, publications, presentations, public symposia, and teaching Professor Rabino has demonstrated a career-long passion for making accessible to the public the attitudes and perceptions of scientists, and policy makers regarding the scientific, social, ethical, health and policy issues of genetic engineering. It is his hope that his work will enhance understanding and communication between scientists, policy makers and the public.”

His past studies have included:

- A 1987 study investigating the impact of political advocacy and litigation on genetic engineering research in the United States. Interviewees included key policy makers within the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Food and Drug Administration, as well as leading genetic engineers, ecologists, representatives of professional societies, and political activists.
- A study of public and policy perceptions focused on Iceland’s proposal to develop a national genetic database capable of cross-referencing genealogical information with information derived from clinical files and genetic testing files. The biotech industry in Iceland hopes to use the information to develop effective methods to combat inherited diseases. While the industry promised a highly effective way to protect patients’ privacy, some Icelanders remain opposed to the plan, expressing concern vis-à-vis privacy and commercialization of the information. Dr. Rabino was permitted to proceed with a survey on ethical, social, and legal issues, which were recently published last fall in *Genetic Engineering News*.
- In 1999, the American Society for Human Genetics endorsed Professor Rabino’s pilot study on the social and ethical issues surrounding human genetics. That facilitated a survey in Europe regarding German use and abuse of human genetics during from 1933-1940. The German Society for Human Genetics cooperated fully with the study; published results are pending.

From 1987 to the present, the Richard Lounsbery Foundation has funded Dr. Rabino’s research. In addition, his research has been endorsed by leading professional societies in the field: The American Society for Microbiology, The European Molecular Biology Organization, the European Federation of Biotechnology and the American Society of Human Genetics.

Empire State College was designed with the needs of the nontraditional student in mind. Founded in 1971, the college offers flexible degree programs in the arts and sciences through independent study, web-

based courses and study groups, as well as credit earned through college-level life learning. With 42,000 alumni, Empire State College enrolls 17,000 students per year in its associate, bachelor's and master's degree programs. Easily accessible at 35 locations across New York State and through its Center for Distance Learning, Empire State College is the SUNY solution for working adults.