Biomedical science and federal funding for scientific research are not immune to the systemic racism that pervades American society. Analysis of NIH grant success rates published in 2011 showed that grant applications submitted to the National Institutes of Health by African-American or Black Principal Investigators (PIs) were less likely to be funded than applications submitted by white PIs. A follow-up study in 2019 showed a similar pattern. Dr. Michael Taffe will review the findings and implications for biomedical research disciplines.

Michael Taffe, Ph.D., is a Professor of Psychiatry at UC San Diego. His research focuses on the effects of recreational or abused drugs on the brain and the resulting changes in behavior. He is currently the Principal Investigator on three grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and has written about racial inequity in NIH grant funding (Taffe, 2021; Taffe & Gilpin, 2021).