American College of Medical Genetics

CollegeNews

Registration, Hotel Reservations and Abstract Submission now open for the 2012 ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting

Plan now to attend the 2012 ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting being held on March 27-31, 2012 in Charlotte, North Carolina. The Early Bird Registration deadline is **December 14, 2011**. After December 15, advance discounted registration fees will be available through February 15, 2012. Go to www.acmgmeeting.net to register.

Abstract submission deadline is Friday, December 9, 2011, 11:59 pm EST.

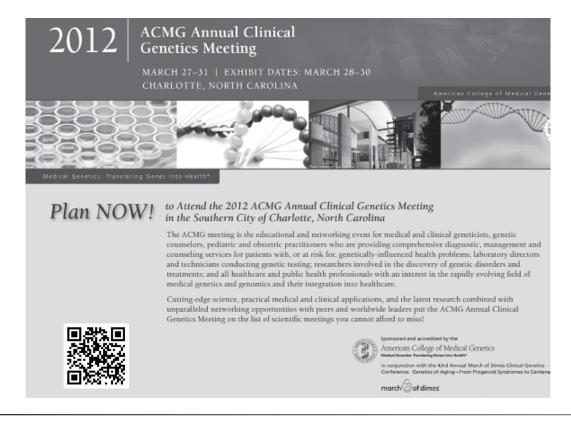
Hotel Information

Hotel reservations must be made through ACMG's official housing partner, onPeak. To make hotel reservations, attendees must be registered for the meeting and exhibiting companies must have a purchased booth space. A hotel reservation access code will be provided when registration is completed or booth space purchase is confirmed. The ACMG official hotels are the Westin Charlotte (Headquarters Hotel) and the Hilton Charlotte Center City—both located adjacent to the Convention Center. All sessions, exhibits, posters, and events will be held at the Charlotte Convention Center unless otherwise noted in the schedule.

Special Half-Day Educational Session for Students at the 2012 ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting

A special half-day educational session for undergraduate, graduate and medical students entitled *Careers in Medical Genetics: An Informational Session for Students* will be held on Friday, March 30, 2012 from 1:15 pm to 6:00 pm. The goal of this session is to address one of ACMG's highest priorities: increasing the number of individuals entering the training pipeline to become medical geneticists.

Please be sure to let undergraduate, graduate or medical school students lknow of this special opportunity. Additional information is available at www.acmgmeeting.net.



ACMG Announces Tools to Attract Students Into Medical Genetics

At a time when not a day goes by without news of the latest genetic discovery, there is a greater need than ever for specialty-trained, board-certified genetics and genomics health professionals. ACMG is addressing that need through a number of outreach and educational initiatives including three newly created tools:

- Careers in Medical Genetics Video Series on TheACMGChannel on YouTubve features live interviews with medical geneticists whose diverse career paths have brought them into the genomic era.
- New Student Web Area on the ACMG website with FAQs, special events and grants/awards exclusively for students/trainees, information on becoming a student member of ACMG, forming a Genetics Student Interest Group and much more.
- A free New Brochure, *Think Medical Genetics!* includes *What Medical Geneticists Do, How and Where Genetics Health Professionals are Trained, How to Know if Genetics is Right for You*, and many valuable resources.

"It is our hope that these new programs, plus activities like our new ACMG Student Interest Groups at the Graduate and Medical School levels and a brand new Student Program planned for our 2012 Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting, will draw talented individuals into medical genetics—whether it is to become a physician, a laboratory geneticist, or a genetic counselor. Medical genetics is a rewarding, fascinating specialty for smart, inquisitive students who want to apply our ever-increasing knowledge of genetics and the human genome to better patient care and improved health for all," said ACMG Medical Director, Barry H. Thompson, MD, FACMG.

For more information about the ACMG or to request a free copy of Think Medical Genetics! Graduate Medical Education in Medical Genetics contact acmg@acmg.net or visit www.acmg.net. For the new Careers in Genetics Video Series visit TheACMGChannel at www.youtube. com/theACMGChannel.

ACMG Foundation Receives Largest Individual Donation in its History

The ACMG Foundation recently announced that it has received the single largest donation from an individual in the organization's 20-year history. The pledge of \$250,000 was made anonymously and is unrestricted in its use.

"A donation of this magnitude can make a tremendous difference to an organization of our size," said R. Rodney Howell, MD, FACMG, President of the ACMG Foundation. "This individual said they trust the Foundation to do what we deem most important with the funds. This freedom to put the funding where it is going to be the most powerful and useful is what the Foundation needs to implement the programs that will take us well into the 21st Century and to train the next generation of geneticists and to improve the public's health."

The ACMG Foundation is currently focusing many of its efforts on education, including outreach and training of medical students and trainees, web-based and interactive tools for both geneticists and other types of physicians and healthcare providers as well as outreach to the general public. In 2011, the ACMG Foundation implemented a variety of initiatives including the inaugural ACMG Foundation Summer Scholars Program.

The purpose of the ACMG Foundation Summer Genetics Scholars program is to identify and encourage highly qualified medical students to consider careers in medical genetics by providing hands-on experience of the exciting variety of opportunities—clinical and laboratory medicine, research, and services—available in medical genetics. Students choose leading participating medical genetics institutions, approved by ACMG, for a six to eight week period during the Summer between their first and second years of medical school, to work under the direct supervision of experienced medical geneticists and received a weekly stipend. For more information on the Summer Scholars Program and other ACMG Foundation initiatives, please visit www.acmgfoundation.org.