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The Sixth Annual Medical Genetics Awareness Week Will Be Celebrated March 12-15, 2024: "Celebrating Our Past, Present and Future"

BETHESDA, MD – **March 8, 2024** | The sixth annual Medical Genetics Awareness Week will be celebrated March 12-15, 2024. The American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics' (ACMG) celebration of this exciting healthcare specialty will unite the entire medical genetics community to raise awareness of the invaluable contributions that the professionals who comprise the field make to the diagnosis, management, prevention and treatment of genetic diseases. This year's theme is "Celebrating Our Past, Present and Future: From Experience to Expectation."

"It is a wonderful honor for the College to promote the medical genetics field and the healthcare professionals who comprise it – from medical geneticists, laboratory professionals and genetic counselors to physician assistants, nurses and more – during Medical Genetics Awareness Week," said ACMG Chief Executive Officer Melanie Wells, MPH, CAE. "This year we will pay tribute to past medical genetics milestones and pioneers, celebrate current work and look forward to an exciting future as more therapies and innovative technologies expand our ability to help patients and families. I encourage everyone in the field to show your pride and participate on social media and at your office, lab or school."

Held in conjunction with the 2024 ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting (Toronto, Canada), Medical Genetics Awareness Week will incorporate branded social media graphics, hashtags unique to various medical genetics team members, and other activities to generate participation and encourage professionals to show their medical genetics pride and share how they will be "Celebrating Our Past, Present and Future." ACMG Annual Meeting registration is not required to participate.

Participants can plan their own Medical Genetics Awareness Week events at their school, employer or institution, share their pictures or videos to social media wearing a Medical Genetics Awareness Week hashtag button or temporary tattoo; using a Medical Genetics Awareness Week Zoom virtual background; or displaying a Medical Genetics Awareness Week sticker. The week will include Past Day, Present Day and Future Day. Follow Medical Genetics Awareness Week on social media by searching the #MedicalGeneticsAwareness hashtag and sign up to receive news and updates about Medical Genetics Awareness Week by clicking here. Log in (or create a free ACMG account) and, on the privacy preferences page, opt in to receive news and updates about Medical Genetics Awareness Week.

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Since 2019, Medical Genetics Awareness Week has brought together people from across the globe to celebrate the important work of medical genetics professionals. Medical Genetics Awareness Week is celebrated to recognize the difference these professionals make in the lives of patients and families. The week is also intended to educate other healthcare professionals and students and trainees about who medical geneticists are, how they are trained and what they do in the clinic and laboratory.

"Genetics is the most exciting, dynamic field of medicine today! The growth of discoveries, screening, testing and treatment is exponential. Today, with genetic information we can help our patients in diagnosing, preventing and treating disease," said ACMG President Susan Klugman, MD, FACOG, FACMG. "Medical Genetics Awareness Week is an opportunity for everyone in the field to collectively share our medical genetics pride! Medical genetics is becoming a major part of every aspect of medicine."

Those interested in collaborating with ACMG to celebrate Medical Genetics Awareness Week are invited to email Barry Eisenberg, ACMG Communications Manager at beisenberg@acmg.net for more information.

Visit the <u>Medical Genetics Awareness Week web pages</u> on ACMG's website for resources and tips designed to support the week's celebrations. When posting on social media, participants are encouraged to tag @TheACMG and include the following hashtags in posts related to Medical Genetics Awareness Week:

#MedicalGeneticsAwareness
#IamaMedicalGeneticist
#FutureGeneticsProfessional
#IamaLabGeneticist
#IamaGeneticCounselor
#IamaGeneticsPA
#IamaNurseinGenetics
#IamaGeneticsNP
#IamaPublicHealthGeneticist
#IamaMetabolicDietitian

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About the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ACMG) and ACMG Foundation

Founded in 1991, the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ACMG) is a prominent authority in the field of medical genetics and genomics and the only nationally recognized medical professional organization solely dedicated to improving health through the practice of medical genetics and genomics. The only medical specialty society in the US that represents the full spectrum of medical genetics disciplines in a single organization, the ACMG provides education, resources and a voice for more than 2,500 clinical and laboratory geneticists, genetic counselors and other healthcare professionals. ACMG's mission is to improve health through the clinical and laboratory practice of medical genetics as well as through advocacy, education and clinical research, and to guide the safe and effective integration of genetics and genomics into all of medicine and healthcare, resulting in improved personal and public health. Genetics in Medicine and the new Genetics in Medicine Open, a gold open access journal, are the official ACMG journals. ACMG's website, www.acmg.net, offers resources including policy statements, practice guidelines, and educational programs. The ACMG Foundation for Genetic and Genomic Medicine works to advance ACMG educational and public health programs through charitable gifts from corporations, foundations and individuals.

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