GENERAL INTEREST

“RNA Interference Gene Therapy Takes Two Steps Forward, One Step Back”
(May 28) Science Daily reports, “Three years ago Mark Kay, MD, PhD, published the first results showing that a hot new biological phenomenon called RNA interference was an effective gene-therapy technique in mice.”

“Nobel Laureate Nüsslein-Volhard To Discuss Mysteries Of Genetics”
(May 28) Medical News Today reports, “Why do children look like their parents? How does an embryonic cell know how to become an eye rather than an eyelash? How do simple egg cells develop into so many different life forms?”

“Blood Compatibility - It's All In The Genes!”
(May 30) Medical News Today reports, “In most developed countries safe blood transfusion is taken for granted. But blood grouping is a complex business, and not all blood groups are compatible.”

ETHICAL, LEGAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES (ELSI)

Toward evidence-based assessment for coverage and reimbursement of laboratory-based diagnostic and genetic tests

Ethical, social and legal implications of genetic testing in liver disease
van Leeuwen DJ & Bernat JL Hepatology 2006 May;43(6):1195-201

CHRONIC DISEASE

Cancer

“The New Algorithm Analyses Gene Chips To Detect Certain Cancer Genes”
(June 1) New Materials International reports, “Researchers at New York University’s Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences have developed a new algorithm that makes it much easier to detect certain cancer genes, and as a test, have applied it to map a set of tumor-suppressor genes involved in lung cancer.”

Genetics as a tool to improve cancer outcomes: ethics and policy
"RNA Interference Genetic Screen Suggests New Targets for Cancer Therapies"
(May 29) National Cancer Institute reports, "Researchers at the National Cancer Institute (NCI), part of the National Institutes of Health, have developed a new method to identify genes that keep cancer cells active and that could be potential targets of anticancer therapies."

"Mayo Clinic Studies Find Association Between Acid Reflux And Esophageal Cancer"
(May 31) Science Daily reports, "Two new Mayo Clinic studies draw attention to the risk factors and possible genetic basis for Barrett's esophagus and esophageal cancer (adenocarcinoma)."

"Jefferson Scientists Identify Gene Mutation Potentially Involved in Breast Cancer Initiation"
(May 31) Thomas Jefferson University Hospital reports, "Researchers at Jefferson Medical College and the Kimmel Cancer Center at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia and at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York have found evidence suggesting that a mutation in a gene that normally helps block the formation of breast tumors could play a role in the initiation of a major form of breast cancer."

Acceptance of Preventive Surgeries by Israeli Women Who had Undergone BRCA Testing
Kram V, et al. Fam Cancer 2006 May

Cardiovascular Disease (including Hypertension and Stroke)

"Genetic disorder could cause strokes"
(May 30) WebIndia123.com reports, "A rare genetic disorder may be responsible for causing strokes in young people, though the condition's progress can be slowed using enzyme replacement treatment, says a study."

Immune System Conditions

"New pathways for autoimmune treatment identified"
(May 28) Medical College of Georgia reports, "A rare genetic defect that can trigger a host of diseases from type 1 diabetes to alopecia has helped explain the imbalance of immune regulator and killer cells in autoimmune disease."

Lysosomal Storage Disease

"Overcoming A Genetic Defect"
(May 31) Medical News Today reports, "The European Union has approved a grant of about € 2.4 million to a team of European scientists, led by the Kiel biochemist Professor Paul Saftig, to carry out research on the rare hereditary disease alpha-mannosidosis."

INFEKTIOUS DISEASE

HLA and Leprosy in the Pre and Postgenomic Eras
MENTAL and NEUROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

Mental Health and Behavioral Conditions

Molecular genetic studies of schizophrenia

Genetics of affective (mood) disorders

Neurological Disorders

“Research Suggests Cause Of Neurodegeneration In Huntington's Disease”
(May 30) Science Daily reports, “The severe neurodegeneration associated with Huntington's disease may result from molecular mutations that block the transport of nutrients within cells.”

Genetics of autism spectrum disorder

PHARMACOGENOMICS

The human cytochrome P450 Allele Nomenclature Committee Web site: submission criteria, procedures, and objectives
Sim SC & Ingelman-Sundberg M *Methods Mol Biol* 2006;320:183-91

The future prospects of pharmacogenetics in oral anticoagulation therapy

Human genetics and pharmacology of neurotransmitter transporters
Lin Z & Madras BK *Handb Exp Pharmacol* 2006(175):327-71

GENOMIC EPIDEMIOLOGY AND TOOLS FOR POPULATION HEALTH

Power and sample size calculations in the presence of phenotype errors for case/control genetic association studies