

ACMG NEWS

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ACMG Clarifies Statements on Return of Incidental Findings

May 2, 2013 -Bethesda, MD | The American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ACMG) has just released, "**ACMG Statement on Incidental Findings in Clinical Genomics: A Clarification.**" The Clarification document can be found at www.acmg.net in the Publications section under Policy Statements/Genomic Sequencing.

On March 22, 2013, the ACMG released a practice statement entitled "ACMG Recommendations for Reporting of Incidental Findings in Clinical Exome and Genome Sequencing." The Recommendations stressed that there is a subset of conditions/genes/variants for which there is the significant potential for preventing disease morbidity and mortality if identified in the presymptomatic period.

Commentaries about the ACMG Recommendations have raised a number of points and discussion both in favor of and against these Recommendations. Because there is some misinformation as well as misinterpretations about these important Recommendations, ACMG has prepared the ACMG Clarification document to address five issues raised in the recommendations:

- 1) patient autonomy;
- 2) incidental findings in children;
- 3) clinical laboratory considerations;
- 4) result communication and;
- 5) prediction of disease likelihood.

The ACMG Clarification document states, "The era of genomic medicine has begun, and we expect that it will continue to challenge long held models of medical practice. The ACMG Recommendations on Return of Incidental Findings resulting from genome sequencing represent an early step in responding to this challenge. Many issues remain to be addressed, such as billing and reimbursement for testing that includes incidental finding identification and the approach to incidental findings identified in family members who are tested to help interpret the results in a patient. We appreciate the constructive dialogue that our statement has generated and look forward to working with the medical community and the public to ensure the best and most ethical use of genomic information in medical decision-making going forward."

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 committed to the practice of medical genetics. ACMG's activities include the development of

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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. 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 and Genomics are dependent upon charitable gifts from corporations, foundations, and individuals.

The ACMG Foundation for Genetic and Genomic Medicine (www.acmgfoundation.org)

a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is a community of supporters and contributors who understand the importance of medical genetics and genomics and genetic counseling in healthcare. Established in 1992, the ACMG Foundation supports the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics' mission to "Translate Genes Into Health" by raising funds to promote the profession of medical genetics and genomics to medical students, to fund the training of future medical geneticists, to support best-practices and tools for practicing physicians and laboratory directors, to promote awareness and understanding of our work in the general public, and much more.

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