

2012 ACMG AWARD WINNERS



R. Rodney Howell, MD, FACMG, is the recipient of the 2012 ACMG Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Howell, president of the ACMG's Foundation, was honored for his lifelong commitment and work in the field of pediatrics and genetic research and for his role and leadership in the development and advancement of newborn screening as the 2012 ACMG Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award recipient.

"Dr. Howell really is a champion of newborn screening," said Dr. Duane Alexander, MD, the former Director of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development when Dr. Howell served as the Senior Advisor to the Director from 2004 to 2011, a time when the institute's research was focused on newborn screening.

"It's always great to have someone recognize some of the things you have been involved with," Dr. Howell said of receiving the award. "That fact that I have been involved with the College, and that the College has grown vastly beyond its start and is really making a difference, all goes a long way into making me pleased that the College and the Foundation have seen fit to recognize some of the things I have been involved with."

Born in the small town of Concord, North Carolina, Dr. Howell, 80, worked in a small machine shop owned by his father and, before graduating from high school, was a master machinist. Dr. Howell said that he passed on many "really good job offers" as a machinist and opted instead to enroll in Davidson College, where he first became interested in medicine.

Following his graduation from undergraduate school, Dr. Howell attended medical school at Duke University, where his passion for caring for children was first formed.

Dr. Howell followed his passion for genetics and pediatrics; after his pediatric residency he participated in a fellowship in genetics at Duke under the direction of Dr. James B. Wyngaarden. "This sealed my career in genetics," Dr. Howell said.

Pursuing a career path as both a doctor and a geneticist, Dr. Howell also became a teacher and mentor to many young medical students as well as a skilled administrator who could meld the views of many into an accepted consensus. He has been a leader of many causes, most notably as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

But it is in the field of pediatrics and genetics where Dr. Howell has done the most good.

"Dr. Howell is one of those people who always tries to do the right thing for the right reasons," said Dr. Daniel Armstrong, a professor and associate chair and Director of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Miami.

"And he has also blended a career that has been able to bridge the development of the field of genetics along with the development and transition of the field of pediatrics and children's health. When Rod started his career, we were still within the era of vaccinations and managing infectious disease."

A committee of past presidents of the American College of Medical Genetics selects the recipient of the ACMG Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award. To read the entire announcement about Dr. Howell's award, please visit www.acmgfoundation.org.

Neng Chen, PhD, receives the Richard King Trainee Award for Best Publication in *Genetics in Medicine*

Neng Chen, PhD, of the Stanford University School of Medicine, is the recipient of the Richard King Trainee Award. This award was instituted three years ago by the American College of Medical Genetics Foundation to encourage ABMG trainees in their careers and to foster the publication of quality research in ACMG's peer-reviewed journal, *Genetics in Medicine*.

Each year the editorial board reviews all articles published in *GIM* by an ABMG trainee who was either a first or corresponding author during that year. The paper felt to have the most merit is selected and a cash prize awarded at the annual meeting of the ACMG.

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2012–2013 Genzyme/ACMG Foundation Medical Genetics Training Award recipients

Carlos E. Prada, MD, of Cincinnati Children's Hospital, and James D. Weisfeld-Adams, MD, of Mount Sinai School of Medicine, NY, were honored as the 2012–2013 recipients of the Genzyme/ACMG Foundation Medical Genetics Training Award in Clinical Biochemical Genetics at the 2012 ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting in Charlotte, NC.

The objective of the two Genzyme/ACMG Foundation Awards is to support a national training program to encourage the recruitment and training of clinicians in the field of clinical biochemical genetics, especially in the diagnosis, management and treatment of individuals with metabolic diseases. For the first time, two awardees will be given the opportunity to participate in an in-depth clinical experience at a premier medical center with expertise and significant clinical volume in the area of biochemical genetics.

The Award grants \$75,000 per year to each of two recipients selected by the ACMG Foundation through a competitive process and will provide for the sponsorship of one year of the trainees' clinical genetics subspecialty in biochemical genetics following residency.

2012 ACMG Foundation/Signature Genomic Laboratories, PerkinElmer Inc., Travel Award winner

Amanda R. Barone was honored as the 2012 recipient of the ACMG Foundation/Signature Genomic Laboratories, Perkin Elmer Inc., Travel Award at the 2012 ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting in Charlotte, NC.

Ms. Barone received the award for her platform presentation, "Triheptanoin Therapy for Inherited Disorders of Fatty Acid Oxidation."

Save the Date

2013

ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting

MARCH 19-23 | EXHIBIT DATES: MARCH 20-22
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Concurrent and Plenary Invited Session Presentation Proposals deadline: **Friday, April 27, 2012**
Visit www.acmg.net or www.acmgmeeting.net for the link to the online submission site.

Detailed program, registration, and hotel information available **October 2012** at www.acmgmeeting.net

Abstract submission opens: **October 2012**

Abstract submission deadline: **Friday, December 7, 2012**