



## MIT MUSEUM PRESS RELEASE

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### ***SOAP BOX: November 15, 6PM at the Museum***

***Listen - Talk - Stand your ground - Change your mind***

The MIT Museum is launching a new series of salon-style early-evening conversations with scientists and engineers who are making the news that really matters.

***Soap Box*** is a public forum for debate about important ideas and issues in science and technology. Launched in partnership with the Boston Globe, *Soap Box* will give audiences the chance to explore serious issues with world-class scientists and engineers.

The inaugural event will be held at the MIT Museum at 6.00pm on Tuesday 15th November. Dr David Altshuler, Director of the Broad Institute Program in Medical and Population Genetics, will lead a discussion about the implications of his current work on the International HapMap Project . Questions to be discussed will include:

- What would it mean for society's perceptions of e.g., schizophrenia, depression or obesity, if we were to discover specific genes predisposing to these conditions?
- What would it mean for our understanding of free will if we were to discover genes that predispose individuals to particular types of behavior, such as altruism, criminality or gambling?
- What will it mean for health care delivery if it becomes possible to tailor drugs to the genetic characteristics of individual patients?

These are some of the issues that will be discussed in this first Soap Box.

***Soap Box with Dr. David Altshuler***

Tuesday November, 15, 2005 6pm

Robotics Gallery

Free Admission/Refreshments served