Nobel laureate James Watson, co-discoverer of the DNA helix and father of the Human Genome Project, has been stripped of honorary titles at the laboratory where he worked for four decades, following “reprehensible” remarks on race and ethnicity.

The Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, the New York facility which also has a school named after him, said it was acting in response to his remarks made in a television documentary aired this month.

The 90-year-old geneticist resigned under fire from his laboratory in 2007 after telling a British newspaper that people of African descent tend to have lower intelligence. However, in the new documentary titled American Masters: Decoding Watson, when asked about his views on race in the decade since his departure from the lab, Mr. Watson said he stood by his former remarks, citing the difference in IQ tests results to suggest black inferiority.