

CollegeNews

New MOC Part IV Modules Now Available Just \$25 for ACMG Members

The ACMG and ABMG have worked together to develop “Practice Performance Assessment” modules which are one option to satisfy the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Part IV requirements. These modules are now available on the ACMG website under the education tab. The MOC committee of the ACMG has worked over the last two years to develop modules that will be relevant for the diverse practice of clinical geneticists.

The modules are designed to allow geneticists to demonstrate and evaluate their excellence in practice, identify areas for improvement, and document this improvement. Most are derived from practice guidelines or expert opinion specific to genetic diseases or patient presentations for genetic evaluation. Currently there are 8 modules available including Autism Spectrum Disorder, Counseling for Inherited Cancer Risk, Down syndrome, Fragile X syndrome, General Genetics Patient, Genetic Counseling for Preconception or Prenatal Diagnosis, Neurofibromatosis type-1, and Phenylketonuria, and more are being developed.

The modules can be accessed on the ACMG website under the education tab by clicking on “Maintenance of Certification” at www.acmg.net.

Planning on attending the 2011 ACMG Annual Meeting in Vancouver?

Those planning on attending the 2011 ACMG meeting are reminded that as of **June 1, 2009**, everyone traveling between the United States and Canada by land, sea (including cruises and ferries) or air will be required to present a valid passport or other documents, as determined by the Department of Homeland Security, to cross the border.

For information regarding visas and entry requirements for Canada, please call Immigration Canada at 1-888-242-2100 (in Canada) or visit their website

at www.cic.gc.ca. From outside Canada, please contact the nearest Canadian Embassy, High Commission, or consulate in your region. Washington State residents can apply to have their driver’s licenses enhanced, allowing for the use of a single, low-cost document for crossing the border between Canada and the US by land and sea. For more information visit the Canadian Border Services Agency website: <http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/menu-eng.html>.

Preliminary 2011 Annual Meeting information, on-line registration, housing and abstract submission will be available on the ACMG meeting website—www.acmgmeeting.net—in October.

2012 Annual Meeting Location and Dates Announced

The ACMG Board of Directors recently selected Charlotte, North Carolina as the destination for the 2012 ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting – the meeting dates will be March 27-31, 2012. Sessions will be held at the Charlotte Convention Center and the Westin Charlotte will serve as Headquarters hotel with the Hilton Charlotte Center City providing additional hotel rooms.

Beginning in 2012 – the ACMG meeting will begin on Tuesday and end on Saturday. This shift, starting and ending the meeting one day earlier is based on attendee feedback and the observation that many attendees are departing before the end of the meeting. Ending on Saturday will allow attendees to travel home Saturday evening or Sunday morning and have more time for family or rest between the Annual Meeting and the return to work.

2011 ACMG Genetics Review Course

The next Genetics Review Course will be held June 2-5, 2011 at the Hilton DFW Lakes Executive Conference Center in Grapevine, Texas. Program, registration and hotel information will be available at www.acmg.net in January 2012.

Foundation hosts Private Meeting with FDA

In Bethesda, Maryland, on July 1-2, the ACMG Foundation hosted a successful, private meeting with the FDA to plan a series of activities to deal with educational and regulatory issues around the use of cytogenetic arrays in the U.S. More than 60 attendees from industry, regulatory agencies – including the FDA and New York State – and the medical genetics community shared their perspectives and concerns around the role of cytogenetic arrays and regulations in the future of healthcare.

As a result of the meeting, two key points became clear: (1) cytogenetic arrays will be the entry point into clinical whole genome analysis; and (2) the ACMG can bridge some of the gaps between industry and oversight, which will require the College to develop more practice guidelines.

In addition to this vital meeting, the Foundation is working with the public television station in Boston, WGBH, to produce a web-based educational program to ensure provider education around these new technologies. This initiative will educate laboratory directors and provide a means by which clinicians can independently confirm the interpretation of test results. It is due to be released in late 2010.

This project, and the need for more practice guidelines, are examples of the increasing importance of the financial support and donations from ACMG members and friends. While membership dues provides enough support for basic member services, the field of medical genetics and genomic medicine is changing and growing so rapidly that the College relies on the financial support of the ACMG Foundation to remain nimble and agile enough to address unexpected issues and to take advantage of new opportunities.

The total budget for the Cytogenetic Array Regulatory and Educational Project is \$258,000. The private meeting with the FDA cost approximately \$80,000, and the web-based educational program will cost nearly \$178,000. To date we have raised \$235,000. A

special thank you to the following companies and organizations for their generous support:

- Affymetrix
- Agilent
- PerkinElmer
- Roche NimbleGen
- Illumina
- OGT
- BlueGnome
- Counsyl, Inc.
- ACLA: American Clinical Laboratory Association
- BioReference
- Genzyme Genetics
- CombiMatrix Molecular Diagnostics, Inc.

The ACMG Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is a community of supporters and contributors who understand the importance of medical genetics in healthcare. The Foundation supports the American College of Medical Genetics' mission to "translate genes into health" by raising funds to attract the next generation of medical geneticists and genetic counselors, to sponsor important research, to promote information about medical genetics, and much more.

SAVE THE DATE



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

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada