

Association of Professors of Human and Medical Genetics
9th Annual Workshop
Wednesday, March 12, 2002
Business Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by the president of the APHMG, Bruce Korf.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report (Jerry Feldman)

There is currently \$80,990.57 in the APHMG account (\$26,668.08 in a CD note at Paramount Bank and \$54,072.49 in an interest-bearing checking account at Comerica Bank). At the last APHMG meeting there was \$79,023.48 in the 2 accounts. There are some differences in these amounts, as last year's meeting was a month later and many more member institutions had paid their dues by then.

The meeting this year is estimated to cost between \$16,000-20,000. There were a total of 57 individuals pre-registered for the meeting and we are expecting a few on-site registrants tomorrow.

There were 92 paid members in the APHMG in 2002. There are currently 30 paid member institutions in 2003, but this reflects the fact that many institutions have not yet paid their 2003 dues. There are a few new member institutions.

American Board of Medical Genetics (Richard Erbe):

Dr. Erbe discussed the conflict in the schedule of the APHMG workshop, which conflicts with the ABMG Board meeting, which always occurs on the day prior to the ACMG meeting. He noted that there were a number of APHMG members who were unable to attend this year's meeting due to this scheduling conflict. Dr. Erbe discussed the computer-related problems that occurred when the ABMG Board exams were given last year. The cause of the problems remains unclear. A completely new exam has been written and will be given this spring for those who experienced difficulty in being able to sit for that exam. He also discussed the Maintenance of Certification examination process. In 2005, the exam will again be given with the American Board of Genetic Counselors, but after that, it is likely that the ABGC exam will be given in 2-year cycles in order for them to maintain their certification. He also discussed that the ABMG is considering bringing the exam "in-house" in association with the ABGC. The ABMG is also considering a voluntary "dues" of \$100.00.

AAMC/CAS/LCME/OPDA (Bruce Korf)

Dr. Korf discussed the alphabetical soup of various organizations. Bob Desnick is our representative to the Council of Academic Specialties (CAS); he was unable to attend the APHMG meeting because the CAS meeting was at the same time. Dr. Desnick is on the Executive Council of the CAS. Susie Cassidy is our OPDA (Organization of Program Directors Associations) because of a scheduling conflict. Dr. Korf is our representative

on the LCME (Liason Council on Medical Education), which accredits medical schools. He noted that the LCME standards now includes genetics as a discipline and that the Deans of all medical schools now have to account for how genetics is taught at their institutions. Dr. Korf discussed the AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges) Medical School Objectives Project.

A discussion of a change in how medical genetics residents are categorized then took place. Since medical genetics is actually a primary residency, CMS/Medicaid will not pay for an individual to complete two separate primary residencies. Also, residents would be counted as a PGY1 when they begin a Medical Genetics Residency instead of a PGY4.

Residency Review Committee for Medical Genetics

Dr. Feldman, Vice-Chair of the RRC Medical Genetics Committee, gave a brief report, but deferred because of the scheduled workshops on Thursday which will focus on RRC-related issues and training programs.

American College of Medical Genetics (Mike Watson, Executive Director)

Dr. Watson discussed new funding opportunities by the ACMG, including a recently submitted grant to the Office of Research Integrity that is related to ethics. He also recommended that the APHMG and the ACMG appoint a joint representative to the CMS (Council of Medical Specialties) to allow our organizations to maintain an active presence in that organization. He discussed the need to develop a strategic plan on the future of medical geneticists (i.e. scope of practice, training of future clinical geneticists, etc.).

American Society of Human Genetics (Joann Boughman, Executive Director)

Dr. Boughman discussed the CME reformulation guidelines have been challenged in regards to potential conflicts of interest. She also discussed that April 25th will be designated as DNA Day by Congress (50th Anniversary of the discovery of DNA by Watson and Crick). She urged APHMG representatives to join the ASHG Mentor Network. She also noted that there will be slide sets related to genetics education that will soon be available on the ASHG or NHGRI website.

National Coalition for Health Professional Education in Genetics (NCHPEG) Joseph McInerney, the Executive Director)

Joe discussed that there are national science education standards on the curriculum for schools. He urged individuals who are speaking in schools to review the specific state standards. He also discussed the work of the ASHG Information and Education Committee. He also noted that over 3,000 copies of a CD-ROM on genetics and psychiatry have been distributed.

Genetics in Primary Care Initiative (Reed Pyeritz)

Dr. Pyeritz discussed the “train the trainers” workshop, including the implementation and evaluation of such workshops.

The Nominating Committee (Mimi Blitzer, Art Beaudet, Bruce Korf)

The Committee previously had a conference call and selected the following slate of candidates:

Councilor (to replace Bronya Keats): Anthony Wynshaw-Boris. A motion was made and seconded to appoint Dr. Boris as a Councilor. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Secretary-Treasurer: Jerry Feldman. A motion was made and seconded to reappoint Dr. Feldman for a second term. The vote was unanimous in favor.

A discussion of future APHMG meeting venues took place. There was much discussion on whether to continue for a second year to meet in conjunction with the ACMG. Approximately 8 individuals stated that they attended the APHMG meeting this year because it was held in conjunction with the College meeting; however, others noted that many former attendees were unable to attend the APHMG meeting because of scheduling conflicts with ACMG committee meetings. A show of hands noted that a majority of attendees would recommend a second year of meeting with the ACMG before deciding to return to the previous format of separate meetings. Dr. Korf and the Council will continue to review the various options before making a decision regarding next year's meeting.

A discussion of the Curriculum for Internal Medicine Guidelines took place. These guidelines were developed over the past few years to provide a general structure for education of Internal Medicine residents. The curriculum has been endorsed by various organizations, including the NSGC and Dr. Korf suggested that APHMG consider endorsing the guidelines as well. The guidelines had been sent out by email to attendees and copies were distributed at this meeting. A vote on whether to endorse the guidelines will take place during this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gerald L. Feldman, MD, PhD, FACMG
Secretary-Treasurer, APHMG

Association of Professors of Human and Medical Genetics
9th Annual Workshop
March 11-13, 2003
Workshop Summary

March 12, 2003

Plenary Session 1

Medical Student Education (Feige Kaplan, moderator)

This session on Medical Student Education focused on evolving approaches to incorporation of genetics and genomics into undergraduate medicine

Michael Whitcomb, from the AAMC, discussed the history and nature of the organization. The AAMC is composed of 126 US medical schools and associated Canadian medical schools, 400 teaching hospitals, 90 professional societies, students and residents. The purpose of the organization is to advance medical education. He discussed the Medical Schools Objectives Project (MSOP) and stated that a major focus is to develop learning objectives for genomics/genetics and he urged members to consider the future education of genetics/genomics and how to best incorporate these objectives. He suggested putting together a timeline of "what you want them to know and when do you want them to know it". He also implied that much of the current enthusiasm for incorporating genomics into everyday patient management might be a bit premature and may not be practical for a number of years.

Isaac Kohane, Director of Informatics Program at Harvard Medical School, spoke on the topic of "Evolving Genetics Education in the Genome Era: The role of bioinformatics". It was his opinion that there are many practical uses in modern everyday medicine to incorporate genetics/genomics into primary medical practice. There was a lively discussion of this topic among the attendees.

Bruce Korf discussed the Medical School Objectives Project in Genetics, the purpose of which is to develop learning objectives and strategies.

Joe McInerny, the Executive Director for the National Coalition for Health Professional Education in Genetics (NCHPEG) provided a snapshot of undergraduate medical education in genetics and discussed ideas on how APHMG members can better share resources, such as a curriculum resource website, which NCHPEG has agreed to host. Issues related to this website would likely be password protected for the use of educators only rather than a public site.

Dr. Feige Kaplan discussed a pending survey developed by the APHMG and AAMC that was recently distributed to Medical School Deans in order to assess Genetics/Genomics in overall medical school priorities.

Plenary Session II

Organization of Academic Programs in Genetics: Does Form Follow Function, Vice-Versa or Neither? (Reed Pyeritz, moderator)

Even in the absence of any formal survey, the marked diversity in how academic programs in genetics are organized is apparent. In this session, leaders of programs spanning the organizational spectrum summarized and critically assessed the missions of their institutional programs in genetics; how programmatic organization and administration has evolved; how overall programs are financed; and how program would be structured ideally going forward.

Dr. Skip Elsas discussed the new program he is developing at the University of Miami. Bronya Keats discussed the structure and organization of the genetics program at Louisiana State University. Dr. Korf discussed the departmental structures at Harvard and the University of Alabama Birmingham, Robb Moses discussed the genetics department at Oregon Health Sciences and Dr. Pyeritz discussed the organization at the University of Pennsylvania

To summarize, there are many different ways to develop genetics programs, ranging from divisions to genetics to centers to institutes to departments. Each one has advantages and disadvantages.

Plenary Session III

Integrated and Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences PhD Programs (Bronya Keats, moderator)

This session focused on the structure and success of innovative Ph.D. programs that have been established over the past decade. Dr. Bryan Noe, Associate Dean for Research from Emory University, provided a basic overview of such programs, focusing on the program at Emory University. This program was established in 1990. Advantages of such programs are:

- Provide interdisciplinary education
- Increase the number of qualified applicants
- Decrease attrition rates
- Graduates are more successful
- Opportunities for better training grants
- Improved collaborations and funded projects

Similar programs at other institutions were discussed by:

- Anthony Wynshaw-Boris (University of California, San Diego)
- Dayna Wolff (Medical University of South Carolina)
- Anne Matthews (Case Western Reserve University)
- Bruce Korf (University of Alabama-Birmingham)
- E. Brad Thompson (University of Texas-Galveston)
- Peter Byers (University of Washington)

Plenary Session IV
Training and Role of Genetic Counselors (Robb Moses, moderator)

This session was devoted to evaluating existing and projected needs for continuing education for genetic counselors in clinical programs. Presentations included state and national requirements for genetic counseling boards (American Board of Genetic Counseling), continuing education and licensure requirements, including those likely for counselors already active in programs. Goals for teaching activities of counselors in the medical curriculum and continuing educational opportunities were evaluated. The role of the medical genetics program in accomplishing these goals was discussed. Examples of genetic counseling services in various cities were presented (Mira Irons, Boston; Peter Byers, Seattle; Robb Moses, Portland). Ann Walker discussed the results of a recently completed needs assessment survey among genetic counselors. She noted the vast differences at various institutions in regards to whether a genetic counselor could achieve faculty status and other issues, such as teaching responsibilities, CEU credits.

March 13, 2003

Plenary Workshop V

RRC Competencies: Incorporation and Assessment of ACGME Core Competencies into Medical Genetics Residency Programs (Jerry Feldman, moderator)

This session was devoted to issues related to Medical Genetics Residency Programs. Dr. Steve Nestler, Executive Director of the ACGME Committee on Medical Genetics Residency Programs and the newly developed Molecular Genetics Pathology Fellowship program, discussed the process of becoming accredited. Dr. Hope Northrup, current chair of the RRC-Medical Genetics Residency Committee and Dr. Feldman answered questions from members related to these programs. Dr. Nestler then discussed the ACGME projects to develop core competencies and assessments. He discussed various examples of assessing resident competencies. He will provide general examples to the program directors in the form of a newsletter in regards to how programs can incorporate various assessment methods.

The meeting was adjourned at 10AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald L. Feldman, M.D., Ph.D., FACMG
Secretary-Treasurer, APHMG