

ACMG Takes to the Air and Airwaves in May to Inform Public About Medical Genetics:

ACMG Continues to Educate the Public and Increase Knowledge of Medical Genetics Through Radio Program Airing Widely in May

As part of its mission, ACMG uses a variety of tools to increase the visibility and understanding of medical genetics and to inform and educate not only professionals, but also patients and the public. ACMG's newest outreach and public relations effort includes a radio program, "21st Century Healthcare Forum" which will run on all audio-equipped flights of American Airlines (approx. 29,000 flights) and Northwest Airlines (approx. 2,880 flights) in May 2008, and will reach a potential audience of 4.9 million people.

Bruce Korf, PhD, MD, FACMG, ACMG President Elect discusses ACMG's important work, medical genetics and its role in improving health in this high profile SkyRadio Network program. *The 21st Century Healthcare Forum* is an ongoing show dedicated to health care and its effect on you. Other recent topics on this program have included *Heart Disease in Children*, *Achieving a World Without Alzheimers* and *New Developments in Stem Cell Research*.

This program was made possible by the ACMGF as part of our educational mission to inform and educate the public and professionals about medical genetics.

Go to www.acmg.net to listen to ACMG's medical genetics segment on "21st Century Healthcare Forum."

Are You Interested in Becoming an Ambassador for Medical Genetics?

The ACMG Office is frequently contacted by graduate and medical students, residents, and faculty advisors interested in learning more about what it is like to be a medical geneticist or genetic counselor. We believe that there has never been a more exciting time to choose genetics as a career and given ACMG's high priority on expanding our workforce, we are making every effort to welcome people to our field. In many cases, this has involved finding an ACMG member in the same geographic area who is willing to take a small amount of time and a personal interest in the caller, from responding to questions and locating resources to offering guidance for planning the steps in their training. To do this more efficiently, we are developing a list of ACMG Ambassadors—members from around the country who are willing to be contacted from time-to-time by trainees and practitioners with questions about medical genetics as a career. We truly believe that your personal contact can make the difference in a career decision.

If you would like to serve as an ambassador for your profession and help ACMG's efforts to attract people to a career in medical genetics, please contact Judith Benkendorf by email at jbenkendorf@acmg.net.

**Mark your Calendars
2009 ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meetings**

March 25-29, 2009

**Tampa Convention Center & Marriott Waterside Hotel and Marina
Tampa, Florida**

ACMG to Celebrate 2008 DNA Day

April 25 is National DNA Day and ACMG is proud to be the newest national sponsor of this important event to increase awareness of genetics. National DNA Day is a unique day where students, teachers and the public can learn more about genetics and genomics.

A number of events around the country will commemorate the 6th annual National DNA Day. ACMG will be participating in the live, online chatroom on April 25 and will be providing copies of the educational CD-ROM “ACMG Basics: Genetics for Providers” to teachers of Honors and AP science courses.

National DNA Day, began in April 2003, commemorates the successful completion of the Human Genome Project and the 50th anniversary of the discovery DNA’s double helix in 1953. ACMG is also joining forces with the American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) to host exciting activities at the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) building in Bethesda, MD, where the ACMG offices are located. A Genetics Lab will be created on-site and all building employees are invited to join Mike Watson, Judith Benkendorf, Meredith Weaver and ASHG colleagues for a hands’ on genetics experience—extracting DNA from fresh strawberries. Other activities will include mini-lectures, Ask-the-Expert opportunities and a resources table with tools for collecting family health history information. Our goal is to begin expanding geneticists’ involvement in DNA Day to the workplace, a presently under-utilized setting for public education about genetics and health. For more information on DNA activities, visit the Human Genome website at www.genome.gov/DNADay.

ACMG ‘s Response to *Washington Post* Article

There was a front page story recently in the Washington Post titled “Genetic Testing Gets Personal.” As you may know, the American College of Medical Genetics has substantially increased its efforts to educate patients and the public via our media relations efforts about DTC and other medical genetics topics and to weigh in on other breaking news stories in genetics. Toward that goal, ACMG developed a “rapid response” to the article and posted it in the Comments section of the Washington Post online article and submitted a version, thereof, as a Letter to the Editor. You can see the article and ACMG’s response by visiting www.washingtonpost.com, entering the article title in the search bar, and then click on View All Comments at the bottom of the article page.

Introducing Greer Stephens

We are pleased to announce the addition of Greer Stephens to the ACMG administrative staff. Greer joined ACMG as the new Executive Assistant and Office Manager on March 18th. She has extensive experience as an executive assistant and office manager and her most recent position was as an Executive Assistant to the CEO and COO of the Points of Light Foundation, Washington, D.C. Her primary responsibilities include direct Executive Assistant support to Mike Watson and Office Manager for ACMG.

Greer can be reached by phone at 301-634-7127 or by email gstephens@acmg.net.