

# **ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSORS OF HUMAN OR MEDICAL GENETICS**

## **13th ANNUAL WORKSHOP TUCSON, ARIZONA April 18-21, 2007**

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### **Wednesday, April 18, 2007**

#### **BUSINESS MEETING**

The meeting was called to order by the president, Jerry Feldman, who welcomed everybody to the workshop. The minutes for last year's workshop were approved unanimously.

#### **Secretary-Treasurer's Report:**

Jerry Feldman reported this year's Treasurer's report (for Mira Irons, who was not able to be present).

The number of institutions that have paid their 2007 dues is 18, but dues notices were only recently mailed out. Membership dues were paid by 77 in 2006 and 89 in 2005. Invoices were sent to the medical school deans with a copy to the institutional representatives. Reminder notices will be sent to those representatives whose institutions have not paid their 2007 dues by August 31, 2007.

#### **Liaison Reports:**

**ACMG:** Mike Watson provided an update on recent activities. In particular, he reported that:

- Attendance at the recent annual meeting was excellent and the 2007 Genetics Review Course is sold out.
- The HRSA grant renewal has been submitted with a focus on genetics education for the non-geneticist. The budget requested is \$4m over 5 years.
- ACMG is working with the AAP, AAFP and AAPA on primary care education opportunities in genetics.
- There are seven bills before Congress that are relevant to medical genetics, including two newborn screening bills and the Genomics and Personalized Medicine Act. There is funding proposed in many of these to support education and training in genetics for a wide range of providers and the public.
- ACMG is sponsoring another review of the genetics content for Steps 1, 2, and 3 of the USMLE exams. The previous review was done several years ago.

- There is interest in ACMG in developing a number of grants to address areas of genetics education including that for residency programs that would allow ACMG and APHMG to work more directly together to address issues of shared interest.

**ASHG:** Joann Boughman encouraged the group to visit the ASHG website for new information on educational activities being developed by the education director, Dr. Kenna Shaw. She mentioned in particular, the mentor network, the upcoming DNA day (April 25th), and the essay contest sponsored by Applied Biosystems. Other topics included:

- Growing support for the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA)
- Outreach efforts to the public
- New publisher for the American Journal of Human Genetics
- An initiative to tackle new IRB issues related to incidental findings
- Policy fellow (jointly supported by NHGRI) working with Senator Barack Obama and 3 public health fellows working at CDC
- Activities of the ASHG Professional Development Committee

**ABMG:** Update delivered by Mimi Blitzer, who began with the reminder that MOC is required for all diplomates with time-limited certificates and the Board is urging all others to participate as well. She also discussed the new subspecialty in “Medical Biochemical Genetics” that is currently under review by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). It requires one year of additional training after the completion of a Clinical Genetics fellowship. The first of two reviews at the ABMS went well with general positive feedback. The ASHG and SIMD have strongly supported this proposal and the ABMG is hoping that the ACMG will also support this application.

**NCHPEG:** Joe McInerney was not able to attend the meeting, so Mimi Blitzer gave his report. Some highlights from NCHPEG are:

Membership: There are presently 71 paid member organizations with seven applications pending. There is also a new membership category for individual membership.

Annual Meeting: In February the annual meeting took place in Washington, DC with the focus on pharmacogenomics. Over 190 attended.

Targeted Educational Programs: The target group for 2007 is physician’s assistants.

NCHPEG and the American Academy of Physician’s Assistants are developing a web-based program. In 2008 the target audience is dieticians.

Genetics at the Point of Care: NCHPEG intends to develop point-of-care genetics content that has immediate clinical relevance for primary care providers and other health professionals not trained in genetics. They will accomplish this by teaming non-genetics providers with genetics specialists to revise selected content now contained in GeneReviews.

**ABGC:** Anne Matthews provided an update on recent activities, including:

Accreditation: There are currently 30 active programs. Northwestern University and Virginia Commonwealth University were recently re-accredited for eight years and Wayne State University for six years.

Certification: The total number of applications received for 2007 certification examination is 421. The first recertification process was held in 2006, and 198 (of the 258 individuals for whom recertification was mandatory) were recertified.

Administrative Office: Sharon Robinson will be leaving ABGC to work full-time for ABMG on July 1, 2007. She is working closely with the ABGC Board of Directors and Executive Director to ensure a seamless transition for ABGC.

**NSGC:** An NSGC representative was not able to attend the workshop. This report was provided by Angela Trepanier (president elect, NSGC) and Cathy Wicklund (current NSGC president) and added after the workshop.

NSGC held a strategic planning session in 2006. Three key initiatives were identified:

- (1) Expand access to genetic counseling services by pursuing reimbursement for Certified Genetic Counselors;
- (2) Promote an organizational culture that will enable NSGC to adapt to the evolving needs of genetic counselors;
- (3) Position genetic counselors as key players in the integration of genetics across the healthcare spectrum.

**CMSS/OPDA:** These reports are from Mira Irons and were added after the workshop.

**CMSS Annual Council Meeting (Nov, 2006):** The main focus of the meeting was the report of constituent groups and a special session on the "future of the profession". The shortage of expected MDs in the future was discussed, as was quality improvement, including the interaction of health care and the federal government.

**OPDA:** The majority of the discussion focused on the Match, which most Medical Genetics Residency programs do not participate in. In addition, the Competency-based Learning Portfolio was discussed. This was a topic addressed by Dr. Stephen Nestler in the first plenary session (see summary below).

**AAMC/CAS/Caucus:** Bronya Keats reported that the 3rd AAMC Basic Biomedical Science Chairs meeting is in the process of being organized. It will probably be held in 2009, with Tony Mazzaschi taking the lead in the development of the program. The National Caucus of Basic Biomedical Science Chairs meets annually at George Washington University in DC. Member organizations are the eight professors and chairs associations that represent the basic sciences and 1-3 members of the council of each participate in the Caucus meeting. A summary of the 2006 meeting was provided. The next Caucus meeting will be June 27-29, 2007.

### **Nominations Committee Report:**

Bronya Keats chaired the nominations committee to recommend a new Council member to replace Diane Cox, whose term officially ends on June 30, 2007. The other members were Robb Moses and Reed Pyeritz. The candidate recommended by the nominations committee was Laurie Demmer. A motion to approve this recommendation was moved and seconded, and the vote in favor was unanimous. For personal and professional reasons, Diane Cox resigned from Council effective March 29, 2007. According to the By-Laws, it is the responsibility of the Council to appoint a replacement until the membership elects a new Councilor. Because Laurie Demmer was elected to replace Dr. Cox, the Council and the membership voted to add Dr. Demmer as a member of the APHMG Council immediately. Diane Cox has submitted a formal letter of resignation to the APHMG President.

### **APHMG 2008 and future Workshops:**

Savannah, GA is being considered for the 2008 workshop. Concern was expressed over the dwindling number of attendees at the workshop and also the number of institutions that are not renewing their membership. The reasons are being explored.

### **Thursday, April 19, 2007**

#### **8:00-10:00AM**

##### **Update from the RRC and the ACGME**

Dr. Steven Nestler from the Genetics RRC reviewed some recent developments both at ACGME and specifically the genetics RRC. There have been changes in wording in the residency requirements both for medical genetics and for molecular genetic pathology. These documents will shortly be available on the ACGME web site. In addition, the RRC has approved the new program requirements for medical biochemical genetics, which would be a subspecialty track within medical genetics. This program awaits final review by the ABMS, however. Dr. Nestler also spoke about the continued progress towards implementation of the six general competencies. These now must be addressed both in goals and objectives for each rotation and in evaluation. Beginning soon, programs will be cited for lack of compliance with the requirement to address the competencies and suggestions will be made for improvement. Following Dr. Nestler's suggestion, there was a discussion about a proposal to devote a full day at the next APHMG meeting to preparing program directors for compliance with ACGME requirements regarding the competencies.

#### **10:15AM-12:15PM**

##### **Development of the APHMG-sponsored test question databank**

Tony Wynshaw-Boris discussed a new initiative to develop an APHMG-sponsored

web site housing a question bank for a variety of levels of trainees. Based on the successful use of on-line questions for his MS1 class, with Bridget Quinn, it was proposed that APHMG support an online question bank, curated and vetted by Bridget, that would be available only to APHMG members. Samples of questions were presented at the meeting. There was a great deal of enthusiasm for the proposal among the attendees. It was suggested that these efforts could complement those of the ACMG. A general discussion underscored the need for such a question bank at a variety of levels of training, including first and third medical students, as well as residents/fellows.

### **Friday, April 20, 2007**

**8:00AM – 10:00AM**

#### **NBME Item-Writing Workshop: Developing High-Quality Multiple-Choice Test Items for Medical Genetics**

Two sessions were provided by National Board of Medical Examiners representatives. Reflecting world-wide shifts toward integrative curricula, the first workshop focused on writing test items that assess application of knowledge to clinical situations, rather than recall of isolated basic science facts. After an overview of item-writing skills, the attendees were divided into small working groups and critiqued prior genetics questions for principles of good item writing. The workshop was presented by Kathleen Holtzman and David Swanson, PhD from the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME).

**10:15AM -12:15PM**

#### **Using the NBME Web-Based Customized Assessment Services to Build an Examination in Medical Genetics**

In the second workshop, in order to meet the need for high quality standardized assessment materials at medical schools, the NBME presented their version of a web-based, customized assessment program that permits faculty members at participating schools to build unique examinations from secure NBME item banks. Specifically, this assessment program was focused on genetics content. This workshop was presented by Agata P. Butler, PhD and David Swanson, PhD from the National Board of Medical Examiners.

**1:30PM – 3:30PM**

#### **The Genetics of Human Variation**

Dr. Lynn Jorde, Professor of Human Genetics in the University of Utah School of Medicine, gave the first talk on “Race and Genetics: Biomedical Implications”. He emphasized the importance of studying genetic variation in populations to advance understanding of the distribution, prevalence, and etiology of genetic diseases, and

also to evaluate differences in responses to drugs.

Dr. Howard McLeod, Professor of Pharmacotherapy and Experimental Therapeutics at the University of North Carolina School of Pharmacy, was the second speaker in this session. His title was “Using the Genome to Guide Therapeutics”, and he discussed his work on characterizing genetic variants that predict therapeutic outcome for several drugs, including warfarin and tamoxifen.