

## RICHARD GIBBS - "UNDERSTANDING COMMON DISEASE"



There is tremendous excitement now about genomic medicine, but the thing is that genomic medicine seems to mean different things to different people. What is that exactly going to mean to them? Does it mean that they'll have to make different drug treatment choices based upon genetics? Will it mean that they'll be asking "Why didn't I know this already, because I know there is a gene for this?"

I think there's going to be this growing awareness by people who don't think a whole lot about genetics right now. Most people are end-point consumers of medicine and don't want to think really about DNA and the mysteries of genes and how genes are expressed and so forth. The idea that mutations are in genes and that those changes, those differences, will affect people in their health care will become very widespread. People will begin to absorb that as part of their everyday lexicon.