

Diversifying the Dialogue About an Ongoing Ethical Crisis: The FDA's Role in Regulating Reproductive Health, Clinical Trials, and Cosmetics

A JGSPL Symposium Series

The Food and Drug Administration plays a critical role in regulating varying aspects of our lives related to our overall health and well-being. This Symposium discusses the Agency's impact on reproductive health, clinical trials, and cosmetics through the lens of racial and gender justice.

Location: Zoom

Dates: April 14th- April 16th

Times: 12 PM – 1:15 PM

The Future of Medication Abortions and Reproductive Health (April 14th; 12 PM – 1:15 PM)

Abortion was a hotly debated issue well before the Supreme Court decided *Roe v. Wade*, with many states creating their own laws regulating abortion. Medication abortions involve the ingestion of drugs regulated by the Food and Drug Administration. Panelists will discuss the current regulations regarding medicated abortions within the context of reproductive health, and the potential impacts on users in the future.

Race and Gender Issues in Clinical Testing and Future Perspectives (April 15th; 12 PM – 1:15 PM)

Diversity in clinical trials is crucial to understanding how drugs and vaccines work and for improving their efficacy. Having diverse participants would not only increase the reliability of the data but could potentially address racial and gender gaps in medicine, overall. Panelists will discuss the importance of diversifying clinical trials, the FDA's role in ensuring diversity, and the impact of COVID-19 on clinical trials, as well as related bioethics issues.

Maybe It's Maybelline, Maybe It's Hazardous Materials: Will Increasing FDA Oversight in Cosmetics and Personal Care Products Regulation Bridge Racial Gaps in the Industry? (April 16th; 12 PM – 1:15 PM)

Cosmetics and personal care products affect overall health and wellness. Studies have shown that certain chemicals present in different products may be toxic and lead to an increase in disease. Products advertised toward women of color, specifically Black women, tend to have increased amounts of hazardous substances. Panelists will discuss the FDA's current role in regulating cosmetics and personal care products, and whether increasing the Agency's authority will help mitigate racial disparities in the industry.