

## **Ruth L. Fischbach, Ph.D., M.P.E.**

### Bio Sketch

Ruth L. Fischbach is Professor of Bioethics and Director of the Center for Bioethics. She is a faculty member in the Department of Psychiatry at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, and also in the Department of Sociomedical Sciences at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. Prior to arriving at Columbia, Dr. Fischbach served from 1998 to 2001 as Senior Advisor for Biomedical Ethics in the Office of the Director of Extramural Research at the National Institutes of Health. Here she participated in many federal interagency committees designed to protect the rights and welfare of research participants.

While at the NIH, she produced [Bioethics Resources on the Web](#), a useful Web site for the research community and two guidance documents: [Protection of Participants in Behavioral and Social Sciences Research](#) and [Research Involving Individuals with Questionable Capacity to Consent: Points to Consider](#). Preceding her service at the NIH, Dr. Fischbach was a bioethicist/medical sociologist at Harvard Medical School in the Department of Social Medicine and Medical Ethics from 1990 -1998. She was Director of the Program in the Practice of Scientific Investigation. At Washington University from 1983 - 1990, she headed the Ethics Program and founded the Humanities in Medicine Program.

Her research interests and scholarly publications have focused on decisions around the end of life, autonomy of the elderly, communication between patients and healthcare professionals, pain assessment and management, and the experiences of research participants, particularly as they relate to privacy and informed consent. Her current work focuses on research ethics and contemporary issues in bioethics including: neuroethics, stem cell research, and advances in assisted reproductive technology.

At Columbia, Dr. Fischbach is a member of the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center (CPMC) Institutional Review Board (IRB), CPMC Ethics Committee, and the Children's Hospital of New York (CHONY) Ethics Committee, the Columbia University Stem Cell Research Consortium and Oversight Committee and the Advisory Board for the Center for the Study of Science and Religion. Beyond Columbia, Dr. Fischbach serves on the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Medical and Professional Advisory Council, the Population Council IRB, and is on the Board of Directors of PRIM&R (Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research) and the Morris Jumel Mansion in historic Washington Heights.