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Genetics and Medical Testing: Winners and Losers in the New Science of Race

The paper explores the medical usefulness to patients of racial Classification. It illuminates important implications of racial categorizations for current and future medical interventions and urges resistance to the concept of race as scientific. It suggests that the discussion of race as science is bolstered by the popular interest in the field of genetics, that contrary to popular discourse surrounding its promise, actual benefits to patients of genetic testing remain elusive. By exposing those stakeholders who are likely to benefit from racial classifications and genetic tests - such as the Health Care and Health Insurance Industries, Wall Street and the Academy - the paper predicts who the winners and losers may be. It exposes the emerging battle between diverse corporate interests and individual patients in actually existing capitalism. Remedial actions to improve everyone's health are suggested in the conclusion.