

ACMG NEWS

For Immediate Release

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ACMG Receives Funding to Continue as the National Coordinating Center for the HRSA Regional Genetic Service Collaboratives and to Develop a Framework for Regional Genetic Care Centers

Bethesda, MD - June 3, 2015 – Since 2004, the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ACMG) has served as the National Coordinating Center (NCC) for the seven Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Regional Genetic Service Collaboratives (RCs), through a cooperative agreement with HRSA. In February, ACMG staff responded to a funding announcement to continue in its role as the NCC (www.nccrcg.org) for a two-year renewal period. At the outset of the Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting this March, ACMG received notice that it was awarded funding to continue the cooperative agreement with HRSA. The Genetic Alliance will remain a valued and important partner in this effort by coordinating the National Genetics Education and Consumer Network (NGECN), a key component of the NCC.

Michael S. Watson, PhD, FACMG, executive director of the American College of Medical Genetics and of the NCC said, "Renewal of this grant enables ACMG to begin to bridge between the current NCC/RC system to a renewed focus on facilitating access for patients and providers to genetic and genomic services. The Regional Genetics Collaboratives play an important role in creating resources that facilitate or enable access to those important genetic services."

The 2015-2017 funding cycle beginning June 1, 2015 represents the beginning of a new direction for the HRSA NCC/RC system. The following NCC goals outline this new direction. The NCC will: 1) develop a framework for regional genetic care centers; 2) provide an infrastructure that strengthens communication and collaboration between the RCs, offer technical and clinical expertise as needed, promote and disseminate outcomes of RC activities; and 3) implement the NGECN.

To support goal 1, the NCC, has begun to hold listening sessions in advance of a national needs assessment. ACMG membership, committees, and special interest groups will be contacted in the coming months to provide their unique perspectives on what are considered genetic services, existing gaps and unaddressed needs in genetic services, strategies for addressing identified needs, the public health role in genetics, and to provide guidance on the overall project.

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If you are interested in participating, please contact Alisha Keehn, NCC Project Manager, at akeehn@acmg.net.

About the NCC

In 2004, the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration (MCHB/HRSA), Genetic Services Branch (GSB) awarded grants to establish seven Genetics and Newborn Screening Regional Collaborative Groups (RCs) and a National Coordinating Center (NCC) as part of on-going efforts to improve the health of children and their families by promoting the translation of genetic medicine into public health and health care services. The NCC is formed as a partnership with the GSB/MCHB/HRSA through a cooperative agreement with the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ACMG). The NCC is organized around a central office and an Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee includes the seven RCs and representatives of national organizations that serve as resources to the NCC and the RCs. The mission of the HRSA Genetics Collaboratives (RCs) and their National Coordinating Center (NCC) is to strengthen and support the genetics and newborn screening capacity of the states, to improve the availability, accessibility, and quality of genetic services and resources for individuals having, or at risk for, genetic conditions and their families across the lifespan. To learn more about the NCC, and find your RC, visit www.nccrcg.org.

About the ACMG and ACMG Foundation

Founded in 1991, ACMG is the only nationally recognized medical society dedicated to improving health through the clinical practice of medical genetics and genomics. The American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics (www.acmg.net) provides education, resources and a voice for nearly 1800 biochemical, clinical, cytogenetic, medical and molecular geneticists, genetic counselors and other healthcare professionals, nearly 80% of whom are board certified in the medical genetics specialties. The College's mission is to develop and sustain genetic initiatives in clinical and laboratory practice, education and advocacy. Three guiding pillars underpin ACMG's work: 1) Clinical and Laboratory Practice: Establish the paradigm of genomic medicine by issuing statements and evidence-based or expert clinical and laboratory practice guidelines and through descriptions of best practices for the delivery of genomic medicine. 2) Education: Provide education and tools for medical geneticists, other health professionals and the public and grow the genetics workforce. 3) Advocacy: Work with policymakers and payers to support the responsible application of genomics in medical practice. Genetics in Medicine, published monthly, is the official ACMG peer-reviewed journal. ACMG's website (www.acmg.net) offers a variety of resources including Policy Statements, Practice Guidelines, Educational Resources, and a Find a Geneticist tool. The educational and public health programs of the American College of Medical Genetics are dependent upon charitable gifts from corporations, foundations, and individuals through the ACMG Foundation for Genetic and Genomic Medicine (www.acmgfoundation.org).

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