

## **From The President**

All members of the College should celebrate this first issue of *Genetics in Medicine*. It is a testimony to the commitment of the College to serve its constituency and to enhance its academic mission. One regular feature will be the College News section devoted to activities of the College. You can expect to find timely reports of the projects of the many committees, statements of the Board of Directors, information on the Annual Meeting of the College and continuing meeting education (CME) meetings, employment and fellowship opportunities, obituaries, and other issues of general interest. Please suggest ideas for this space to Carole Meyers, MD, who has served faithfully as newsletter editor for several years and who will continue in this role for the journal.

The coming year will be an exciting and busy one for the College. We will be presenting our first general CME activity in April in Chicago; many may choose this event to review for the certifying examinations of the ABGC and ABMG. We have important initiatives that involve some of our sister professional organizations (the American Medical Association [AMA], the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the College of American Pathologists, among others), various consortia (e.g., the National Coalition for Health Professional Education in Genetics), potential partners in the biotechnology community, and the highest levels of the Department of Health and Human Services. Some of these activities are summarized in this issue of the journal.

The beginning of a new academic year saw an important transition in our Bethesda, MD office. Sharon Robinson, who has worked assiduously, if part-time, for the College as its Administrator nearly from its incorporation, has begun administering the ABGC and ABMG full-time. After considerable deliberation, the Board of Directors decided to recruit a full-time administrator for the College and the ACMG Foundation. We are delighted to have hired Gerry Gurvitch, who began working 1 July. Many may remember Gerry from her time as Executive Director of the American Society of Human Genetics. Please join me in thanking Sharon for her years of devoted service and in welcoming Gerry.

**Reed Edwin Pyeritz, MD, PhD**  
*President American College of Medical Genetics*

## **CommitteeReports**

### **Membership**

*John A. Phillips III, MD, Chair*

As of June 1, 1998, the total membership of the ACMG was 1085 members. Our membership includes 508 MD and 318 PhD fellows, 98 associate members, and 161 other members. The ACMG is evaluating the potential for substantially reducing dues for new members who are newly certified by the American Board of Medical Genetics or the American Board of Genetic Counseling. Possible reductions are also being evaluated for trainees and students. The dues of all other ACMG members will remain the same without an additional charge for the new journal through 1999.

### **Education/CME Committee Report**

*Bruce Korf, MD, PhD, Chair*

The major activity of the committee during this past year has been the application to the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) for accreditation as a provider of CME. This effort was spearheaded by Jessica Davis, previous chair of the committee, who will continue to head the College efforts in CME.

The ACCME conducted a site visit of the College in April, which was an enlightening and encouraging experience. We await final word from the ACCME on the College's application, but we are optimistic that provisional accreditation will be granted. This accreditation will permit us to sponsor our own CME activities and will lead eventually to full accreditation. This is an important step for the ACMG because it will allow us to move forward in educational activities both for our own members and for the medical community in general. The site visitors were particularly complimentary of the quality and professionalism of the application, which is testimony to the efforts of Jessica Davis; Melanie Gross Greenfield, the Meeting and CME Coordinator and Director of CME; and Sharon Robinson, then ACMG Administrator. (See p. 63 for update.)

Beginning in 1999, the ACMG will take over the Genetics Review Course previously run by Baylor College of Medicine. The course will be chaired by David Ledbetter and Gail Herman and will take place April 23-25, 1999, in Schaumburg, IL.