

CollegeNews

2010 College News Post Meeting Report

The 2010 ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting held in March in Albuquerque, New Mexico was a success on all levels. Final on-site attendance totaled 1,734 professional attendees and exhibit company personnel – a 4% increase over 2009. The exhibit hall size increased by 19% and highlighted not only more companies, but the most poster presentations ever.

While attendee and exhibitor evaluations were being tabulated at press time, all initial indicators pointed to a successful event on all levels, from the exceptional scientific programming to the outstanding meeting and hotel accommodations to excellent networking opportunities, the 2010 ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting was rated “the best meeting yet,” by many.

A unique addition to the 2010 program was a community conversation, “Genetics and Genetic Research: Native American Perspectives,” sponsored by the National Coordinating Center for the Regional Genetic and Newborn Screening Service Collaboratives. The first forum of its kind to be held at a national medical genetics meeting, the symposium took advantage of ACMG’s Annual Meeting location and continued a dialogue on genetics and newborn screening with the Navajo (Dine) Nation begun by the Mountain States genetics regional Collaborative in 2009. Most Native American governments have instituted a moratorium on genetic studies, and the controversy over genetics among the Native Americans has complex roots. Tribal leaders interacted with members of the medical genetic community as they presented the complex history of the Dine nations’s views on genetic screening, testing and research. They were joined by family members in an exploration of the many perspectives on the ways the Dine population stands to benefit from modern genetics, while still honoring their world view and spiritual beliefs.

Plan now to attend the 2011 ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting – March 16-20 in Vancouver, BC, Canada when ACMG will celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the College’s founding in this incredible destination. Nestled between snow-capped mountains and the sparkling ocean, Vancouver is one of the most beautiful cities in the world. It offers Canada’s best climate: mild winters and warm summers moderated by Pacific Ocean currents.

Detailed program and hotel information and the Call for Abstracts will be online at www.acmg-meeting.net in October 2010.

ACMG Foundation Awards Presented at the ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting

Genzyme/ACMG Foundation Clinical Genetics Fellowship in Biochemical Genetics

The ACMG Foundation proudly presented the 2010-2011 Genzyme/ACMG Foundation Clinical Genetics Fellowship in Biochemical Genetics to **Ayman El-Hattab, MD**.

The \$75,000 fellowship encourages the recruitment and training of clinicians in the field of clinical biochemical genetics and especially in the diagnosis, management, and treatment of individuals with metabolic diseases.

Dr. El-Hattab will join the Medical Biochemical Genetics fellowship program at Baylor College of Medicine and conduct a study to assess glucose kinetics in patients with MELAS syndrome via the stable isotope technique.

The ACMG Foundation would like to thank Genzyme for its continued generous support of this fellowship – now in its sixth year. This fellowship fills a critical training need in our field at a time when 100% of newborns in the US are screened

for the uniform panel and about 12,000 babies are identified annually who require follow-up and management of a physician.

Luminex/ACMG Foundation Award

The ACMG Foundation was honored to present the 2010-2011 Luminex/ACMG Foundation Award to **Marilyn Li, MD, PhD, FACMG**.

This \$100,000 award promotes safe and effective genetic testing and services, including the development of research guidelines. This is the largest award of the Foundation, and it is intended for pilot research; last year we saw this occur when Dr. David Ledbetter and his colleagues at Emory University successfully competed for a \$3.4 million NIH GO grant to continue the work began when Dr. Ledbetter received the Luminex Award in 2008.

Dr. Marilyn Li, of Tulane Medical Center and Tulane University School of Medicine, and her co-PI Dr. Anwar Iqbal will study the efficacy of microarray-based testing for detection of genetic aberrations in hematologic malignancies. The results of this project will facilitate the development and utilization of microarray-based technology for high quality, reliable cancer genetic testing in CLIA certified diagnostic laboratories.

Signature Genomics Laboratories Travel Award

During the Molecular Concurrent session of the Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting, Alecia Willis, PhD, received the Signature Genomic Laboratories Travel Award, which is given to a student, trainee, or junior faculty ACMG member whose abstract submission was chosen as a platform presentation.

Dr. Willis is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Molecular and Human Genetics and an Assistant Laboratory Director of the DNA Diagnostic Laboratory at Baylor College of Medicine. She received the \$1,500 Signature Genomic Laboratories

Travel Award for her platform presentation titled, "Examination of Data from the Personal Medical Genomic Profile in a Control Population."

Richard King Trainee Award

Marwan Khaled Tayeh, PhD is the recipient of the second annual Richard King Trainee Award for his manuscript, "Targeted comparative genomic hybridization (CGH) array for the detection of single- and multi-exongene deletions and duplications," which was published in the April 2009 issue of *Genetics in Medicine*.

This \$1,000 award encourages ABMG trainees in their careers and fosters the publication of quality research in *Genetics in Medicine*. It was named in honor of Dr. Dick King in recognition of his instrumental role in creating *Genetics in Medicine* and for serving as its first Editor-in-Chief.



SAVE THE DATE

**2011 ACMG Annual Clinical
Genetics Meeting
March 16–20, 2011**

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada