



ACMG NEWS

For Immediate Release

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ACMG Partners with Univ. of North Carolina and Geisinger Health System on Major NIH Grant for Work on Developing the Clinical Genome Resource

October 4, 2013 –Bethesda, MD – The National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) and the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have awarded three new grants totaling more than \$25 million over four years to three research groups to develop the new **Clinical Genome Resource (ClinGen)**. The investigators will develop and curate authoritative information on the millions of genomic variants relevant to human disease and the thousands that are expected to be useful for clinical practice.

The American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ACMG) will play a key role for one of these three ClinGen grants. "This is the single most important project in the development of genomic medicine since the Human Genome Project," said Gail Herman, MD, PhD, FACMG, president of the ACMG.

NHGRI Director Eric D. Green, MD, PhD said, "With the genomic advances being witnessed every week, this (ClinGen) resource should help in developing effective systems that will allow doctors to understand the role of genomic variants in disease and to use genomic information about their patients to improve their care."

"The Clinical Genome Resource will help to answer the important question of how do we take the mind-boggling amount of genomic data we are now gathering and put it to effective use in clinical practice," said Michael S. Watson, PhD, FACMG, executive director of the ACMG.

Along with co-P.I. Michael Watson of ACMG, P.I. Jonathan S. Berg, MD, PhD, FACMG and co-P.I. James P. Evans, MD, PhD, FACMG, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, the lead institution on the grant; and co-P.I. David H. Ledbetter, PhD, FACMG, Geisinger Health System will share \$8.4

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million over four years for this important work. Many ACMG members will be involved in providing data for ClinGen.

"Our group will define categories of clinical relevance for variants. The researchers at University of North Carolina and Geisinger Health Systems, with support from ACMG, will organize clinical working groups with experts in molecular genetics, cancer, cardiovascular disease, and other areas to focus on evaluating variants for clinical relevance," said Watson. "Our teams will also study ways to integrate this information into electronic health records."

Watson added, "It is very satisfying to us that the project that the ACMG Foundation originally funded to Dr. David Ledbetter to kickstart the International Standards for Cytogenomics Array (ISCA) Consortium has flourished and is transforming into the International Consortium for Clinical Genomics (ICCG) which is the third grant partner in developing the ClinGen Resource."

This information will ultimately help ACMG and other professional organizations to develop clinical practice guidelines, said Watson.

To read the full NIH announcement about the Clinical Genome Resource, see <http://www.nih.gov/news/health/sep2013/nhgri-25.htm>.

About the ACMG and ACMG Foundation

Founded in 1991, the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics (www.acmg.net) advances the practice of medical genetics and genomics by providing education, resources and a voice for more than 1600 biochemical, clinical, cytogenetic, medical and molecular geneticists, genetic counselors and other healthcare professionals. ACMG is the only nationally recognized medical organization dedicated to improving health through the practice of medical genetics and genomics. The College's mission includes the following goals: 1) to define and promote excellence in the practice of medical genetics and genomics and to facilitate the integration of new research discoveries into medical practice; 2) to provide medical genetics and genomics education to fellow professionals, other healthcare providers, and the public; 3) to improve access to medical genetics and genomics services and to promote their integration into all of medicine; and 4) to serve as advocates for providers of medical genetics and genomics services and their patients. 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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