

# ACMG In Action

Essential Updates: Member News You Can Use



April 2020

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## **A Message from ACMG President Dr. Tony Gregg**



During the last four to six weeks we've experienced the unimaginable. The COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancelation of our annual meeting, caused school closings across the country, brought the national economy to an abrupt stop and much more. Some of our colleagues have seen death up close, sometimes personal, and in numbers unlike any healthcare provider imagined when their training began. It's hard to imagine that any of us have not had our lives changed, perhaps forever, by the COVID-19 pandemic. What can we celebrate in these hard times? We

are resilient. What's the proof? In the face of COVID-19 we as healthcare workers, laboratory geneticists and scientists rally for improved diagnostics, treatments, cures and more data. These things are going on while we try to bring normalcy to our lives.

In this chaos the ACMG has found purpose. The ACMG and more than 125 other medical professional organizations along with the American Medical Association [wrote to](#) the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary, Alex Azar. The Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act requires HHS to interpret eligibility for funding broadly and to include all physicians who are experiencing revenue losses and non-reimbursable expenses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Before the CARES Act was approved, ACMG signed on with the same groups in [writing](#) to Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer urging them to support legislation that would sustain physicians and their practices during this unprecedented national emergency through tax relief, no-interest loans, direct payments, payment for virtual visits including phone calls, and other measures. This advocacy work by ACMG Public Policy Director Michelle McClure and those that created a large voice was effective.

[READ MORE](#)

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## Upcoming Events

### ACMG Genomics Case Conference

2:00–3:00 PM EDT  
April 15, 2020  
May 20, 2020

### 2020 ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting – Digital Edition

Poster Gallery Available Now  
Entire Program Available by  
Early May

### 2021 ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting

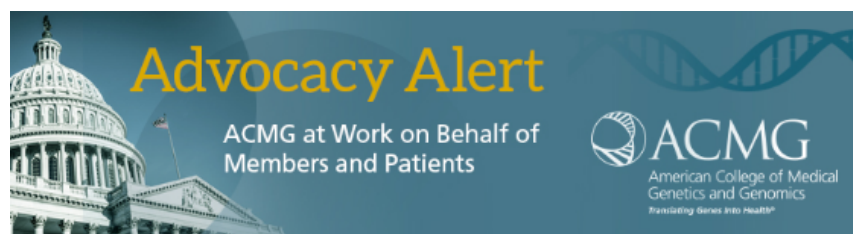
April 13-17, 2021  
Los Angeles Convention  
Center  
Los Angeles, California

**RENEW  
MEMBERSHIP**

## Website Links

[ACMG](#)  
[ACMG Foundation](#)  
[ACMG Meetings Website](#)  
[ACMG Education Center](#)  
[NBSTRN](#)  
[NCC](#)  
[ClinGen](#)  
[GIM](#)

## ACMG Advocacy Updates



### CLFS 2020 Update – ACMG Requests Reconsideration of CMS Payment Determination for New *PALB2* Code

Last year, ACMG was successful in getting two new Tier 1 Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) codes for *PALB2* accepted by the CPT® Editorial Panel. The two new codes, 81307 (full gene sequence) and 81308 (known familial variants), were placed on the Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule (CLFS) for payment rate determination by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) using either the gapfill or crosswalk method. On June 24th, ACMG participated in the CMS CLFS Annual Public Meeting in Baltimore, MD and also submitted subsequent written comments. With the help of ACMG's Economics Committee and other ACMG members, public recommendations were made to CMS on the payment methodology for the two new codes. Towards the end of 2019, CMS released their final payment determinations for new codes on the CLFS. To our disappointment, CMS chose not to accept the crosswalk recommendations provided by any of the stakeholders or the recommendations made by the Advisory Panel on Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Tests.

For their final rate determinations, CMS decided to crosswalk both codes to Tier 2 codes which do not reflect the unique complexities of individual tests and are set at much lower rates. Even more perplexing, the final determination valued *PALB2* full gene sequence (81307 at \$282.88) less than *PALB2* known familial variant (81308 at \$301.35), despite the fact that the full gene sequence requires sequencing of significantly more nucleotides. This discrepancy further highlights the concerning approach used by CMS to determine such rates.

As a result, ACMG has asked CMS to reconsider the final payment determination for CPT code 81307, *PALB2* full gene sequence. This will enable stakeholders to provide additional information about the resources required for 81307 at the 2020 CLFS Annual Public Meeting and through written comments. For additional information, see ACMG's letter to CMS [here](#).

### Updates on Federal Legislation for Regulation of Laboratory-Developed Tests

As noted in last month's ezine, members of Congress recently introduced the Verifying Accurate Leading-Edge IVCT Development (VALID) Act of 2020 ([S.3404](#) & [H.R.6102](#)). This detailed legislation, introduced by Representatives Larry Bucshon (R-IN) and Diana DeGette (D-CO), and Senators Michael Bennet (D-CO) and Richard Burr (R-NC), would create

a new regulatory framework under which all in vitro clinical tests (IVCTs), including laboratory-developed tests (LDTs), would be subject to regulation by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) unless certain criteria for exemption were met.

Since then, Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) introduced an alternate bill called the Verified Innovative Testing in American Laboratories (VITAL) Act of 2020 ([S.3512](#)). The VITAL Act would clarify that “laboratory developed testing procedures” are regulated under the section of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act that authorizes the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA). For the purpose of the legislation, “laboratory-developed testing procedures” is defined as a professional medical service that utilizes a laboratory examination in the context of clinical care or public health services and that meets the standards for establishment of performance specifications established by CLIA. While it does not change any language in the PHS Act, nor does it change the definition of a “device” under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic (FD&C) Act, it does require that the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) hold a public meeting to solicit recommendations on updating CLIA. It also requires that the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) submit a report to Congress on recommendations for updating CLIA as well as an assessment of the availability and utilization of laboratory-developed testing procedures during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic response.

ACMG will provide updates as we continue to work closely with Congress and other interested organizations to encourage policies that ensure patient accessibility to high-quality, accurate diagnostic testing and that recognize the services of laboratory professionals.

### **Reminder – Send Your Letter Today to Support Patient Access to Necessary Medical Nutrition**

Help support patient access to medical nutrition by sending a [letter](#) to your US representative today!

Despite the ability to manage certain inherited metabolic disorders through medical foods, many patients struggle to get insurance to cover this critical nutrition. [H.R.2501, the Medical Nutrition Equity Act](#), would change that by requiring public and private health insurers to provide coverage for such medically necessary nutrition. However, your help is needed to secure the congressional support necessary to pass this important legislation.

To make it very easy, ACMG has provided a template letter that can be electronically sent directly to your representative. All you have to do is fill in your name and address, then you have the option to send the letter as is or modify it to reflect your own experiences.

Please [click here](#) to help ensure patient access to medical nutrition by sending a letter to your US representative today asking him/her to cosponsor H.R.2501, the Medical Nutrition Equity Act.

**ICYMI – Medicare Telehealth Coverage and Other Federal Waivers**

## in Response to the Current COVID-19 Pandemic

In case you missed it, on April 1, 2020 ACMG sent members an advocacy alert providing important information about new Medicare telehealth coverage policies and other federal waivers issued in response to the current COVID-19 pandemic. To see the letter from ACMG President-elect Marc Williams, MD, FACMG, [click here](#).

## ACMG's New Evidence-Based Guidelines Program Publishes Its First Systematic Evidence-Based Review

ACMG's new Evidence-Based Guidelines (EBG) Program aims to develop unbiased guidelines in medical genetics and genomics and provide a solid evidence base to demonstrate clinical utility, to help clinicians make informed decisions regarding the use of genetic and genomic testing and help both government and private health insurers determine coverage options for new tests and treatments. The first step in developing a new evidence-based guideline is the performance of a systematic evidence-based review (SER).

On March 23, 2020, ACMG published in *Genetics in Medicine* the first SER from the new EBG Program. This new SER, entitled "[Systematic evidence-based review: outcomes from exome and genome sequencing for pediatric patients with congenital anomalies or intellectual disability](#)," is intended to support the development of an evidence-based guideline to aid in the use of exome sequencing and genome sequencing for patients with congenital anomalies, developmental delay or intellectual disability, and to inform clinical and reproductive decision making, which could lead to improved outcomes for patients and their family members.

The College gratefully acknowledges Jennifer Malinowski, PhD; David T. Miller, MD, PhD; Laurie Demmer, MD; Jennifer Gannon, MD; Elaine Maria Pereira, MD; Molly C. Schroeder, PhD; Maren T. Scheuner, MD; Anne Chun-Hui Tsai, MD; Scott E. Hickey, MD; and Jun Shen, PhD for their time and expertise on this SER.

## ACMG Announces 2020 ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting – Digital Edition



Coming in May, the ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting – **Digital Edition** will be a combination of OnDemand sessions and live webinars that include the content that was to have been presented at the 2020 ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting in San Antonio. The Digital Edition will be available through the ACMG Genetics Academy and will include 50 presentations in an audio sync-to-slide and webinar format, and a robust search function allowing users to completely customize their learning experience, interact with poster presenters and view the exhibitor offerings in the online Exhibit Hall.

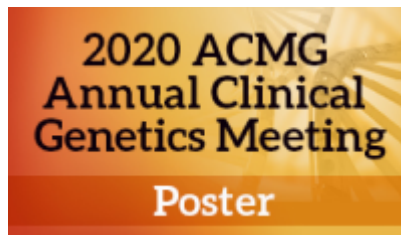


The Digital Edition will provide users with the ability to earn more educational credits than they would have been able to earn at the in-person meeting, as you can attend many more sessions virtually than would have been possible at the in-person meeting. The activity has been approved for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*. Credit approval for NSGC and P.A.C.E.™ are pending.

Those registered for the 2020 ACMG Annual Meeting have the option to transfer some of the registration fee to the Digital Edition and receive a partial refund of the original registration fee paid.

If you were not registered to attend the 2020 ACMG Annual Meeting, you may purchase access to the Digital Edition and take advantage of this excellent educational offering. Details for purchase will be available soon on the [meeting web page](#).

### **2020 ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting - Digital Edition Poster Gallery**



The 2020 ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting - Digital Edition **Poster Gallery** is now available in the online ACMG Genetics Academy. Visit the [Poster Gallery](#) to view 800+ poster abstracts.

Access to the poster gallery is free to all. Viewers will be able to interact with poster presenters, search by topic, author and keywords, and add comments. Presenters have until Friday, April 17, 2020 to upload poster PDFs and audio presentations so check back often for more about your favorite posters.

### **ACMG and ABMGG Collaborate to Provide Trainees and Genetic Counseling Students Complimentary Access to Online Medical Genetics Education Courses during COVID-19 Pandemic**



The ACMG and the American Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ABMGG) recognize that medical genetics and genomics trainees and genetic counseling students are experiencing unprecedented challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many are unable to engage in planned educational activities necessary to meet training program requirements.

In an effort to help lighten this burden and to provide top-quality online educational opportunities to those who may be either quarantined or must work from home, **the ACMG and the ABMGG are collaborating to provide complimentary access to educational programming for clinical genetics residents, laboratory genetics fellows and genetic counseling students.**

ACMG President Anthony R. Gregg, MD, MBA, FACOG, FACMG said, “As the COVID-19 pandemic challenges each of us to adapt, ACMG looks forward to providing high-quality educational materials at no charge to trainees and genetic counseling students. At ACMG we value education. It is a core member service. If you are a trainee whose education is threatened by COVID-19, we will help you beat that threat. This makes perfect sense - if you are a trainee or student - you are us!”

“Optimal patient care begins with optimal education of trainees in medical genetics and genomics in training programs across the country,” said Max Muenke, MD, FACMG, chief executive officer of the ACMG. “We at the College have a passion for education. At a time of COVID-19 where most trainees are working from home, we are happy to offer—free of charge—a number of online courses and lectures to genetic counseling graduate students, residents in clinical genetics and genomics, and fellows in all laboratory specialties of genetics and genomics.”

Medical genetics and genomics residents and lab fellows, as well as genetic counseling students, will be able to access an extensive, curated collection of educational content online at the [ACMG Genetics Academy](#). Individuals must attest that they are current trainees in an ACGC-, ACGME- or ABMGG-accredited training program.

[READ MORE](#)

## COVID-19 Resources for Genetics Providers and Patients



Are you looking for resources that can help your genetics practice during the COVID-19 pandemic? On the National Coordinating Center for the Regional Genetics Networks (NCC) website, NCC has been updating our Resource Repository (ReRe) daily as resources related to COVID-19, telegenetics, emergency preparedness and family support have been developed by the RGNs, Family Center and NCC, as well as national partners. A few of the highlighted resources include:

- [NCC Emergency Preparedness Resources Fact Sheet](#)
- [Family Center Telewhat? Infographic for Patients](#)
- [NYMAC NBS Emergency Preparedness Fact Sheets](#)
- [SERN Medical Foods Emergency Fact Sheet](#)
- [WSRGN Telehealth Best Practices](#) and [What to Expect from a Telegenetics Visit](#)

Within ReRe, you can also find daily updates on changes to licensure laws from the Federation of State Medical Boards, updates from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and changes to telegenetics regulations via the Center for Connected Health Policy.

If you would like to receive an email update when a new resource is added to ReRe, please [subscribe here](#). If you find that a resource is missing, please [email NCC](#).

*This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under Cooperative Agreement #UH9MC30770-01-00 from 6/2017-5/2020 for \$800,000 per award year.*

*This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.*

### **How Has the COVID-19 Pandemic Impacted Your Clinic or Laboratory? We Want to Hear from You.**

Are you doing telehealth visits? How has your laboratory responded to COVID-19? Are you covering shifts in the emergency department or other clinical facilities at your institution? ACMG would like to hear how members are involved in the COVID-19 response and what you are doing to support your colleagues, patients, trainees and students. Please share your stories with us by emailing [Reymar Santos](#)—and be sure to include photos and social media handles (if you have them) so that we can thank you and publish your stories and photos on social media and in other communications formats.

### **Dr. Harvey Levy Receives 2020 David L. Rimoin Lifetime Achievement Award in Medical Genetics from the ACMG Foundation for Genetic and Genomic Medicine**



Internationally acclaimed clinical geneticist and pediatrician Harvey Levy, MD, FACMG is the recipient of the 2020 ACMG Foundation for Genetic and Genomic Medicine's David L. Rimoin Lifetime Achievement Award in Medical Genetics. Dr. Levy, senior physician in medicine and genetics at Boston Children's Hospital and professor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School, is honored for his many years of groundbreaking work with patients who have genetic metabolic diseases including phenylketonuria (PKU), homocystinuria, cobalamin metabolic

disorder, and others; as well as for his training and mentoring of the next generation of genetics service providers; and for his major contributions to the development of newborn screening in the United States and around the world.

Former ACMG Executive Director Dr. Michael S. Watson, FACMG said, "Harvey Levy is a physician scientist who has been instrumental in the development of newborn screening programs for metabolic diseases. Of

particular importance has been his melding of knowledge of clinical genetics, population genetics and metabolic diseases to identify critical issues in the transition from a disease-based understanding of particular metabolic diseases to a population-based prevention program that has had enormous impact on hundreds of newborns in the United States.”

The David L. Rimoin Lifetime Achievement Award is the most prestigious award given by the ACMG Foundation. A committee of past presidents of the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics selects the recipient following nominations, which come from the general membership.

Read about Dr. Levy’s remarkable life and career [here](#).

### **Dr. R. Rodney Howell Receives Dr. Michael S. Watson Genetic and Genomic Medicine Innovation Award**



Renowned geneticist and pediatrician R. Rodney Howell, MD, FAAP, FACMG is the inaugural recipient of the ACMG Foundation for Genetic and Genomic Medicine’s Dr. Michael S. Watson Genetic and Genomic Medicine Innovation Award. Dr. Howell is emeritus professor and chairman of pediatrics and emeritus member of the Hussman Institute for Human Genomics at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

ACMG Foundation President Bruce R. Korf, MD, PhD, FACMG said, “We are excited to announce that Dr. Rodney Howell is the recipient of the first Dr. Michael S. Watson Genetic and Genomic Medicine Innovation Award. Dr. Howell’s pioneering work in newborn screening has probably touched more lives and helped more children than any other advance in genetic and genomic medicine in many decades. In addition, he has played a pivotal role in the founding of the College and in bringing Dr. Watson on board as the first executive director. It is our honor to recognize his many innovations in medical genetics and genomics as the first recipient of this award.”

The Watson Award recognizes those who have demonstrated innovation in their work and developed or implemented a new concept, method or idea that has had significant impact on genetic and genomic medicine. The award was created to honor the role Dr. Watson played during his nearly 20 years at the helm of ACMG while the field of genetic and genomic medicine emerged and evolved into the far-reaching practice it is today, a period during which Dr. Watson helped ACMG assume its position at the forefront of policy and guideline development.

Read more about Dr. Howell's extraordinary life and career [here](#).

### **ACMG Foundation Confers Eleven Awards**





Established in 1992 to support the ACMG mission to “translate genes into health,” the [ACMG Foundation for Genetic and Genomic Medicine](#) fosters charitable giving, promotes training opportunities to attract future medical geneticists and genetic counselors to the field, shares information about medical genetics and genomics, and sponsors important research. Each year, at the ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting, the Foundation confers substantial training, research and merit awards. With the cancellation of the ACMG meeting this year, ACMG was unable to present the ACMG Foundation awards in person but the College and the Foundation is pleased to recognize here the 11 individuals who received awards, including:

The [ACMG Foundation for Genetic and Genomic Medicine David L. Rimoin Lifetime Achievement Award in Medical Genetics](#) to Harvey Levy, MD, FACMG, senior physician in medicine and genetics at Boston Children’s Hospital and professor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School, for his many years of groundbreaking work with patients who have genetic metabolic diseases, as well as for his training and mentoring of the next generation of genetics service providers, and for his major contributions to the development of newborn screening in the United States and around the world. (See story above.)

The inaugural [ACMG Foundation for Genetic and Genomic Medicine Dr. Michael S. Watson Genetic and Genomic Medicine Innovation Award](#) to R. Rodney Howell, MD, FAAP, FACMG, emeritus professor and chairman of pediatrics and emeritus member of the Hussman Institute for Human Genomics at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. The Watson Award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated innovation in their work and developed or implemented a new concept, method or idea that has had significant impact on genetic and genomic medicine. The award was created to honor the role Dr. Watson played during his nearly 20 years at the helm of ACMG. (See story above.)



The [ACMG Foundation/David L. Rimoin Inspiring Excellence Award](#) to Thelma Alessandra Sugrañes, MD, a first-year medical genetics resident at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and New York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical College, for her platform presentation “Age of First Cancer Diagnosis and Survival in Bloom Syndrome.”

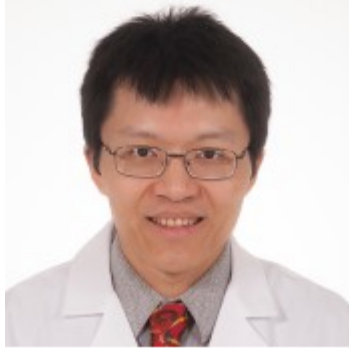
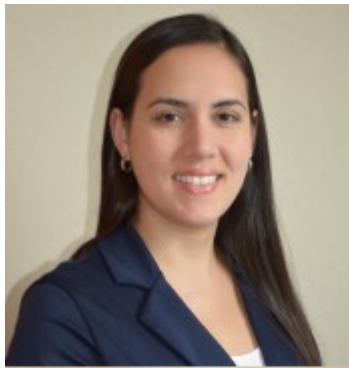


The [Richard King Trainee Award](#) to Chaya N. Murali, MD, FACMG, a pediatric geneticist and postdoctoral research fellow at Baylor College of Medicine, for her published article entitled “Pediatric Outcomes Data Collection Instrument is a Useful Patient-Reported Outcome Measure for Physical Function in Children with Osteogenesis Imperfecta,” which was published online in *Genetics in Medicine* in November 2019.



The [ACMG Foundation Carolyn Mills Lovell Genetic Counselor Award](#) to Katelynn Sagaser, MS, CGC, a certified genetic counselor and assistant professor of gynecology & obstetrics at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland, for her platform presentation “Not Just a Carrier: Hypophosphatasia Presentations of 12 *ALPL* Heterozygotes Identified Through Routine Expanded Carrier Screening.”

The Takeda/ACMG Foundation Next Generation Fellowship Award: to Aixa M. Gonzalez Garcia, MD, FAAP (top left photo), a second year clinical genetics resident at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia, to support her subspecialty fellowship training in medical biochemical genetics; Jasmine Knoll, MD (middle left photo), a pediatrician and geneticist at Boston Children’s Hospital, to support her subspecialty fellowship training in medical biochemical genetics; and to Chen-Han Wilfred Wu, MD, PhD (bottom left photo), a clinical fellow in genetics and genomics at Harvard Medical School with Boston Children’s Hospital, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Dana Farber Cancer Institute and Massachusetts General Hospital, to support his training in clinical laboratory biochemical genetics.



The [Sanofi Genzyme/ACMG Foundation Next Generation Fellowship Award](#) to Clara Hildebrandt, MD, a pediatric genetics resident at Boston Children's Hospital, to support one year of her medical biochemical fellowship training.

The [ACMG Foundation/PerkinElmer Diagnostics Travel Award](#) to Kuntal Sen, MD, FACMG (top left photo), a pediatric neurology fellow at Children's National Hospital in Washington, DC; and to



Shagun Kaur, MD (bottom left photo), a third-year combined pediatrics-medical genetics resident at Children's Hospital of Michigan, for their platform presentation "Genetics Primary Care Clinic Initiated by Combined Pediatric-Medical Genetics and Genomics Residents: A Potential National Model."



### **ACMG Thanks the Outgoing Chairs of the Membership, SELI and Program Committees**

It is an ACMG tradition to recognize and thank outgoing committee chairs during the Annual Membership Business Meeting, which is held each year during the ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting. With cancellation of the meeting in San Antonio this year, ACMG was unable to honor and thank this year's three outgoing committee chairs in person. We invite you to join us here in recognizing these committee chairs for their hard work and commitment to the mission of the ACMG.



Anita E. Beck, MD, PhD, FACMG is an assistant professor of pediatric genetics at the University of Washington School of Medicine and Seattle Children's Hospital. Dr. Beck served on the ACMG Membership Committee for six years, including two years as vice chair and two years as chair.

Robert G. Best, PhD, FACMG is associate dean for administrative & faculty affairs at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville. He served on the



ACMG Social, Ethical and Legal Issues (SELI) Committee for two years as chair-elect and for another two years as chair.



Jennelle C. Hodge, PhD, FACMG is an associate professor of medical and molecular genetics, co-director of the Cytogenetics Laboratory and associate director of the Molecular Genetics Diagnostic Laboratory at the Indiana University School of Medicine. Dr. Hodge served on the ACMG Program Committee for five years, including one year as vice chair and one year as chair.

Thank you, Dr. Beck, Dr. Best, and Dr. Hodge, for your leadership and dedicated service to ACMG.

### **April 2020 GenePod: A Therapeutic Benefit to Additional Sugar Intake? Pilot Study Shows Galactose Supplement Holds Promise for Patients with Rare Congenital Glycosylation Disorder**



A group of more than 130 disorders share a common problem: a glycosylation issue in development where the necessary sugar chains are fully or partly missing from their needed location on protein surfaces. Patients with one of the congenital disorders of glycosylation (CDG) called SLC35A2-CDG are missing galactose, the sugar in milk, on their proteins. Without this sugar chain building block, SLC35A2-CDG patients often suffer from severe epilepsy, liver dysfunction and decreased coagulation among other symptoms. Tune in to this month's episode of [GenePod](#), *Genetics in Medicine's* monthly podcast, to hear Dr. Eva Morava, a professor of medical genetics at the Mayo Clinic, discuss how moonlighting enzymes and metabolic adaptation from a galactose supplement benefited patients in a small [pilot study](#) published in *Genetics in Medicine*.

**A Message for Our *Genetics in Medicine* Community**



We've heard from many that, understandably, the COVID-19 pandemic is disrupting normal work schedules. We want to assure our community that the staff, editors and publishers at *Genetics in Medicine (GIM)* are doing everything we can to maintain normal operations at the journal. However, we are making accommodations for those whose work related to the journal is delayed due to direct or indirect effects of the pandemic. We know that many of you work in the healthcare system and are being drawn in to assist with preparations for further spread of the virus and/or care of affected patients. In light of these challenges, we want to assure you that you will not be penalized for late resubmissions, responses to journal queries, review of proofs, etc. In addition, we ask authors to be patient as turnaround times for review and decisions on manuscripts will undoubtedly be impacted. Many of our reviewers and editors are quite busy with clinical preparations for the pandemic and unable to get to the journal work in as timely a manner as usual. We will endeavor to continue to provide as rapid turnover as possible for your manuscripts. We thank all of you for your efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 and care for those affected and sincerely wish for this crisis to subside quickly. As always, we are here to support you as you strive to disseminate your important scholarly work.

### **ACMG Welcomes 35 New Members**

ACMG welcomes and congratulates its 35 new and newly certified members. There has never been a more exciting time to be a part of this field and we encourage current members of the College to invite friends and colleagues to join and help grow the medical genetics and genomics field. Thank you to all our members who make important contributions and the work of the College possible through your membership, support and involvement.

#### **Fellow Members**

Ermal Aliu, MD, FACMG  
Elizabeth Ames, MD, PhD, FACMG  
Guney Bademci, MD, FACMG  
Craig Baker, MD, FACMG  
Charles J. Billington Jr., MD, PhD, FACMG  
Hongzheng Dai, PhD, FACMG  
Didem Demirbas, PhD, MS, FACMG  
David P. Dimmock, MD, MS, FACMG  
Ryan N. Doan, PhD, FACMG  
Lauren Jeffries, DO, FACMG  
Wenxiao Jiang, PhD, FACMG  
Sajel L. Kana, MD, FACMG  
Anatalia Labilloy, MD, MPH, DSci, FACMG  
Alicia J. Latham, MD, FACMG  
Danita Velasco, MD, FACMG  
Nicoleta C. Voian, MD, MPH, FACMG

#### **Associate Members**

Louise K. Amlie-Wolf, MGC, CGC  
Wendy J. Ho, MGC, CGC  
Jamie McDonald, MS, CGC

Kelly L. Watkins, MGC, CGC

**Affiliate Members**

Danielle L. Brown, MBBS

Curtis E. Clark, DO

Zhongmin Guo, MD, PhD

Manisha V. Sutariya, PhD, MS

Michael T. Zimmermann, PhD

**Candidate Fellows**

Marianne E. Dubard-Gault, MD, MS

Yue Huang, MBBS, PhD

Guanglu Shi, PhD

Chelsea Zimmerman, PhD

**Trainee Member**

Jorune Balciuniene, PhD

**Student Members**

Elizabeth Marissa Chavez, BS

Charles Ryan Difalco, BS

Jerome P. Givi, MPH

Adriel Y. Kim, MS

Olivia Kathryn Mirabella, BS

Do you know someone who should join ACMG? Please tell them to visit our [Join ACMG web page](#).

**Call for Nominations: ACMG Board of Directors**

Nominations Deadline: **April 30, 2020**

In case you missed it, the ACMG will hold elections this year for officers and directors. The following seats will be open in 2021 and the Nominations Committee is looking for your input on suggested replacements. If you have not done so already, please submit your nominations before the deadline.

NOTE: A director of the College may not concurrently serve as a College employee, or as an officer, director or employee of the American Society of Human Genetics, the American Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics, the Association for Molecular Pathology or any other national or international professional organization that the board of directors deems to present a potential conflict with the director's service to the College.

**One (1) President-Elect Seat**

Eligibility: All fellows of the College are eligible to run for president-elect. Physician Fellows must also be AMA members.

Term: Six years total: 2021 - 2027 (as President from 2023 - 2025).

Number of Candidates Needed:

- One (1) president-elect to fill the seat that will be vacated by Marc S. Williams, MD, FACMG

#### **Four (4) Director Seats**

Eligibility: All fellows of the College are eligible to run for the board of directors. Physician Fellows must also be AMA members.

Term: Six years: 2021 - 2027

Number of Candidates Needed:

- One (1) candidate to run for the **Clinical Biochemical Geneticist seat** vacated by Tina M. Cowan, PhD, FACMG
- One (1) candidate to run for the **Clinical Geneticist seat** vacated by Susan D. Klugman, MD, FACMG
- One (1) candidate to run for the **Clinical Geneticist seat** vacated by Amy E. Roberts, MD, FACMG
- One (1) candidate to run for the **Clinical Cytogeneticist seat** vacated by Katy C. Phelan, PhD, FACMG

Please submit the names of candidates for the board of directors to the [Nominations Committee](#) by **April 30, 2020**. No supporting materials are needed at this time. The Nominations Committee will develop a slate of candidates from the suggestions provided by the membership and ballots will be sent to voting members in September.

Got questions? [Email](#) or call ACMG at 301-718-9603.

#### **ACMG in the News**

On April 1, 2020, *Clinical Laboratory News*, a publication of the American Association for Clinical Chemistry, published an article entitled “[Variant Calls in the Genomic Medicine Era](#).” For the article, writer Karen Blum interviewed ACMG member Josh Deignan, PhD, FACMG, associate director of the UCLA Molecular Diagnostics Laboratories and co-author of two recent ACMG statements ([Genet Med 2019;21:769-771](#) and [Genet Med 2019;21:1267-1270](#)), about ACMG’s recommendations on the reevaluation and reanalysis of genomic test results and patient recontact after revision of genomic test results.

#### **ACMG Social Media Highlights**

ACMG engages nearly 125,000 people each month through social media. The College hosts pages on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#). The College also hosts an ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting page on [LinkedIn](#), a public ACMG - American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics page on [LinkedIn](#), and a private, members-only group on [LinkedIn](#).

Together, ACMG's pages utilize the format of each of the social media platforms to provide followers with text-, graphic- and video-based updates and news about educational programs and other activities of the College and ACMG Foundation. The members-only group on LinkedIn offers ACMG members an added benefit of membership that includes exclusive news and opportunities such as invitations to comment on new draft ACMG documents, calls for engagement in College and Foundation activities and programs, and advance notification of new ACMG statements and guidelines and news releases.

Just this week, ACMG's Instagram page hit 1,000 followers! Thanks to all our followers for helping us reach this milestone just a year after joining Instagram. Instagram helps us reach a younger demographic with 59% of our followers age 18-34.

ACMG invites you to follow these pages on social media and be a part of the conversation. A sampling of our recent social media posts illustrates the variety of news and information we share on social media.



**ACMG - American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics**

...

Today is [#NationalDoctorsDay](#). ACMG celebrates the contributions that all our physician members make in the diagnosis, management & prevention of genetic diseases, and the difference they make in the lives of patients & families every day. [#DoctorsDay](#) [#MedicalGeneticsAwareness](#)

Today is National Doctors' Day.

ACMG celebrates our physician members and the difference they make in the lives of patients and families.



Medical Genetics Awareness Week  
March 17–21, 2020



theacmg



Do you want to work in a field that is advancing healthcare and improving the lives of patients, families and communities?



theacmg Do you want to work in a field that is advancing healthcare & improving the lives of patients, families & communities? Learn more through our Careers in Medical Genetics web page [www.acmg.net/MedicalGeneticsAwareness](http://www.acmg.net/MedicalGeneticsAwareness) #genetics #genomics #medicalgenetics #clinicalgenetics #precisionmedicine #MedicalGeneticsAwareness #FutureGeneticsProfessional

Learn about **Careers in Medical Genetics** at [www.acmg.net/MedicalGeneticsAwareness](http://www.acmg.net/MedicalGeneticsAwareness)



ACMG  
@TheACMG



ACMG recently joined other medical associations in urging Congress to support physicians and all healthcare workers in the fight against COVID-19 and suggesting numerous critical measures [bit.ly/2WKctlt](https://bit.ly/2WKctlt) #covid19

**Advocacy Alert**

ACMG at Work on Behalf of Members and Patients

ACMG  
American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics  
Promoting Science Into Health

ACMG recently joined other medical associations in urging Congress to support physicians and all healthcare workers in the fight against COVID-19 and suggesting numerous critical measures.

As stated in the letter to Congress, "We strongly urge that Congress take all possible actions to ensure that every physician and every healthcare worker has access to critically needed PPE."





ACMG CEO Max Muenke, MD, FACMG celebrates the end of our second #MedicalGeneticsAwareness Week on the Appalachian Trail on Saturday. Way to represent! #IamaMedicalGeneticist



### Beware of Email Scams

Unfortunately, it has become commonplace in our current environment of worldwide connectivity for opportunistic individuals to take advantage of email platforms to prey upon peoples' emotions and goodwill for financial gain. In recent days, ACMG has learned that several members have received emails purporting to be from individual ACMG board members, asking for COVID-related contributions or donations. Should you receive an email asking for personal information, money or an urgent plea to respond, please pay attention to the sender's email address, do not respond to suspicious emails or senders, and do not click links in suspicious emails.

### 2020 Membership Renewal Extension



In these unprecedented times we realize that many of our members currently have much higher priorities to address than dealing with membership renewal. We wanted to let you know that we will be

**extending our 2020 membership renewal window through the spring** to allow more time for members to address this task. We hope you agree that now more than ever it is important for professionals in the medical genetics and genomics community to continue to build a strong organization to move innovation and best practices forward within the field.

Additionally, we want to remind you that if you have a medical or financial hardship prohibiting you from renewing, ACMG may be able to offer a reduction or waiver of dues. Please contact ACMG Membership Coordinator [Danielle James](#) if you would like more information about hardship requests or if you need assistance with renewing your membership.

Please note, due to state-mandated closure of nonessential businesses, ACMG staff are working remotely. We strongly encourage you to renew through our online system to avoid delays in payment processing. ACMG's online renewal system is a fast, easy and secure way to renew your ACMG membership instantly and receive immediate payment confirmation. The online system accepts Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express payments. If you prefer to pay by check or by fax, download a 2020 Dues Renewal Form [here](#). Renewal by phone is also available. Call us at (240) 858-8022.

**Don't Forget!** *Genetics in Medicine*, ACMG's official journal, is going green. Online access and free downloads will remain the same for members, but if you wish to continue receiving a print copy of the journal you will need to add the print subscription cost when submitting your renewal payment.

Questions regarding membership renewal can be sent to [membership@acmg.net](mailto:membership@acmg.net).

### Mark Your Calendar for the Next ACMG Genomics Case Conference



Wednesday, April 15, 2020, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM EDT

Join Richard JH Smith, MD and Amanda Schaefer, MS, LGC from the University of Iowa as they present "Genetic Testing for Hearing Loss and Deafness Drives Tailored Care for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and their Families."

[Register Now!](#)

### Call for Proposals: 2021 ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting



The planning process for the 2021 ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting, which will be held April 13-17, 2021 in Los Angeles, California, will begin in June. This process starts with the submission of cutting-edge, innovative and engaging proposals to present at all session types,

including short courses, scientific sessions, workshops, TED-style talks, and other formats of presentation. If you and your colleagues would like to play an integral role in advancing the field of genetics and shaping the future of genetic and genomic practice and research, plan now to submit a Session Proposal for the 2021 meeting.

Online session proposal submission is now open on the [ACMG meeting website](#).

**The deadline for submissions is Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at 11:59 PM Pacific Time. Decisions will be announced in June 2020, after the completion of review and final selection by the ACMG Program Committee.** Proposal organizers are encouraged to be creative and focus on the uniqueness and interdisciplinary nature of the ACMG annual meeting. Proposals that offer an interactive and dynamic learning experience will receive highest consideration.



American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics | 7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 1101, Bethesda, MD 20814

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