

The 1999 Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting carries on the traditions of past conferences in presenting both research and clinical topics to promote the science and the practice of clinical genetics. Topics range from the investigation of the etiology and pathogenesis of disease to the delivery of genetic services and the ethical, legal and public policy issues that arise in the laboratory, the clinic, the courtroom and the halls of government.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- physicians with an interest in genetic disease
- medical and human geneticists
- genetic counselors
- laboratory geneticists, directors and workers
- researchers
- educators
- pediatric physicians
- obstetric physicians
- students
- clinical nurses
- public health workers
- others with an interest in the science and art of genetic medicine and counseling

MEETING FEATURES

Plenary Sessions have been organized to highlight a wide range of topics designed to inform genetics practitioners, researchers and counselors. Sessions will feature experts who will describe advances in many areas of interest and importance to research and practice.

Contributed Papers have been selected for poster displays or platform presentations. Abstracts may cover any topic in the fields of biochemical genetics, clinical genetics, cytogenetics or molecular genetics.

Workshops: Concurrent sessions have been scheduled to address a variety of topics.

Diagnostic Dilemmas (Unknowns): As in past years, attendees have an opportunity to bring cases to the attention of a panel of experts and an audience of geneticists for discussion of differential diagnosis, treatment and counseling options. Cases are still being accepted, and participants are also welcome to bring cases of "rare knowns" to share with the audience. Please e-mail Helga Toriello at helga.toriello@spectrum-health.org. Finally, there will be a few surprise items. Don't miss it!

Billing Workshop: On Monday, March 22, a half-day workshop will be offered on billing, collections and compliance. See page 14 for details. **Registration for this workshop is NOT included in the 1999 Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting registration fee.**

HIGH SCHOOL DAY

Once again, the ACMG will be hosting local high school students for an "Introduction to Genetics Session" in conjunction with our Annual Meeting. Junior and senior honor students and their biology and science teachers will be introduced to both the theoretical and practical aspects of genetics, with topics ranging from counseling to molecular diagnosis. Hands-on activities are emphasized, and correlations between clinical presentations and molecular diagnosis will be emphasized. It is the hope that such programs will interest young people early in a career in genetics.

This highly successful outreach program was started a few years ago and is being presented this year by Dr. Lisa Baumbach-Reardon. It is expected that approximately 100 students/teachers will attend. The event will be held on Thursday, March 18, 1999 from 8:30 am–3:00 pm at the Mailman Center for Child Development at the University of Miami Medical School Campus, conveniently located 5 minutes from the convention hotel. Volunteers from the College are still needed to help participants set up PCR reactions and gel electrophoresis, as well as help share in the lecture schedule. Interested parties should contact Dr. Lisa Baumbach at 305-243-3997 or by e-mail: lbaumbac@mednet.med.miami.edu.

PROGRAM AND ABSTRACTS IN GENETICS IN MEDICINE AND ON THE WEB

Bimonthly publication of *Genetics in Medicine: Official Journal of the American College of Medical Genetics* began with the November/December 1998 issue. Subscription to *Genetics in Medicine* is a benefit of ACMG membership. Nonmembers who would like to subscribe at the charter rate (20% discount) should call 1-800-638-6423. Outside North America, fax inquiries to 410-361-8048 or e-mail them to custserv@lww.com.

The January/February 1999 issue of *Genetics in Medicine* is the "meeting" issue and contains the program of sessions and the contributed papers of the 1999 Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting. This issue was mailed in mid-February to all members of the ACMG, to nonmember subscribers, and to nonmembers who registered in advance for the meeting. For the first time, all information is available before the meeting. Equally exciting, meeting information is also available on the Journal web site.

VISIT THE GENETICS IN MEDICINE WEB SITE!

lww.com/GIM

FUTURE MEETINGS

In response to many requests, the ACMG plans to alter its Annual Meeting schedule so that sessions begin on Thursday in the late afternoon, and end by noon Sunday. Thus registrants will be able to attend the last sessions and still get home on Sunday. Dates for the Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting in years 2000 and 2001 must be considered tentative until contracts have been revised, but we do not anticipate any problems.

April 23–25, 1999

Genetics Review Course
Hyatt Regency Woodfield, Schaumburg, IL (Sponsored by ACMG)

March 9–12, 2000

Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting
Wyndham Palm Springs Hotel and
Palm Springs Convention Center,
Palm Springs, CA (NEW LOCATION!)

March 1–4, 2001

Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting
Hyatt Regency Miami, FL

WORKSHOP PROPOSALS REQUESTED

Workshop proposals will be accepted for the 2000 Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting, which will take place in Palm Springs, California. Workshops run for about 90 minutes. To request a proposal form, contact the ACMG Administrative Office, at the address below. Submissions must be received by May 1, 1999.

Exhibits: Publications, laboratory equipment, and other products and services of interest to attendees will be on display at the Riverfront Hall, Hyatt Regency Miami, Friday, March 19–Saturday, March 20, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION...

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ACMG POST-MEETING WORKSHOP

March 22, 1999, Regency Ballroom

Update on Effective Coding, Billing and Compliance for Clinical and Laboratory Genetic Services

Ms. Charlotte Kohler, RN, CPA, and Ms. Jane Tumpson, MAT, MBA, will present a half-day workshop on billing, collections, coding and compliance for genetic services in the 1999 marketplace. While insurers may identify contract-specific provisions, many payers increasingly adhere to Medicare and Medicaid standards. Additionally, given the increased oversight and enforcement powers provided under federal legislation (HIPAA and BBA), the federal government is now starting to prosecute non-Medicare and Medicaid billing “problems” under the fraud and abuse precepts. This seminar will present the Medicare requirements, third parties’ differences, and how to protect your genetics programs against billing complaints.

Genetics programs differ according to where and how they deliver services. Some programs exist in a hospital or university setting under its corporate structure. Some are affiliated with these organizations, while others are autonomous and independent. In this workshop, we will clearly present what the different ownership structures indicate in terms of use of staff, and requirements for proper billing of services provided. We will also discuss the use of credentialed providers who are not physicians, and how to bill for their services.

HCFA and the AMA maintain significant differences on the documentation requirements for certain levels of the Evaluation and Management (E & M) coding. These differences and the code changes and new codes for 1999 will be presented by the consultants.

This workshop will provide a valuable update to a broad-based audience: practice and laboratory managers, genetic counselors and physicians will all benefit. We welcome specific case studies or questions from those who attend. Please submit examples and questions with your registration form at least two weeks prior to the seminar if you wish for the consultants to research them and present findings at the workshop. Note that March 1 is the deadline for advance registration at lower rates.

Topics to be discussed include:

- Billing, Collections and Accounts Receivable: Getting Paid for What You Do
- Documentation Requirements: Fraud and Abuse Avoidance
- Managed Care: General Overview and Genetic Specific Strategies
- Legislative Activity Relative to Managed Care
- CPT Coding Update: Evaluation and Management and Laboratory Service
- Services Provided by Non-Physician Extenders: “Incident to” Services

Registration fees:

If received by March 1, 1999, \$150 for ACMG and NSGC members, \$200 for others. After March 1 and on site, \$200 for ACMG and NSGC members, \$250 for others.

For further information and registration forms: contact the ACMG Administrative Office.