Ethics Grand Rounds
Thursday – February 21, 2013
Noon
Huyck Auditorium

Trajectories of Children’s Health: Inequality and the Impact of Parental Resources
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Talk Abstract: An emerging body of research demonstrates that health disparities in adulthood originate in childhood and are linked to the early-life resources that parents provide to their children. Such disparities grow as children age and have a range of consequences for individuals, families and society. Parental resources are critical to the discussion of childhood health disparities as parents’ often provide the financial and social connections to the outside world for their children. Having economic or social resources is protective for children as they develop, or conversely, those children without resources may accumulate more risks or circumstances that result in health disparities. This study demonstrates that children’s health is a function of parental resources as well as a child’s individual characteristics of age, race, and sex which results in some children reaching the transition to adulthood with in poorer health that can have lasting consequences for their life course.

Bio: Dr. Wendy M. Parker is a medical sociologist and Assistant Professor of Sociology at the Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (ACPHS). She is currently the Program Director for the Health and Human Sciences Program at ACPHS. Directly before joining the faculty at ACPHS, Dr. Parker completed her graduate work at the Maxwell School at Syracuse University. Prior to pursuing her doctorate, she worked as a Research Manager for JBS International in Washington, DC helping to develop, implement and manage several evaluation contracts in health communications research. Dr. Parker also spent five years working at Harris Interactive, a global market-research firm, as a Research Manager and Director in Marketing Communications Research. Dr. Parker studies health inequalities throughout the life course and is specifically interested in understanding maternal and child health disparities.