

# CollegeNews

## Nominations sought for 2010 William K. Bowes, Jr. Award in Medical Genetics

The William K. Bowes, Jr. Award in Medical Genetics was established by the Harvard Medical School-Partners HealthCare Center for Genetics and Genomics (now renamed the Partners HealthCare Center for Personalized Genetic Medicine) to recognize and honor annually an outstanding physician or scientist who is completing his or her training in the area of medical genetics or in a combined training program with medical genetics. The Bowes Award highlights the exciting opportunities available to those who are interested in a career in medical genetics and gives critical visibility to the importance of genetics in the future of health care. The Award, a cash award of \$20,000 and a framed certificate, will be presented at a black-tie dinner to be held in Boston on June 23, 2010. During the day of June 23rd the recipient will join a nationally recognized senior scientist to present grand rounds at the Center. Eligible candidates must have completed all of the official requirements for their training leading to board certification by the American Board of Medical Genetics. Individuals in joint ABMG training programs such as Pediatrics and Medical Genetics, Internal Medicine and Medical Genetics, and Molecular Genetic Pathology are also eligible. All such individuals who have completed the requirements within four years of nomination are eligible. Candidates must have a proven record of academic accomplishments, exemplify excellence in their areas of specialty, and show exceptional promise and commitment for continued future leadership. Nominations may be made by any physician, scientist or other health-care professional. Those wishing to nominate a candidate are encouraged to do so by completing the on-line nomination form which may be found at [http://pcpgm.partners.org/News/Bowes/award\\_nominate.jsp](http://pcpgm.partners.org/News/Bowes/award_nominate.jsp). Alternatively, a letter may be sent to the Award Committee identifying the candidate and providing full contact information for the nominee. All nominees will be contacted

by the Award Committee, advised of their nomination and asked to complete the detailed application requirements. An Award Committee of nationally and internationally renowned scientists will review completed applications and select the Award recipient. Please address questions and correspondence to: William K. Bowes, Jr. Award in Medical Genetics, Award Committee, Partners HealthCare Center for Personalized Genetic Medicine, 77 Avenue Louis Pasteur, Ste. 250, Boston, MA 02115-5727 or to Janice Larson at [jalanson@partners.org](mailto:jalanson@partners.org).

## ACMG Foundation Celebrates 2009 Successes!

The ACMG Foundation is proud of all we accomplished in 2009! In addition to continuing to promote excellence in medical genetics research, the Foundation fully funded continuing education sessions for a record number of geneticists, awarded the inaugural ACMG Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award, expanded our staff, and added Board members.

None of this would be possible without the generous support of our donors. A heartfelt thank you to those who supported us financially this year! It is only through the investment of individuals and corporations like you that the Foundation is able to support the vital work of the College, medical geneticists and genetic counselors.

In March, in addition to a grant to support the 2009 ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting in Tampa, Florida, the ACMG Foundation fully sponsored the Presidential Plenary Session due to the generous donations to the *Father Robert C. Baumiller Fund for Genetics and Society*. The Plenary Session provided a platform for educational discussions using personal genome profiles to improve public health, translational medicine, as well as a panel discussion of leaders in the medical genetics community who covered a variety of genetic-related topics. We look forward to sponsoring another session at the 2010 ACMG Annual Meeting.

The ACMG Foundation continues its mission to medical genetic research through our partnership with the Luminex Corporation and the Genzyme Corporation and their annual awards. These partnerships are vital to the future of medical genetics and the promotion of excellent research. The Genzyme/ACMG Foundation “Genzyme Clinical Fellowship in Biochemical Genetics” award provides a valuable, one-year research sponsorship for a trainee currently in an ACGME-approved Clinical Genetics Residency Program. Dr. Margarita Saenz, MD at the University of Colorado, Denver, received the 2009 award and is currently conducting research on *Fibrates in the treatment of mitochondrial hepatopathies*.

Similarly, the 2009-10 ACMG Foundation/Luminex Award recipient, Dr. Sihoun Hahn, MD, PhD, FACMG, at the University of Washington in Seattle, is focusing his research on Quality Assessment of Mitochondrial Respiratory Chain Complex Enzyme Assays Using *C. elegans*. The ACMG Foundation is proud to partner with Luminex to promote “safe and effective genetic testing.”

As an update, the 2008-2009 ACMG Foundation/Luminex award recipient, Dr. David H. Ledbetter, PhD, FACMG, Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Human Genetics Department of Human Genetics at Emory University School of Medicine, recently received a major NIH GO (Grand Opportunity) grant, a direct result of our planning and workshop activities funded by the Foundation/Luminex. The GO grant will fund two workshops to bring expert clinical geneticists, clinical laboratory geneticists, genomics and bioinformatics experts together to address the need for the development of an international database for copy number variation (CNV) data generated by cytogenetic array analysis in children with autism and other developmental disabilities.

Also in 2009, the Foundation established the ACMG Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award to honor pioneers in the field of medical genetics. For its inaugural award, the Foundation honored Dr. Arno

Motulsky, MD, ScD, FACMG, Professor Emeritus (Active), Departments of Medicine and Genome Sciences, of the University of Washington, Seattle for his decades of contributions and as a founder of the field of pharmacogenetics. The 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award will be announced in March at the ACMG Annual Meeting in Albuquerque, NM.

In September, the Foundation hired David Cotter as our first, full-time Director of Development. With over fifteen years of development experience, Cotter brings a fresh vision to the Foundation by focusing our fundraising efforts and energizing the Foundation Board, Development Committee, and staff. With this new direction, Cotter hopes to expand our giving campaigns and multiply our partnerships with individual and corporate donors.

The ACMG Foundation Board of Directors unanimously elected two new Board members in 2009. Dr. Wayne W. Grody, MD, PhD, FACMG, Professor in the Departments of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, Pediatrics, and Human Genetics at the UCLA School of Medicine and Dr. Lisa Shaffer, PhD, FACMG, CEO and Co-Founder of Signature Genomics were unanimously voted as ACMG Board members in March and September respectively and bring fresh energy as we work towards our goals.

Thank you for making all of these accomplishments possible! As we look to 2010, your continued, generous support is vital. Please partner with us by becoming a donor or increasing your contributions. For ways to partner with the Foundation – both financially and non-financially – please contact David Cotter at 301-718-2014 or [dcotter@ACMGFoundation.org](mailto:dcotter@ACMGFoundation.org).

Help us seek out new ways to improve public health through education and research—and by translating genes into health.