

Training and Education in Genetics for Maternal and Child Health Professionals Initiatives

Training and education in newborn screening and genetics for maternal and child health (MCH) health professionals initiatives support programs for MCH practitioners in all health and public health professions.

Advances in newborn screening and genetics help improve scientific understanding of diseases, and present the challenge of incorporating this information and technology into MCH health care and public health practices. Therefore, ensuring that MCH health care and public health practitioners are aware of how advances in newborn screening and genetics affect health promotion, disease prevention, diagnosis, and management for the MCH population is imperative.

Activities

Training and education in newborn screening and genetics for MCH health professionals initiatives help MCH health care and public health providers integrate the latest findings of newborn screening and genetic research into their practices. To this end, the Genetic Services Branch supports the following:

The **Genetics in Primary Care Project** was established in 1998 with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Health Resources and Services Administration's Bureau of Health Professions (BHP). The project involves 20 medical schools across the country and was established to help plan, implement, and evaluate faculty training programs in genetics for primary care providers, including those working in family medicine, general internal medicine, and general pediatrics.

The **Genetics through a Primary Care Lens** was initiated in 2001 and is a collaborative effort between the Genetic Services Branch and the University of Washington. The purpose of this project is to develop a written, evidence-based curriculum for primary care physicians that builds on the Genetics in Primary Care Project. The curriculum will be distributed to medical schools and residency training programs across the country.

A **work force analysis** was initiated in 2001 and is co-funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) and NIH and BHP. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the genetics and nongenetics public health and health care workforce that will be needed to translate genetics into practice. MCHB is interested in the MCH workforce needs.

The **National Coalition for Health Professional Education in Genetics** is supported by the Genetic Services Branch, NIH and BHP. The coalition works to:

- Integrate genetics into the information base of health professionals and students of the health professions
- Develop educational tools and resources to facilitate the integration of genetics into health professional practice
- Strengthen and expand its interdisciplinary community of organizations and individuals committed to coordinated national genetics education for health professionals

Resources

National Newborn Screening and Genetics Resource Center offers newborn screening and genetics resources for MCH health professionals, the public health community, families, and government policymakers. To see a complete set of offerings, visit <http://genes-r-us.uthscsa.edu> or call (512) 454-6419.

GeneTests-GeneClinics is a publicly funded medical genetics information resource developed for health care providers and researchers. To learn more, visit www.geneclinics.org.

The **National Coalition for Health Professional Education in Genetics** is a coalition of more than 100 health organizations. To learn more, visit www.nchpeg.org.

The **HRSA Information Center** offers a wealth of maternal and child health publications and resources. To see a complete list of offerings, visit www.ask.hrsa.gov or call toll-free (888) ASK-HRSA (275-4772).

MCHB Program Grants Guidance and Application Materials are available online. Those interested in applying for MCHB grants should visit www.mchb.hrsa.gov/html/grantsguidance to access instructions and other pertinent information.

Training and education in genetics for health professionals initiatives are supported by the Genetic Services Branch and administered by the Division of Services for Children with Special Health Needs, which is part of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. For more information, call (301) 443-2170, or visit www.mchb.hrsa.gov.