



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

**ACMG NEWS**  
**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Kathy Beal, MBA  
ACMG Media Relations Director  
301-238-4582  
Mobile 978-853-1810  
kbeal@acmg.net

**Medical Geneticist Michael S. Watson, PhD is Given Inaugural  
American College of Medical Genetics (ACMG) and ACMG Foundation Presidents' Award**

BETHESDA, MD—April 5, 2011 | The ACMG and ACMG Foundation Presidents' Award has been newly established to thank and honor the valuable contributions made by a member of the American College of Medical Genetics. In a surprise announcement, Michael S. Watson, PhD, FACMG was named the first recipient of this new honor during the Presidential Plenary session at the 2011 ACMG Clinical Genetics Meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia in March.

“Despite the surprise, I am honored to have been the first recipient of this award. As with any award, thanks have to go to those who have allowed success to be realized including the many Boards of Directors and Committees of ACMG with which I have worked, the marvelous staff of the ACMG and ACMGF and the members of ACMG who work daily to deliver genetic services to patients,” said Dr. Watson.

Dr. Watson received his B.S from American University in Washington, D.C. and his M.S. in Medical Genetics and Ph.D. in Physiology and Biophysics from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He completed his postdoctoral fellowship in the Medical Genetics Training Program at Yale University School of Medicine. He has been Executive Director of the American College of Medical Genetics for the past 10 years and is an Adjunct Professor of Pediatrics at Washington University in St. Louis where he was Director of Clinical and Molecular Cytogenetics from 1986 – 2000. He is certified by the American Board of Medical Genetics in Clinical Cytogenetics and PhD Medical Genetics.

Dr. Watson has a long-standing interest in the translation of genetic information into health care use. He was a founder of the American College of Medical Genetics for which he has served as Vice President for Laboratory Affairs and has chaired its Test and Technology Transfer Committee, Economics Committee, Laboratory Practices Committee and Intellectual Property Committee. He co-chaired the NIH-ELSI/HHS Task Force on Genetics Testing from 1995 – 1997. Most recently, he was the project director for a MCHB/HRSA funded project to bring uniformity to newborn screening in the United States. He is currently the Director of the Health Resources and Services Adminis-

*-more-*

American College of Medical Genetics • American College of Medical Genetics Foundation

7220 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 300, Bethesda, MD 20814 Phone 301-718-9603 Fax 301-718-9604 [www.acmg.net](http://www.acmg.net)

tration (HRSA) funded National Coordinating Center for Regional Genetics and Newborn Screening for the Collaboratives and the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development's Newborn Screening Translational Research Network (NBSTRN) Coordinating Center.

Dr. Watson has been the author of more than 100 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters.

"Mike Watson has been, without question, the most powerful force behind the success of the American College in Medical Genetics in establishing itself as the "go-to" authority on integration of genetics into medical practice," said ACMG's immediate past-president Bruce R. Korf, MD, PhD, FACMG. "There is no one in our community more deserving of our gratitude and recognition."

Dr. R. Rodney Howell, FACMG, president of the ACMG Foundation added, "Mike, as the first Executive Director of the American College of Medical Genetics, has been responsible for the dramatic expansion of the ACMG staff and the remarkable involvement of the organization in so many areas of genetics in the practice of medicine. With his outstanding leadership during this expansion, ACMG in the past ten years has demonstrated its critical role in the translation of genetic discoveries into the practice of medical genetics."

#### **About the American College of Medical Genetics and the American College of Medical Genetics Foundation**

Founded in 1991, the American College of Medical Genetics ([www.acmg.net](http://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 healthcare 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](http://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](http://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 ACMG Foundation is dedicated to Better Health Through Genetics™.

-end-