



For many decades, racist groups and individuals have tried to claim that results of genetic research support their theories of racial superiority (for historical details, see here: <https://www.genome.gov/about-genomics/fact-sheets/Eugenics-and-Scientific-Racism>). These theories have been used in justification of horrific acts of violence.

The International Society for Psychiatric Genetics (ISPG) unequivocally condemns any and all attempts to misappropriate genetic research for racist ends. For reasons elaborated by the American Society of Human Genetics ([https://www.cell.com/ajhg/fulltext/S0002-9297\(18\)30363-X](https://www.cell.com/ajhg/fulltext/S0002-9297(18)30363-X)), which the ISPG endorses, there are no scientific grounds for claims of racial superiority; even the construct of “race” itself is a social category, not a genetic one. Further resources for the understanding of these issues have been compiled by the Center for ELSI Resources & Analysis and can be accessed here: <https://elsihub.org/news/cera-statement-against-weaponization-genetic-research>

The ISPG is committed to the use of genetic research to help alleviate suffering caused by psychiatric illness. To that end, we study the intersection of genes, the environment, brain, and behavior to understand the causes, prevention, management, and treatment of mental illness. Research by our members in no way supports conclusions that disparage members of any group, and should never be used to promote stigma on the basis of race, diagnosis, or ability. As a fundamental principle, the ISPG holds that human dignity is not encoded in DNA and is equal for all human beings.