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# ACMG In Action

Essential Updates: Member News You Can Use



March 2021

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## Upcoming Events

With excitement building around the upcoming [2021 ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting – a Virtual Experience](#), we feature the Annual Meeting updates first this month. Be sure to read on for all the March 2021 *Essential Updates: Member News You Can Use*.

### Update: The 2021 ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting – a Virtual Experience



The 2021 ACMG Virtual Meeting begins in less than a month! If you haven't registered yet, do so now at the [Annual Meeting website](#). Offered virtually, the meeting will deliver excellent scientific content and the ability to network with colleagues in sessions, the ePoster Gallery, the Industry Solution Center and evening entertainment events. The meeting promises to be **the** 2021 educational event not to be missed!

Exciting features to expect:

**Win prizes via Gamification: Play the game for a chance to win a prize! More information will be provided on the Virtual Experience meeting platform, with the activities to complete to collect points. Prizes include a one-year membership to ACMG, complimentary registration for the 2022 ACMG Annual Meeting, and gift cards.**

**Evening events:** At the end of each day of learning, grab some refreshments and kick back to enjoy some entertainment and networking opportunities exclusively for ACMG Meeting attendees.

*Wednesday evening:*

7:00 PM–8:00 PM ET: “Live from LA” – the original location of the 2021 ACMG Meeting. Enjoy a magic show performed by a magician from the

## 2021 ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting — a Virtual Experience

April 13-16, 2021

RENEW  
MEMBERSHIP

### Website Links

[ACMG](#)

[ACMG Foundation](#)

[ACMG Meetings Website](#)

[ACMG Education Center](#)

[NBSTRN](#)

[NCC](#)

[ClinGen](#)

[GIM](#)

Magic Castle, a wine class on California wine with a local sommelier, and a Foley sound artist who has worked on a multitude of movies and TV shows.

7:00 PM–8:00 PM ET: Diversity Virtual Happy Hour. Join your colleagues for a discussion moderated by Fuki Hisama, MD, FACMG on diversity and equity in genetics and genomics.

*Thursday evening:*

7:00 PM–8:00 PM ET: “Live from Nashville” – the location of the 2022 ACMG Meeting. Enjoy the sounds of Brassfield, a country vocal trio based in Nashville who are the house band for The Opry Backstage Grill. The group, consisting of brothers Bradley and Chadley Brassfield, and Chadley’s wife, Jessie Rose Brassfield, perform airtight three-part harmonies and a stellar vocal blend.

7:30 PM–8:30 PM ET: By invitation only, ACMG Foundation Donors Recognition Reception

**Abstracts are now available:** [Click here](#) to view the research that will be presented during the meeting.

### The Intersection of Genomics and COVID-19: Don’t Miss the R. Rodney Howell Symposium at the ACMG Annual Meeting

*Genetics in Medicine* is delighted to host several experts who will focus on important topics, including two international collaborative efforts: the [COVID Human Genetic Effort](#) and the [COVID-19 Host Genetics Initiative](#), which have both already yielded important insights into protective immunity as well as susceptibility, severity, and outcomes. A “Caring for Everyone” portion of the symposium will address the disproportionate burden of COVID-19 incidence and severity among racial/ethnic minority populations in the US and the special public health response for pregnant persons and children. Lastly, there will be discussion on the challenges of SARS-CoV-2 testing in the genomics laboratory. For a full description of this symposium and list of speakers, please visit the [meeting website](#). To read a synopsis of the symposium, see this [article](#) recently published in *Genetics in Medicine*.

### Are You Attending the ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting – a Virtual Experience?

Click on the ACMG desk in the virtual lobby to learn more about our current programs, resources, events, and membership discounts. Join ACMG while attending and save up to **\$710** in discounts and rebates.

Visit ACMG’s online [Employment Resource Center](#) where you can find a job or career services, upload your resume, or post an employment opportunity.

Employers: post a job opportunity April 1–16, 2021 and **receive a \$50 discount**. Use code: **ACMG21**

## Visit NCC at the Industry Solution Center during the ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting



Are you interested in tools and resources that can help you improve access to genetics services for underserved populations? If so, be sure to visit the National Coordinating Center for the Regional Genetics Networks (NCC) at the Industry Solution Center to learn more about our efforts, which include:

- maintaining and developing the [ACMG ACT Sheets](#);
- housing over 450 educational resources for genetics providers and others in our Resource Repository ([ReRe](#));
- developing healthcare interpreter training [programs](#) for prenatal and pediatric genetics;
- the Genetics Policy Hub that includes the [State Medicaid Genetics Policies Database](#) and federal and state [legislation and regulation tracking](#);
- actively maintaining the ACMG's "[Find a Genetics Clinic](#)" directory; and
- holding the second annual [Public Health Genetics Week](#) from May 24-28 to celebrate the field of public health genetics.

Be sure to stop by and chat with us throughout the week about these efforts and more!

*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 from 6/2020-5/2024 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.*

## Visit NBSTRN in the Industry Solution Center during the ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting



Follow us on social media:



Every day, babies born in the United States receive comprehensive screening for treatable diseases. Newborn screening saves lives, and discoveries by researchers make it possible! The NICHD-supported Newborn Screening Translational Research Network (NBSTRN) accelerates these efforts by developing tools, resources, and expertise available to researchers, healthcare professionals, families, advocacy groups and state newborn screening programs. Please visit the Newborn

Screening Translational Research Network (NBSTRN) in the Industry Solution Center to learn more about the:

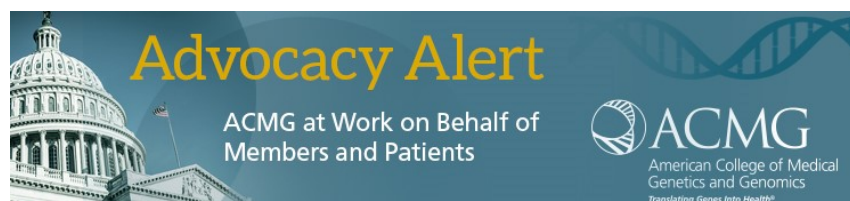
- Longitudinal Pediatric Data Resource (LPDR) — a suite of tools to collect, analyze, visualize and share genomics and phenotypic data;
- [Newborn Screening Conditions Resource \(NBS-CR\)](#) — a portal to key information on the genetic disorders that are part of, or candidates for, newborn screening; and
- [Newborn Screening Virtual Repository of States, Subjects & Samples \(NBS-VR\)](#) — an interactive map tool to navigate state NBS programs and locate subjects and samples for your research.

*The NBSTRN is funded by a contract from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), National Institutes of Health (NIH) to the ACMG with the goal of advancing newborn screening-related research.*

### View the Sponsor List of Companies That Will Be Featured in the Industry Solution Center

Previewed in the [ACMG Annual Meeting website](#), you can start planning who to visit during the virtual meeting.

### ACMG Advocacy Updates



### ACMG's Seat at the AMA Table in Shaping the Future of Medicine



ACMG is a proud member of the House of Delegates (HOD) as well as the Specialty and Service Society (SSS) Caucus of the American Medical Association (AMA). The HOD is the legislative and policy-making body of the AMA. It is composed of representatives from state medical associations and national medical specialty societies, including ACMG, as well as AMA sections, national societies,

professional interest medical associations, and federal services such as the Public Health Service. Each national medical specialty society has at least one delegate and one alternate delegate, while very large societies may have many more. Participation in the SSS allows ACMG to collaborate with other specialty societies and focus attention on HOD policies that are particularly important to all of our members.

The delegates play a critical role by reviewing, editing, and voting to establish policy on health, medical, professional, and governance matters, as well as the principles within which the AMA's business activities are

conducted. These policies are important as government and payor entities regularly look to the AMA for guidance.

The HOD meets at least twice a year, and ACMG is represented in these activities by our delegate, Susan Klugman, MD, FACMG, and alternate delegate, Louanne Hudgins, MD, FACMG. When asked about the HOD meetings, Dr. Klugman said “The meetings are very exciting and topics discussed are timely. Hundreds of bills are debated, and we see many of these bills in the US Congress. We hope to present bills pertaining to genetics that will help our members and their patients.”

[READ MORE](#)

### **Act Now to Support the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act!**

In case you missed it, the time is now to show your support for newborn screening by asking Congress to support the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act of 2021. [Click here](#) to send your letter today!

In January 2021, Representatives Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA-40), Mike Simpson (R-ID-02), Katherine Clark (D-MA-05), and Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-WA-03) introduced [H.R. 482, the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act of 2021](#). The following month, Senators Maggie Hassan (D-NH) and Roger Wicker (R-MS) introduced identical legislation in the Senate ([S. 350](#)). These bipartisan bills authorize and fund many important newborn screening programs through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Newborn screening is one of the most successful public health programs in the country, and funding these programs is important for their continued success.

[READ MORE](#)

### **ACMG Publishes Diversity Statement, Plan of Action**

Scientific diversity and the understanding of genomic variation among populations are cornerstones to medical advancement and development of better healthcare systems. The commitment to bolster equity and celebrate diversity is now, more than ever, a necessary step towards addressing our country's systemic racism, and confronting the neglect and oppression of targeted racial, ethnic, and social groups in our population.

As a medical genetics society and community, the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ACMG) embraces diversity in our members and our patients. ACMG welcomes and encourages participation by all individuals in our organization and the genetics field, regardless of age, sex, gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, ability, ethnicity, national origin, or economic status. We believe in diversity, both in knowledge of human genome variation and the composition of our membership, to cultivate an interdisciplinary society built on respect, encouragement, and mentorship.



[READ MORE](#)

## March 2021 GenePod: Turning Principles into Policy: Combating Systemic Racism in Genetics and Genomics Publications



The field of medical genetics and genomics has a complex and troubling history vis-a-vis racist ideologies—Carl Linnaeus divided humanity into four “varieties” and Charles Darwin saw humans as genetically distinct races. And, although the field has come a long way since its beginnings, systemic racism lingers in its institutions and practices. On this month’s episode of [GenePod](#), *Genetics in Medicine* editors Kyle Brothers, MD, PhD, Robin Bennett, MS, CGC, and Mildred Cho, PhD discuss the work that must be done to start addressing the eradication of systemic racism from scientific publishing. The authors propose eight principles that are both scientifically grounded and anti-racist in an effort to provide a foundation for enlightened policy development by publishers and editorial boards in genetics and genomics.

## Wear a Face Mask, Wear a Button, Use a Zoom Background and Share Your Medical Genetics Pride



This year’s Medical Genetics Awareness Week is just a few weeks away. How will you celebrate the contributions of the medical genetics team to patient care and public health?



**Request your Medical Genetics Awareness Week swag today!** We still have a limited number of high-quality Medical Genetics Awareness Week face masks available, as well as a selection of our ever-popular hashtag buttons and Medical Genetics Awareness Week medallion stickers. Masks are free for ACMG members; buttons and stickers are free to everyone—but supplies are limited. Request your face mask, buttons and stickers today by emailing ACMG Communications Coordinator

[Reymar Santos](#).

New for 2021, we are excited to introduce theme days during Medical Genetics Awareness Week, including a **Diversity Day**, **Student and Trainee Day** and **ACMG Resources Day**. Watch your email in the coming weeks for details about these exciting new initiatives.

Visit our [Medical Genetics Awareness Week web pages](#) for all the tips, tools and resources you need to *Share Your Medical Genetics Pride*, including Zoom virtual backgrounds, printable graphics, Facebook frames, and ideas for activities to engage your network in raising awareness of the importance of genetics in medicine. And be sure to follow ACMG on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and join the conversation.

### Three Draft ACMG Documents Open for Member Comment

The ACMG Board of Directors routinely invites members to comment on draft ACMG documents, including new and updated laboratory technical standards, points to consider statements, clinical practice resources, and more. The contribution of members' expertise to the review process for ACMG draft documents consistently leads to higher quality publications because members serve as expert peer reviewers—it is your valuable input that earns ACMG its continued reputation as the trusted experts in medical genetics and genomics practice.

Presently, the ACMG Board of Directors is requesting member comments on the following documents:

- [Carrier Screening for Autosomal Recessive and X-linked Conditions during Pregnancy and Preconception: A Practice Resource of the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics \(ACMG\)](#)
- [Exome and Genome Sequencing for Pediatric Patients with Congenital Anomalies or Intellectual Disability: An Evidence-Based Clinical Guideline of the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics \(ACMG\)](#)
- [Points to Consider to Avoid Unfair Discrimination and the Misuse of Genetic Information: A Statement of the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics \(ACMG\)](#)

**For more information, including instructions for accessing the documents and deadlines for comments, please click on the document titles above. Thank you for your participation in this important ACMG members-only activity.**

### Beyond the PKU Test? A Tool to Explore Rare Genetic Diseases in Newborn Screening

*Three-Part Series: Part 2: Newborn Screening Conditions Resource (NBS-CR)*

To facilitate and accelerate discoveries in rare genetic disease research, the Newborn Screening Translational Research Network (NBSTRN) has developed three interactive



data tools to advance newborn screening (NBS) research. In part two of this three-part series, we describe the Newborn Screening Conditions Resource (NBS-CR). This data tool and others are now available on the new [NBSTRN website](#).

Newborn screening began over six decades ago with screening for phenylketonuria (PKU), and although the number of screened conditions has increased dramatically, NBS is still referred to as the “PKU Test.” Newborns in the US are screened for 81 disorders, 61 recommended by a federal advisory committee called the [Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children \(ACHDNC\)](#). These 61 conditions make up the Recommended Uniform Screening Panel (RUSP). For more information on the RUSP, [click here](#). In addition to the conditions screened in the US, there are thousands of rare genetic disorders that may be candidates for early identification and intervention through NBS.

[READ MORE](#)

### **ACMG’s #IGottheShot Campaign Continues to Encourage COVID Vaccination**

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, ACMG has been inspired by the example our members have set in supporting their colleagues, family and friends, and caring for and protecting their patients. In January, we announced ACMG’s #IGottheShot public relations campaign to encourage people to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

Our sincere thanks go out to all those who have participated in the campaign so far, including new posts this month from Andrea Gropman, MD, FACMG, FAAN, FAAP; Dietrich Matern, MD, PhD, FACMG; and Marc S. Williams, MD, FACMG. We hope you enjoy seeing just a few of these posts here and we invite you to visit ACMG’s [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages to see all the #IGottheShot posts ACMG has shared.





ACMG  
@TheACMG

...

Andrea Gropman, MD, FACMG, FAAN, FAAP says, "[#IGottheShot](#) because I am a pediatrician first and we believe in the power of vaccines." Have YOU gotten your [#COVIDvaccine](#)? Share a photo with [#IGottheShot](#) [#MedicalGeneticsAwareness](#) and [@theacmg](#) so we can find and share your posts.

Andrea Gropman, MD, FACMG, FAAN, FAAP says, "[#IGottheShot](#) because I am a pediatrician first and we believe in the power of vaccines."



Share your photo getting the COVID vaccine to inspire others.



ACMG  
@TheACMG

...

Dietrich Matern MD PhD FACMG & ACMG board member says "While I don't know if it is fair that I—a lab director—already got vaccinated, I'm happy I did. But the mask stays on for now." Have YOU gotten a [#COVIDvaccine](#)? Post a pic with [#IGottheShot](#) [#MedicalGeneticsAwareness](#) [@theacmg](#)

Dietrich Matern, MD, PhD, FACMG, a member of ACMG's Board of Directors, says, "While I don't know if it is fair that I—a laboratory director— already got vaccinated, I am happy I did as it not only protects myself but also helps protect those I come in contact with. But the mask stays on for now."



Share your photo getting the COVID vaccine to inspire others.

[#IGottheShot](#)





ACMG  
@TheACMG

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Marc S. Williams, MD, FACMG, ACMG's president-elect, says, "Incredible to think that genetics played such a role in the rapid development of the vaccine..."

@Marc\_GeneDoc Have YOU gotten your #COVIDvaccine? Post a pic with #IGottheShot #MedicalGeneticsAwareness and @TheACMG

Marc S. Williams, MD, FACMG, ACMG's president-elect, says, "Incredible to think that genetics played such a role in the rapid development of the vaccine. May this be the first of many mRNA vaccines that reduce the burden of the disease in the world."



Share your photo getting the COVID vaccine to inspire others. #IGottheShot



## ACMG Welcomes 62 New Members

ACMG welcomes and congratulates 62 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

Anjali Aggarwal, MD, FACMG  
Neha Bhatia, MD, MA, FACMG  
Stephanie A. Bucks, PhD, FACMG  
Caitlin Chang, MD, FACMG  
Matthew Dulik, PhD, MA, FACMG  
Nastaran Foyouzi Yousefi, MD, FACMG  
Michael Gollob, MD, FACMG  
Amelie Giguere, PhD, FACMG  
Stephanie Gusch, MD, FACMG  
Edward J. Lose, MD, FACMG  
Sheri A. Poskanzer, MD, FACMG

**Candidate Fellow Members**

Yan Bai, PhD, MS  
Babak Behnam, MD, PhD  
Chun-An Chen, PhD

**Allison J. Cox, PhD, MS**

Kilannin Krysiak, PhD  
Nadia W. Merchant, MD  
Lemuel J. Racacho, PhD  
Lori Ramkissoo, PhD  
Linda Z. Rossetti, MD  
Akemi Joy Tanaka, PhD  
Panieh Terraf, PhD

**Associate Members**

Heather Dorsey, MS, CGC  
Holly Dubbs, MGC, CGC  
Sharon Graw, CGC  
Katherine Hall, MGC, MS, CGC  
Renee S. Jones, MGC, CGC  
Haley C. Keller, MS, CGC  
Adee Pintzov, MGC, CGC  
Jill Rafalko, MS, CGC  
Amy Siemon, MS, CGC

**Affiliate Members**

Matt Bien, MD  
Isabelle Brock, MD  
Brittany Carpenter, PhD  
Lisa Jean Ewans, BS  
Erika Gleva, PA  
Jamie L. Maciaszek, PhD  
Teri A. Manolio, MD, PhD  
Chad Moretz, MS  
Kruti R. Patel, PhD

**Susan E. Rzucidlo, MSN**

Timothy Yu, MD, PhD

**Trainee Members**

Ekaterina Bogdanova, MD, PhD  
Théo Charnay, MD  
Christopher T. Cummings, MD, PhD  
Maria Laura L. Duque Lasio, MD  
Kristen Ferriero, MD  
Melissa C. Keinath, PhD  
Lina Kievišiene, MD  
Erica Macke, PhD  
Alison M. Muir, PhD  
Aiko Otsubo, PhD  
Tamara S. Roman, PhD  
Jee Hey Song, MD  
Laura A. Wilson, MD

Xiaonan Zhao, PhD

### **Student Members**

Yeu-Yao (Kevin) Cheng, BS

William Fyke, PhD

Bailey Mallon, BS

Tarun Karthik Kumar K. Mamidi, MS

Silpa Nagini Tadavarthy, BA

Saeideh Torabi Dalivandan

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

### **Don't Let Your Membership Benefits and Discounts Expire!**

#### [Renew Today!](#)

The 2021 membership renewal deadline was January 31, 2021, but ACMG is extending the renewal window to ensure all members have ample time to complete this process in light of the ongoing COVID pandemic.

If you have a medical or financial hardship prohibiting you from renewing, ACMG may be able to offer a reduction or waiver of dues for 2021. If you would like more information about hardship requests or need assistance with renewing membership, please email the [ACMG membership department](#) or call us at 301-718-9603.

#### [READ MORE](#)

### **Meeting Attendee List Scam Warning – Please Do Not Fall for This Scam**

It has come to our attention that companies are contacting ACMG members, meeting attendees and exhibitors to offer them the ACMG Annual Meeting attendee mailing list. This, unfortunately, has become a more common occurrence for association annual meetings and trade shows in recent years and the practice is being monitored by the convention and meetings industry.

**ACMG does not sell or give away attendee lists or email contact information. ACMG does not rent, share or sell attendee contact information to third parties. No third company is authorized to distribute or sell any lists for the meeting.**

#### [READ MORE](#)

### **Now Available in the ACMG Genetics Academy**

**ACMG Genetics Academy**

acmgeducation.net

## **ClinGen Somatic Cancer and VICC Virtual Molecular Tumor Board Case Series**

March 23, 2021, 11:00 AM–12:00 PM ET

This series, which will occur on the 4th Tuesday of every month, is for all medical and healthcare professionals and researchers interested in understanding cancer genomic testing and somatic and germline variant interpretation methods. This series is presented as a collaboration between ClinGen Somatic and VICC consortia, and ACMG. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

## **Laboratory Genetics and Genomics (LGG) Mentored Clinical Cases**

### *LGG Molecular Mentored Case Studies\**

Molecular Genetics and Genomics Mentored Clinical Cases: An LGG Alternative Certification Pathway Short Course

April 1, 2021, 11:00 AM–5:30 PM ET

For more information and to register, [click here](#).

### *LGG Cytogenetics Mentored Case Studies\**

Cytogenetics Genetics and Genomics Mentored Clinical Cases: An LGG Alternative Certification Pathway Short Course

April 7, 2021, 11:00 AM–5:30 PM ET

For more information and to register, [click here](#).

\*Bundle and Save: *Laboratory Genetics and Genomics Case Studies* – for trainees and ABMGG diplomates preparing for LGG certification. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

## **Save the Date! 2021 Update in Health Disparities in Medical Genetics: An ACMG Symposium**

May 14, 2021, 12:30 PM–4:30 PM ET

Supported by independent educational grants from Myriad Women's Health and Bionano Genomics, Inc. *Details coming soon.*

*To learn more about any of these courses and to register, go to the [ACMG Genetics Academy](#).*

Have questions about registration? [Email](#) the ACMG education team.





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