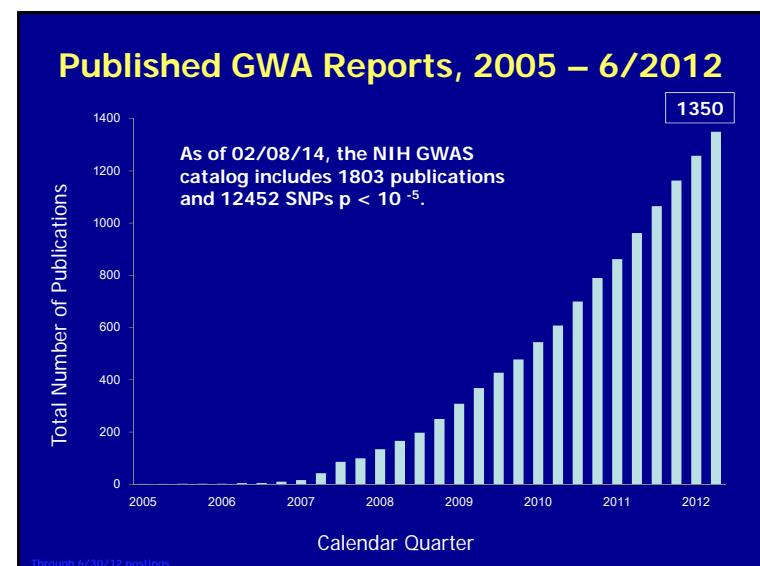


## The Scientific Value of Incorporating Genomics into NHANES

Sharon L.R. Kardia, Ph.D  
University of Michigan  
February 2014

## Genomics Today

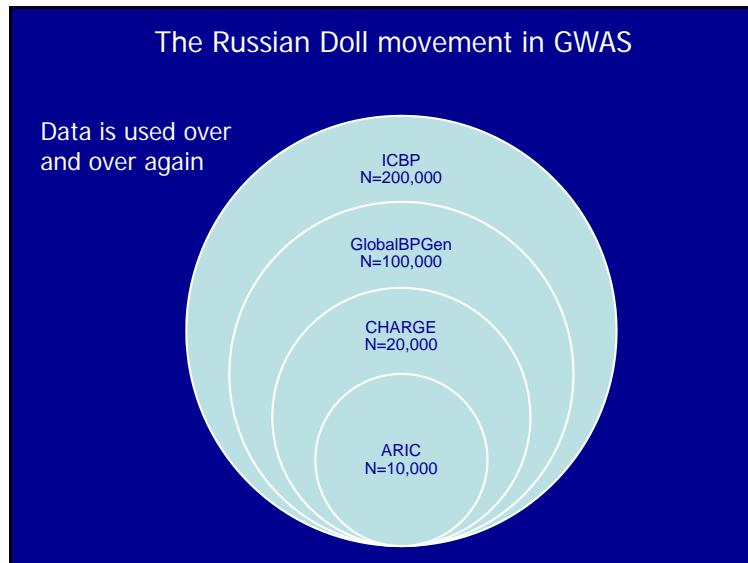
- Bares little resemblance to what we've done before 2007
- Is a large collaborative effort
- Needs large sample sizes
- Individual level data is shared via dbGAP
- Has a different set of 'rules' on sample sizes, analysis, replication
- Would benefit greatly from having NHANES



GWAS opportunities multiply like rabbits and then evolve to next species

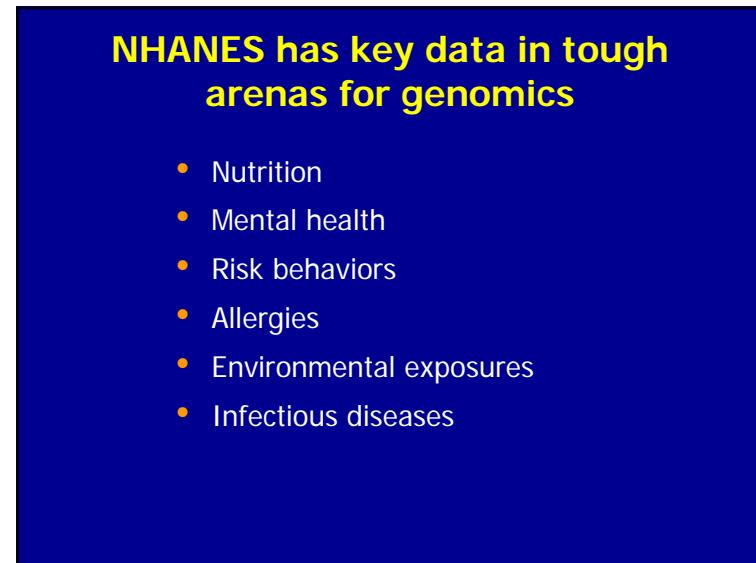
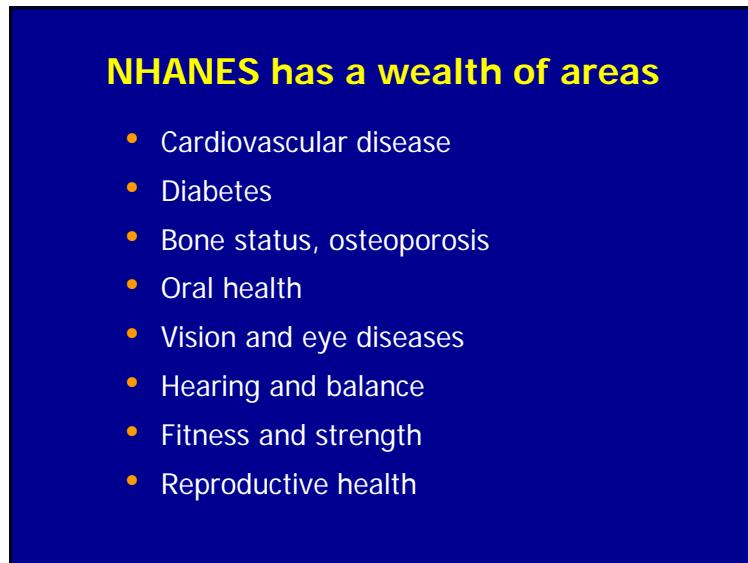
2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014

First GWAS projects	Hundreds of GWAS published on every conceivable organ, biomarker, and characteristic:	Shift to 1000 Genomes Project imputation to 25 million SNPs
Consortiums form: CHARGE, GIANT, MAGIC, CARE, SHARE, GENEVA, ICBP ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Heart, Kidney, Brain, Eye...</li><li>• Glucose, Lipids, CRP...</li><li>• BP, BMI, Height, Weight...</li><li>• Age of menopause, menarche, reproduction, first sex...</li><li>• Optimism, well being, conscientiousness, education...</li><li>• Longevity, gait, grip strength...</li></ul>	Exome Chip
dbGAP begins		Exome Sequencing
HapMap imputation of 2.5 mill SNPs		Whole Genome Sequencing



Genomics is still expanding

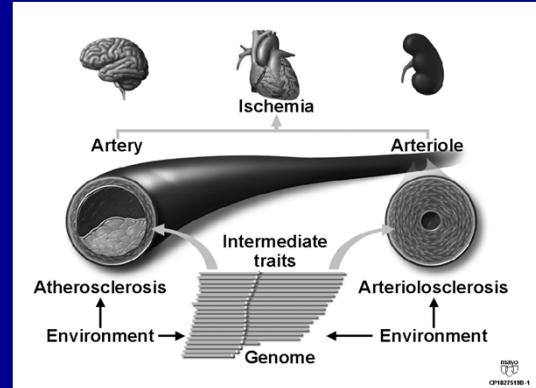
Collaborators (conference calls)	Sample Size (Discovery + Replication)	# Mutations (SNPs, CNVs, rare mutations)
• 3	• 500	• 10,000
• 6	• 1,000	• 50,000
• 9	• 5,000	• 100,000
• 27	• 10,000	• 500,000
• 81	• 50,000	• 1,000,000
• 243	• 100,000	• 2,500,000
• 729	• 500,000	• 5,000,000
	• 1,000,000	• Complete sequence



## Sifting through the tough options

- Option 1: Don't measure genomes at all
  - Would waste a national treasure's ability to accelerate knowledge...
  - Could significantly delay gene-environment studies...
  - Delays our ability to understand the distribution of rare functional mutations...
  - Could delay new genomic discoveries integrating infectious, chronic, and environmental health outcomes...

Looking across many traits we're more likely to understand more about the biology



Summary of 'Functional' Variants for Key Genes in HRS Study

Gene	Number of SNPs from 1000G (Info>0.8)	Number of functional SNPs	Number of SNPs from Exome chip	Number of functional SNPs from Exome chip
APC	920	5	51	47
BRCA1	352	12	53	50
BRCA2	414	22	96	90
CFTR	1003	10	79	76
HbB	82	0	9	9
LDLR	379	3	40	19
PAH	903	3	16	16

\* 'Functional' variants include missense, nonsense, and splice-site

Number of 'functional' SNPs by Minor Allele Frequency in HRS

	1000G MAF<0.001	1000G 0.001<MAF<0.05	1000G 0.05<MAF
APC	0	4	1
BRCA1	1	5	7
BRCA2	1	19	2
CFTR	1	8	1
HbB	0	0	0
LDLR	0	2	1
PAH	0	3	0



### Number of 'functional' SNPs by Minor Allele Frequency in HRS

	Exome Chip MAF<0.001	Exome Chip 0.001<MAF<0.05	Exome Chip 0.05<MAF
APC	37	9	1
BRCA1	37	7	6
BRCA2	55	34	1
CFTR	58	17	1
HbB	7	2	0
LDLR	17	1	1
PAH	14	2	0



The rare 'functional' variants are often the most important to people and geneticists

### The big stumbling block

The sharing of individual-level genetic data to researchers is prohibited.

The wonderful aspects of having NHANES will be limited for the 'functional' variants researchers are most interested in studying

If we can't share them widely, why measure them?

### Sifting through the tough options

- Option 2: Measure genomes and do not report
  - Right now we do not have enough replicated findings to report  $Pr(\text{disease} | \text{genotype})$  on most variants. NHANES could help develop this knowledge base.
- Option 3: Measure genomes and report 'Bin 1'
  - A potentially frustrating option where participants might be able to know their results BUT researchers could NOT study/report because it violates confidentiality policy

### Key contributions of NHANES

- Large sample size of high quality measures
- Unparalleled environmental measures
- Ability to integrate across a wide range of traits
- Large sample size is essential for examining rarer variants

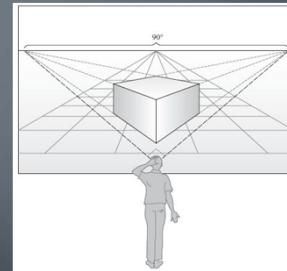


**What data are returnable?**

Marc S. Williams, MD  
Director, Genomic Medicine Institute  
Geisinger Health System

## Objectives

- Define types of results
- Consider return from different perspectives
- Aspects of clinical vs. research return



## Type of Results

- Actionable variants
  - Occur in genes with known clinical effect
  - Different types
    - “Deterministic” (*BRCA1*)
    - Predisposing (C282Y in *HFE*)
    - Carrier status (*CFTR*)
    - Pharmacogenomic (*CYP2C19*)

## Type of Results

- Non-actionable variants
  - In genes associated with clinical condition but no treatment or change in care is available (ApoE4, Huntington expansion)
- Variants of uncertain significance (VOUS)
  - Occur in genes associated with clinical condition but the effect of the variant is unknown (most missense variants in *BRCA1*)
- The rest of the genome

## Perspectives-Clinician (Systems?)

- Actionable variants-Yes but...
  - Primary vs. incidental
  - Clinical context
  - Level of evidence
- Non-actionable variants-No
  - Creates concern in patient with no benefit
  - Will increase health care costs
- VOUS and the rest-Get back to me when you know something useful

## Perspectives-Patient (GHS)

- Actionable variants-Yes
  - Primary and incidental
  - Will use this for myself and family members
- Non-actionable variants-Yes
  - Important to know
  - May still use for healthy lifestyle changes (ApoE4)
- VOUS and the rest-Yes
  - We know you're busy and we'll help you to manage the new knowledge
- Similar to other published reports (Wright et al. Genet Med 2014)

## Perspectives-Government

- Not concerned with types of variants, but with role of clinician in return
- **BREAKING NEWS!!** HHS (CMS, CDC, OCR) 2/3/14
  - Amendment to the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA) regulations
    - Allows laboratories to give a patient access to the patient's completed test reports on the patient's ... request.
  - Eliminates the exception under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Privacy Rule to an individual's right to access his or her protected health information when it is held by a CLIA-certified or CLIA-exempt laboratory.

## Perspectives-Government

“The right to access personal health information is a cornerstone of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule. Information like lab results can empower patients to track their health progress, make decisions with their health care professionals, and adhere to important treatment plans.”

- Secretary Kathleen Sebelius

## Perspectives-Government

- Questions

- Does this apply to research or only clinical tests?
- Does this apply to research results generated by a CLIA-certified laboratory?
- How does this relate to the Presidential Commission report?

## Perspectives-Researchers

- Variable
- Depends on study?
  - Anonymized study
    - Do highly actionable variants warrant breaking anonymization for return?
  - Are participants consented for return of results?
    - Can (should) highly actionable results be returned even if not consented for return?
  - Is the purpose of the study to examine the question of return of results?
    - What if a participant with a highly actionable result is randomized to the non-return group? (Wisconsin CF newborn screening)

## Perspectives-Researchers

- Burke et al. Return of Results: Research Versus Clinical Care Am J Med Genet (in press)
- Organizing Question: “If clinical relevance is the motivation for returning research results, how does this process differ from returning test results in clinical care?”

## Research vs. Clinical Care

### Clinical Care

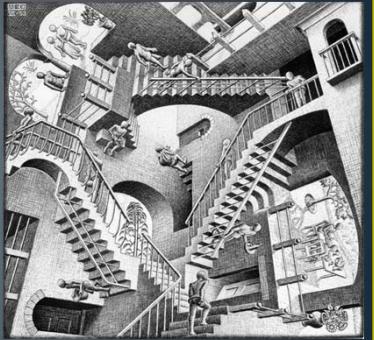
- Optimizing health care of individuals
- Provide care in best interest of patient
- Patient has the right to access all clinical information
- Treatment takes place in context of provider-patient relationship

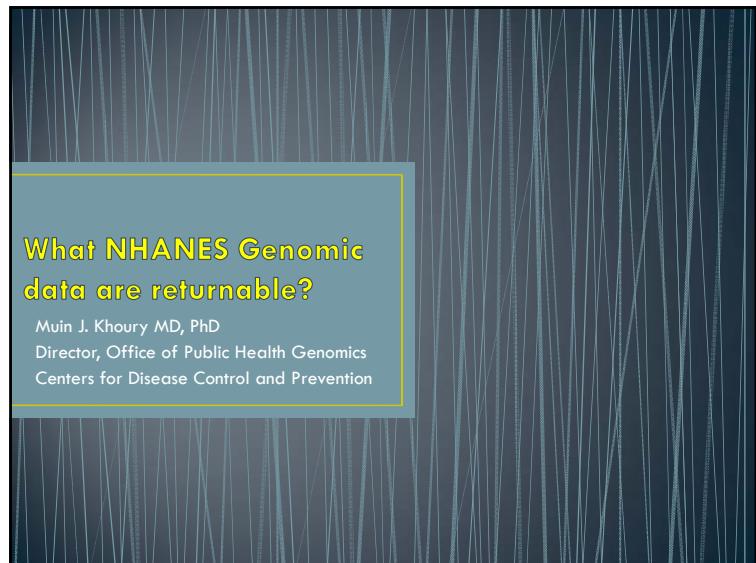
### Research

- Production of generalizable knowledge
- Protect participant from harm
- Preserve integrity of study
- Avoid the ‘therapeutic misconception’
- No consensus or legal requirement that participants have access to information
- Provider patient relationship is not created through participation in research study

## Conclusion

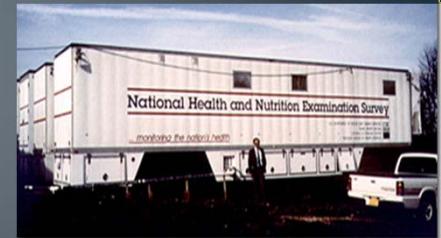
- What research data are returnable?
- It depends on your perspective





## CDC NHANES Public Health Genomics Work

- 1994 Workshop
- 1997 OPHG
- 2003: Candidate Genes
- 2008: GWAS (Beyond Gene Discovery Initiative)
- 2011: Workshop-binning
- 2014: Here we are
- Future: Sequencing
- Other genome-based markers



### Public Health Utility of NHANES Genomics Data: Beyond Gene Discovery

- Prevalence of genomic variants
- Genes and health status
- Gene-environment interactions (stratified analyses)
- Genetic testing issues
- Unique representative US population health survey
- But comes with strings attached

**Original Contribution**

Prevalence in the United States of Selected Candidate Gene Variants  
Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 1991–1994

**Research article** **Open Access**  
Race-ethnic differences in the association of genetic loci with Hb<sub>A1c</sub> levels and mortality in U.S. adults: the third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES III)  
Jonna L Grimsby<sup>1,2</sup>, Blanca C Poncelet<sup>1</sup>, Jason L Vassy<sup>1,3</sup>, Quanhe Yang<sup>1</sup>, José C Flores<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Josee Dupuis<sup>1,3</sup>, Tiebin Liu<sup>1</sup>, Ajay Yesupriya<sup>1</sup>, Man-Huei Chang<sup>1</sup>, Renée M Ned<sup>1</sup>, Nicole F Dowling<sup>1</sup>, Muin J Khoury<sup>1</sup>, James B Meigs<sup>1,2,3</sup> and the MAGIC Investigators<sup>1</sup>

**Corresp**  
1 General  
2 Harvard  
3 Office c  
4 Diabetes  
MA, US  
5 Program

**OPEN ACCESS** freely available online  
PLOS ONE

**Why Have Tobacco Control Policies Stalled? Using Genetic Moderation to Examine Policy Impacts**  
Jason M. Fletcher\*

**Abstract**  
Background: Research has shown that tobacco control policies have helped produce the dramatic decline in smoking rates over the decades following the 1964 surgeon general's report. However, prevalence rates have stagnated during the past two decades in the US, even with large tobacco taxes and expansions of clean air laws. The observed differences in tobacco control policy effectiveness and why policies do not help all smokers are largely unexplained.

**Method**: A moderated regression analysis framework was used to test interactive effects between genotype and tobacco policy in predicting tobacco use. Cross-sectional data of US adults from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey were used to examine associations between smoking and genetic variants in the serotonin and phenylalanine metabolism pathways, and variation in the nicotinic acetylcholine receptor (CHRM4) genotype. Tobacco use phenotypes included current site, number of cigarettes smoked per day, and blood serum cotinine measurements.

## Issues to Consider for Genomic RORs in NHANES

- **Nature of the Survey:** Govt statistical survey- cross section of population (not clinical practice-not typical research but public health practice)
- **Nature of Informed consent** process (can be changed for future NHANES)
- **Utility limited** because of access & ability to do genetic analysis (Data Enclave Model)
- **Is genetic information different** from other info collected in NHANES?
- **Evidentiary basis for ROR** (clinical validity or clinical utility, ACMG, EGAPP, NHGRI)
- **Issue of "opportunistic" screening**





## Evaluation of Genomic Applications in Practice and Prevention Initiative (EGAPP)

- A unique experiment
- Independent, multidisciplinary panel since 2005
- Systematic, evidence-based process to assess validity & utility of genomic tests & family health history
- New methods for evidence synthesis and modeling in 2013, including next generation sequencing and stratified screening
- 10 recommendation statements to date
  - Colorectal cancer, breast cancer, heart disease, clotting disorders, depression, diabetes, prostate cancer
- Uncovering major knowledge gaps and setting a translational research agenda
- Can it be adapted to NHANES?



## EGAPP Framework

- Specific Information for Each Clinical Scenario using ACCE Framework
- Four components
  - **Analytic Validity (AV):** Lab performance
  - **Clinical Validity (CV):** Genotype-phenotype correlation
  - **Clinical Utility (CU):** Improved health outcomes
  - **ELSI:**

Genetics in Medicine • Volume 13, Number 6, June 2011

### COMMENTARY

#### Deploying whole genome sequencing in clinical practice and public health: Meeting the challenge one bin at a time

Jonathan S. Berg, MD, PhD<sup>1</sup>, Muin J. Khoury, MD, PhD<sup>2</sup>, and James P. Evans, MD, PhD<sup>1</sup>

- Current practices in medical genetics may not be suitable for genome-wide analysis
- Need for evidence-based, structured computational analysis for diagnostic and incidental results

## “Binning” Framework

Genes	Criteria:	Clinical Utility	Clinical Validity			Unknown Clinical Implications
			Bin 2A Low risk incidental information	Bin 2B Medium risk incidental information	Bin 2C High risk incidental information	
Bins:	Bin 1 Medically actionable incidental information					Bin 3
Examples:	<i>BRCA1/2</i> <i>MLH1, MSH2</i> <i>FBN1</i> <i>NF1</i>	PGx variants and common risk SNPs	APOE Carrier status for recessive Mendelian disorders	Huntington Prion diseases ALS (SOD1)		All other loci
Estimated number of genes/loc:	10s	10s (eventually 100s – 1000s)	1000s	10s	~20,000	

Berg, Khoury, Evans, Genet Med, 2011

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**DHHS3** \*added bullet #3

\*minor wording edits on other bullets so each bullet starts with a verb for consistency and so more active

DHHS, 12/12/2012

## How do we define Actionability?

### In the context of NHANES

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Center for Health Research

## Evidentiary and Ethical Issues around Return of Results in WGS Analysis ACMG Recommendations

April, 2013

American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics

**ACMG Recommendations for Reporting of Incidental Findings in Clinical Exome and Genome Sequencing**

Robert C. Green, MD, MPH<sup>1,2</sup>, Jonathan S. Berg, MD, PhD<sup>3</sup>, Wayne W. Grody, MD, PhD<sup>4,5</sup>, Sarah S. Kalia, ScM, CGC<sup>1</sup>, Bruce R. Korf, MD, PhD<sup>7</sup>, Christa L. Martin, PhD, FACMG<sup>8</sup>, Amy McGuire, JD, PhD<sup>9</sup>, Robert L. Nussbaum, MD<sup>10</sup>, Julianne M. O'Daniel, MS, CGC<sup>11</sup>, Kelly E. Ormond, MS, CGC<sup>12</sup>, Heidi L. Rehm, PhD, FACMG<sup>2,13</sup>, Michael S. Watson, MS, PhD, FACMG<sup>14</sup>, Marc S. Williams, MD, FACMG<sup>15</sup>, Leslie G. Biesecker, MD<sup>16</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Division of Genetics, Department of Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, USA; <sup>2</sup>Partners HealthCare Center for Personalized Genetic Medicine, Boston, Massachusetts, USA; <sup>3</sup>Department of Genetics, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA; <sup>4</sup>Division of Medical Genetics, Department of Human Genetics, UCLA School of Medicine, Los Angeles, California, USA; <sup>5</sup>Division of Molecular Pathology, Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, UCLA School of Medicine, Los Angeles, California, USA; <sup>6</sup>Division of Pediatric Genetics, Department of Pediatrics, UCLA School of Medicine, Los Angeles, California, USA; <sup>7</sup>Department of Genetics, University of Alabama, Birmingham, Alabama, USA; <sup>8</sup>Department of Human Genetics, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia, USA; <sup>9</sup>Center for Medical Ethics and Health

## Evidentiary and Ethical Issues around Return of Results in WGS Analysis

**56 Genes**

Phenotype	MIM - Disorder	PMID - GeneReviews Entry	Age of Onset	Gene	MIM - Gene	Inheritance*
Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer	604370, 612555	20301425	Adult	<i>BRCA1</i>	113705	AD
				<i>BRCA2</i>	600185	
Li-Fraumeni Syndrome	151623	20301488	Child/adult	<i>TP53</i>	191170	AD
Peutz-Jeghers Syndrome	175200	20301443	Child/adult	<i>STK11</i>	602216	AD
				<i>MLH1</i>	120436	AD
Lynch Syndrome	120435	20301390	Adult	<i>MSH2</i>	609309	
				<i>MSH6</i>	600678	
				<i>PMS2</i>	600259	
Familial adenomatous polyposis	175100	20301519	Child	<i>APC</i>	611731	AD

## Evidentiary and Ethical Issues around Return of Results in WGS Analysis: EGAPP Approach

© American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics

**ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE** | **Genetics inMedicine**

April, 2013

**Description and pilot results from a novel method for evaluating return of incidental findings from next-generation sequencing technologies**

Katrina A.B. Goddard, PhD<sup>1</sup>, Evelyn P. Whitlock, MD, MPH<sup>1</sup>, Jonathan S. Berg, MD, PhD<sup>2</sup>, Marc S. Williams, MD<sup>3</sup>, Elizabeth M. Webber, MS<sup>1</sup>, Jennifer A. Webster, MS<sup>1</sup>, Jennifer S. Lin, MD, MCR<sup>4</sup>, Kasminian A. Schader, MBB<sup>5</sup>, Doug Campos-Outcalt, MD, MPA<sup>5</sup>, Kenneth Offit, MD, MPH<sup>6</sup>, Heather Spencer Feigelson, PhD<sup>6</sup> and Celine Hollonme, MPH<sup>1</sup>

**Purpose:** The aim of this study was to develop, operationalize, and pilot test a transparent, reproducible, and evidence-informed method to determine when to report incidental findings from next-generation sequencing technologies.

**Methods:** Using evidence-based principles, we proposed a three-stage process. Stage I "rules out" incidental findings below a minimal threshold of evidence and is evaluated using inter-rater agreement and comparison with a consensus-based approach. Stage II documents criteria for incidental findings and is evaluated using inter-rater agreement to allow experts to consistently consider and recommend whether results should be routinely reported (stage III). We used expert opinion to determine the face validity of stages II and III using three case studies. We evaluated the time and effort for stages I and II.

**Results:** For stage I, we assessed 99 conditions and found high inter-rater agreement (89%), and strong agreement with a separate expert-based method. Case studies for familial adenomatous polyposis, hereditary hemochromatosis, and c1-antitrypsin deficiency were all recommended for routine reporting as incidental findings. The method requires <3 days per topic.

**Conclusion:** We establish an operational definition of clinically actionable incidental findings and provide documentation and pilot testing of a feasible method that is scalable to the whole genome.

*Genet Med* advance online publication 4 April 2013

**Key Words:** clinical actionability; population screening; secondary findings; whole-exome sequencing; whole-genome sequencing

## Adult Incidental Findings



**ACTIONABILITY**

1. Is there a practice guideline or systematic review for the genetic condition?
2. Does the practice guideline or systematic review indicate that the result is actionable in *one or more* of the following ways?
  - Patient Management
  - Surveillance or Screening
  - Family Management
  - Circumstances to Avoid
3. Is the result actionable in an undiagnosed adult with the genetic condition?

**NOT ACTIONABILITY**

Topic	Rational for exclusion
End of diagnostic odyssey	IFs are not related to the indication for testing
Reproductive decision making	Not relevant for all patients in our clinical scenario
Personal utility: value of knowing the information	Not actionable in a clinical context

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## Population Screening Framework

**Wilson & Jungner, WHO Criteria, 1968**

**Screening in newborns & children**

- Calonge et al., Genet Med 2010
- Watson et al., Ment Retard Dev Disabil Res Rev 2006

**UK National Screening Committee Criteria, 2012**

**Population screening programs in genomic medicine**

- Khouri et al., N Engl J Med, 2003
- Burke et al., Epidemiol Rev, 2011

**Harris et al., Evaluating proposed screening programs, USPSTF, Epidemiol Rev, 2011**

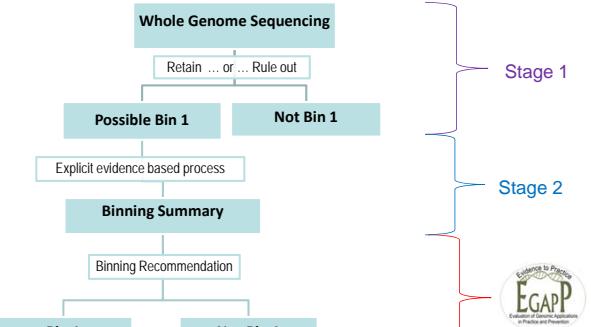


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## Process Overview



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## Stage 1: Early Rule-Out Criteria

**ACTIONABILITY**

1. Is there a practice guideline or systematic review for the genetic condition?
2. Does the practice guideline or systematic review indicate that the result is actionable in *one or more* of the following ways?
  - Patient Management
  - Surveillance or Screening
  - Family Management
  - Circumstances to Avoid
3. Is the result actionable in an undiagnosed adult with the genetic condition?

**PENETRANCE**

4. Is there at least one known pathogenic variant with at least moderate penetrance (>40%) **or** moderate relative risk (>2.0) in any population?

**SIGNIFICANCE**

5. Is this condition an important health problem?



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## Stage 2: Criteria

Stage 1	Stage 2
Actionability	How effective are interventions for preventing the harm?
Penetrance	What is the chance that this threat will materialize?
Significance	What is the nature of the threat to health for an individual carrying a deleterious allele?
	How acceptable are the interventions in terms of the burdens or risks placed on the individual?
	Would the underlying risk or condition escape detection prior to harm in the setting of recommended care?

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## Tiers of Evidence

### Step 3: Determine Tier of Evidence for each Source.

- First tier: Evidence from a systematic review, or a meta-analysis, or a clinical practice guideline clearly based on a systematic review<sup>1</sup>
- Second tier: Evidence from clinical practice guidelines or broad-based expert consensus with some level of evidence review, but using unclear methods or using sources that were not systematically identified<sup>1</sup>
- Third tier: Evidence from another source with non-systematic review of evidence (e.g., GeneTest Reviews, OrphaNet, and Clinical Utility Gene Cards, opinion of a single or few (-5) experts) with additional primary literature cited
- Fourth tier: Evidence from another source with non-systematic review of evidence (e.g., GeneTest Reviews, OrphaNet, and Clinical Utility Gene Cards, opinion of a single or few (-5) experts) with no citations to primary data sources

<sup>1</sup>systematic review of evidence means that traditional systematic review methods are followed including: a) a clearly stated set of objectives, b) an explicit, reproducible methodology, c) systematic search that attempts to identify all studies that would meet the eligibility criteria, d) inclusion and exclusion criteria for studies are pre-defined, and e) an assessment of the validity of findings in the included studies, and f) a systematic presentation and synthesis of the characteristics and findings of the included studies. (<http://www.cochrane-handbook.org>)

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## NEWS & EVENTS

### News & Events

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, September 25, 2013

#### New NIH-funded resource focuses on use of genomic variants in medical care



Three grants totaling more than \$25 million over four years will help three research groups to develop authoritative information on the millions of genomic variants relevant to human disease and the hundreds that are expected to be useful for clinical practice. The awards are from the National Institutes of Health.

More and more medical and research centers are sequencing the DNA of whole genomes (the body's entire genetic blueprint) or exomes (the genome's protein-coding region) of patients. Each time, millions of DNA differences in genes and the regions between the genes are detected. But doctors struggle to know which of those differences, called variants, are relevant to disease and for a patient's medical care. As a result, information on few genomic variants is used in clinical practice.

The grants will support a consortium of research groups to develop the Clinical Genome Resource (ClinGen). The investigators will design and implement a framework for evaluating which variants play a role in disease and those that are

## Issues to Consider for Genomic RORs in NHANES

- **Nature of the Survey:** Govt statistical survey- cross section of population (not clinical practice-not typical research but public health practice)
- **Nature of Informed consent** process (can be changed for future NHANES)
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- **Issue of "opportunistic" screening**



# Research Participants' Attitudes and Preferences

Laura M. Beskow, MPH, PhD  
Duke University  
February 10, 2014

## A personal note...

### HEALTH LAW AND ETHICS

#### Informed Consent for Population-Based Research Involving Genetics

Laura M. Beskow, MPH

Wylie Burke, MD, PhD

Jon E. Merz, MBA, JD, PhD

Patricia A. Barr

Sharon Terry, MA

Victor B. Penchazadeh, MD, MSPH

Lawrence O. Gostin, JD

Marta Cwinn, MD, MPH

Muin J. Khoury, MD, PhD

Bridging the gap between gene discovery and our ability to use genetic information to benefit health requires population-based knowledge about the contribution of common gene variants and gene-environment interactions to the risk of disease. The risks and benefits associated with population-based research involving genetics, especially lower-penetrance gene variants, can differ in nature from those associated with family-based research. In response to the urgent need for appropriate guidelines, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

*JAMA* 2001; 286(18): 2315-21

## Public support for biobanking

- Data suggest that people are supportive of population-based biobanking research
  - NHANES experience: Consent rates for future genetic research
    - 1999-2000: 85%
    - 2001-2002: 90%
    - 2007-2008: 86%

*McQuillan et al 2003; 2006; 2011*

## Today: Participant views on return of individual genetic research results

- What do people say when asked “do you want individual results?”
- What explains their answers?
  - Reasons people give
  - Research design challenges
- Discussion: Role of participant preferences in setting policy

## Literature on Participant Preferences

(references on final slide)

In general, people say 'yes' when asked if they want individual research results

- For example: Online survey of US adults (n=4659) about a proposed genetic cohort study
  - "Nine in ten agreed that they would want to know all of their individual research results"

*Kaufman et al 2008*

Many say 'yes' even when not actionable

- For example:
  - Online survey about proposed genetic cohort study
    - 91% wanted "individual research results about health risks, even if there was nothing I could do about them"
  - Telephone survey of older US adults (n=504) about research on stored biospecimens
    - 89% wanted to be informed if "the researcher learned something about you but wasn't sure if it might affect your health"

*Kaufman et al 2008; Wendler & Emanuel 2002*

What reasons do people give?

- Information is valuable
- Treatment, prevention
  - "More than anything just to ..."
  - "[To learn] if there's a way I should ..."
- Benefit family
- Reciprocity
  - "You have an obligation to tell these people. They expect something back from you. I'm ..."
  - *Particularly in studies that maintain ongoing contact (e.g., to obtain updated health info):*
  - "Because if they're calling you up and wanting to find out how your health is, it seems to me like they could mention something."

*Murphy et al*

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## What reasons do people give?

- Future treatment
- Research
- Life planning
- Right to information

*Murphy et al*

“You might as well know because  
If somebody has an interest in  
working on a research project with  
I “You can have all your affairs in order  
like “Yeah, because that’s their blood.  
They have a right to know what’s  
going on. If I sat down and ...  
willingly gave somebody some of  
my blood for a test, I think I should  
get it back. I should know the grade  
of my test since I took it.”

## What reasons do people give for not wanting results?

- Undue worry, distress
- Misunderstanding
- Nature of the research

“I wouldn’t want to be told ... because  
“The average person is not gonna be  
“If they’re giving you some type of drug or a  
placebo, then ... they’d be obligated to tell  
you. But if all they’re doing is taking your  
blood and your general information, and  
then watching you from a distance, they’re  
under no obligation to come back to you.”

## Research Design Challenges

## The effect of asking

- “Involuntary curiosity”: Curiosity arises spontaneously when individual alerted to information gap
  - Posing a question that confronts individual directly with missing information
  - Possession of information by someone else

*Loewenstein 1994*

## The effect of asking

Example: Survey of research participants (n=561)

- “Suppose you could order a free home test kit that would allow you to easily and painlessly **test your saliva to determine your chances of developing Alzheimer's disease**. How likely would you be to order such a test?”
  - **39%** said ‘very likely’
- “Suppose as part of a research study you could have a test on your blood, and the results showed that you have Alzheimer's. How likely would you be to want to know?”
  - **70%** said ‘very likely’

*Wendler & Pentz 2007*

## What we ask (and don't ask)

- Preferences versus acceptability
- Example: Cognitive interviews (n=40) about biobank consent form
  - Asked: “What do you think about the statement, ‘You should not expect to get individual results from research done with your blood?’”

*Beskow et al 2008; 2009*

## What we ask

- ~2/3 said that
  - Limited knowledge: “This is a collective thing, you know. I really didn't understand that from the very beginning.”
  - Different expectations: “It just takes too much time trying to be sure that [it's] supposed to be a research thing. It's not like a medical treatment that they have studies to tell you there's something in there. It's a random blood test -- not diagnosis or anything.”
  - Lack of prior expectations

*If there is an option for me to get results, I'm going to say yes. But if you tell me I'm not going to get them, I'm not really going to care.” (Bollinger et al 2012)*

## How we ask, Part 1: Wording

- Example:

“Assume a genetic **test** was performed in the future using your stored tissue samples that were taken now to **determine** your chances of getting a particular illness (e.g., cancer, diabetes, depression). How much would you want to be given the results of the test at time the future test is done?”

  - 71% answered at ‘very interested’ end of 11-pt scale

*Hoop et al 2009*

## How we ask, Part 2: Hypotheticals

- Used to anticipate public interest, understand factors that influence reactions, prepare for emerging technologies
- Responses to hypotheticals may not accurately reflect actual behavior (e.g., sizeable gap between estimated and actual uptake of genetic susceptibility testing)

*Persky et al 2007*

## How we ask, Part 3: Context

- Contextual circumstances influence the way participants perceive, position themselves towards biobank research
- Participants acquire different expectations depending on the type of biobank, type of relationship

*Hoeyer 2010*

## The context of Kaufman et al.

- Cohort study investigating genes, environment, lifestyle:
  - 10 or more years duration
  - First study visit at local medical facility (community clinic, hospital)
  - Give detailed medical history, including diet and lifestyle
  - Asked about home, workplace environmental exposures
  - Complete physical appropriate for age, give blood sample
  - Perhaps asked to keep food, exercise diary; use device to measure environmental pollution
  - Contacted for updated info every 6-12 months: General health; new illnesses; lifestyle, diet changes; environmental exposures
  - Second physical exam at end of study
  - Researchers apply to study coded samples, genetic information, and other medical data stored at NIH

*Kaufman et al 2008*

## The context of Kaufman et al.

- Further context – definition of “individual research result”:

An individual participant’s research result would be the information about whether that person had a **specific genetic, environmental, or lifestyle risk factor**

- 91% agreed “I would want to know all of my individual research results about health risks, even if there was nothing I could do about them”

*Kaufman et al 2008*

## The Role of Participant Preferences

### Summary

- Literature on participant preferences
  - Provides important, interesting insights
  - Limitations of empirical research
    - Importance of making survey/interview instruments routinely available with publication
- Key question: What is the role of participant preferences in setting policy specifically in the NHANES context?

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