



American College of Medical Genetics
Medical Genetics: Translating Genes Into Health®

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How do Medical Geneticists Prepare for Practice in the 21st Century?

The American College of Medical Genetics Releases “Core Competencies” Document for Training Doctors in Genetics and Genomics

BETHESDA, MD – September 15, 2011 | In an effort to better define the education and training needs for medical geneticists in the rapidly evolving specialty of genetics and genomics, an American College of Medical Genetics (ACMG) multidisciplinary work group led by ACMG’s immediate past-president Dr. Bruce R. Korf was formed to identify the competencies that should be acquired by physician geneticists who provide consultative or long-term medical genetic and genomic health care service. The resulting first-of-its-kind document, *Competencies for the Physician Medical Geneticist in the 21st Century*, has just been released. The detailed 47-page report includes competencies and learning objectives for a broad array of genetic and genomic services across the lifespan. It also includes the core competencies required of all medical geneticists and the competencies required in each of 18 specialty areas (e.g., neurogenetics, cardiovascular genetics) that relate to the conditions their patients have or present with.

“By virtue of the rapid pace of advances in medical genetics and genomics, the Genetics Core Competencies document will be an ongoing work in progress,” said ACMG Executive Director, Michael S. Watson, PhD, FACMG. “These competencies can also form the basis of defining the competencies required of the specialists trained outside of medical genetics.”

Dr. Korf added, “The field of medical genetics is changing at a dizzying pace, and medical genetics training must continually evolve to keep up with this progress. This is especially true in the integration of advances in genomics resulting from the sequencing of the human genome.”

The purpose of the Genetics Core Competencies document is to help the faculty in training programs to develop their curricula and it is NOT aimed at prescribing the exact content of the training program curricula.

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A similar set of competencies for laboratory geneticists is also in progress at ACMG.

The Genetics Core Competencies document is available on the ACMG website at www.acmg.net.

An editorial further describing the intent, development, and uses of these competencies is planned for publication in *Genetics in Medicine*, the official peer-reviewed journal of the American College of Medical Genetics later this year. This work was partially supported by the ACMG Foundation and a grant from the Abbott Fund.

About the American College of Medical Genetics and ACMG Foundation

Founded in 1991, the American College of Medical Genetics (www.acmg.net) advances the practice of medical genetics by providing education, resources and a voice for more than 1400 biochemical, clinical, cytogenetic, medical and molecular geneticists, genetic counselors and other healthcare professionals committed to the practice of medical genetics. ACMG's activities include the development of laboratory and practice standards and guidelines, advocating for quality genetic services in health-care and in public health, and promoting the development of methods to diagnose, treat and prevent genetic disease. *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. The American College of Medical Genetics Foundation (www.acmgfoundation.org) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to funding the College's diverse efforts to translate genes into health. The Foundation is dedicated to Better Health Through Genetics.™

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