

**Department of Veterans Affairs
Genomic Medicine Program Advisory Committee Teleconference
January 7, 2008**

Meeting Minutes

The fifth VA Genomic Medicine Program Advisory Committee (GMPAC) meeting was held on January 7, 2008, to discuss recommendations of the Hereditary Non-Polyposis Colorectal Cancer (HNPCC) and Endocrine Tumors Advisory Working Groups. The meeting was held by teleconference from 1:00PM -3:00PM Eastern Time.

The following GMPAC members were in attendance: Wayne Grody, MD, PhD; Alan E. Guttmacher, MD (for Francis Collins); Geoffrey S. Ginsburg, MD, PhD; Brion C. Smith, DDS; Annette K. Taylor, PhD; Michael S. Watson, PhD, FACMG., and Peter E. Traber, M.D. Dr. Timothy O'Leary, Director of the Biomedical Laboratory and Clinical Science R&D Services and Dr. Muralidhar, DFO, welcomed the participants. The discussion was moderated by the Dr. Grody, GMPAC Chair.

Specific recommendations relating to clinical practice, scientific research, and education were presented by the chairs of the two working groups-Dr. Henry Lynch, Chair of the HNPCC Advisory Working Group, and Dr. Jack Lichy, Chair of the Endocrine Tumors Advisory Working Group. Overall, both working groups emphasized the importance of collecting comprehensive family histories and incorporating them into the VA electronic health record; education of VA clinicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants; and the provision of/access to genetic counseling prior to genetic testing. In addition, each working group identified specific genetic tests and algorithms that could be deployed within VHA, with the recommendation that research programs be developed to determine the optimal mechanism to deploy such testing VA-wide. The working groups also identified specific topic areas where further research is warranted.

The recommendations were discussed by the GMPAC members. The consensus was that VA should address recommendations of both working groups, with HNPCC as an example of a more common tumor, and endocrine tumors as examples of less common tumors. Several recommendations were applicable to both working groups and, as such, the committee recommended the following joint recommendations:

- Develop comprehensive family history tools and determine effective approaches to incorporating family history information into the electronic health record
- Develop appropriate informatics infrastructure
- Develop educational programs for VA health professionals, including primary care physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners

- Increase capability to provide genetic counseling prior to genetic testing

The committee endorsed the idea that the first step would be to develop a research program to determine optimal ways of deploying the above initiatives system-wide within VHA.

The committee also endorsed specific research topics for further investigation as suggested by the two working groups. Dr. Grody, Chair of GMPAC, agreed to draft a formal letter of endorsement to the VA.

The last part of the discussion related to other topic areas for working groups and the following were recommended for further consideration:

- Breast cancer
- Diabetes
- Pharmacogenomics (general)
- Pharmacogenomics for psychiatric disorders

No public comments were received during this meeting.