



AMERICAN BOARD OF MEDICAL GENETICS AND GENOMICS
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NEWS RELEASE

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**Medical Genetics Specialty Board Changes Name
Adds 'Genomics' to Better Reflect Clinical Practice**

BETHESDA, MD – May 21, 2014 – The American Board of Medical Genetics, which certifies genetic specialists and also accredits laboratory training programs in the field of human genetics, recently changed its name to the American Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics. The Board has changed its acronym to ABMGG, as well.

The word “Genomics” was added to the name to better reflect clinical practice. “Although medical geneticists have been using a genomic approach for years, technological advances in the field have vastly increased its capabilities. We do not evaluate single genes in isolation, but rather evaluate the interrelationships of genes to promote human health,” said ABMGG President Nancy C. Rose, MD. “Our new name recognizes the increasingly growing importance of genomics, along with genetics, in all fields of medicine.”

The name change also allows ABMGG to maintain alignment with its corresponding professional society, which changed its name to the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ACMG) in 2011. “When our professional society changed its name, we initiated thoughtful and deliberate discussions to explore the merits of changing our name to remain in alignment with ACMG, which represents the clinical and laboratory geneticists who are board certified by us,” said V. Reid Sutton, MD, who serves on ABMGG’s Accreditation Committee. “It is important that our Board and our professional society share a common name and a clear message with our colleagues, other specialists, and the public.”

It is not the scope of practice that has changed as much as the technology, noted Robert Nussbaum, MD, who serves on the ABMGG Board of Directors. “Medical genetics has always focused on translating genes into health, but the advancing technology has enabled us to access information about the entire genome. As a result, we are able to use genomics to better care for our patients, including preventing disease and maintaining health.”

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About ABMGG

The American Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ABMGG) is one of 24 medical specialty boards that comprise the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). An independent, non-profit organization, ABMGG’s mission is to serve the public and the medical profession by promoting and assuring standards of excellence in medical genetics and genomics. To accomplish this, it accredits training programs; credentials and certifies practitioners of medical genetics, and fosters life-long learning through maintenance of certification.

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