GENERAL INTEREST

“NIH Encourages African Americans to Make Health A ‘Family Reunion’ Affair”
(June13) NIH reports, “As African-American families across the country plan their reunions this summer, the National Kidney Disease Education Program (NKDEP), an initiative of the National Institutes of Health, is encouraging them to talk about several health issues that disproportionately affect African Americans — diabetes, high blood pressure, and kidney disease.”

“Gene called “Nanog” could be key to master cells”
(June14) Reuters Health reports, “A gene named after the mythical Celtic land of the ever young could help explain how to reprogramme adult cells into embryonic stem cells to treat diseases, researchers at the University of Edinburgh reported Wednesday.”

“Scientists watch the behavior of a single gene in real time”
(June14) News-Medical.net reports, “Scientists at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University have observed for the first time that gene expression can occur in the form of discrete “pulses” of gene activity.”

“Speeding the search for elusive chromosomal errors”
(June12) EurekAlert! reports, “A pediatric research team has used commercially available gene chips to scrutinize all of a patient's chromosomes to identify small defects that cause genetic diseases.”

ETHICAL, LEGAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES (ELSI)

“Too Much Information”
(June13) Washingtonpost.com reports, “Imagine being able to order a genetic test over the Internet -- to see if you have inherited a predisposition to cancer or whether there might be a genetic component to your infertility -- without having to get approval from your doctor, consult a genetic counselor or risk the fallout that might result from filing an insurance claim.”

Exploring Genetic Counseling Communication Patterns: The Role of Teaching and Counseling Approaches

Is Self-Disclosure Part of the Genetic Counselor's Clinical Role?
Statewide cancer genomics integration in Michigan

“Activation of microRNA inhibits cancer gene in human cancer cells”
(June12) EurekAlert! reports, “Scientists report that tumor cells display a dramatic reduction of cancer-causing genes when a newly discovered method is used to activate the expression of protective microRNAs in the cancer cell genome.”

“Gene Test May Show Who Can Skip Chemo”
(June12) Newsday.com reports, “Claudia Lowry had a scary decision: Could she safely skip chemotherapy after surgeons removed her breast cancer?”

“Scientists tie several cancers to common ‘oncogene engine’”
(June12) EurekAlert! reports, “Researchers at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute report that a common "oncogene engine" – a small family of malfunctioning cell growth switches – drives several seemingly unrelated, lethal forms of cancer, including malignant melanoma. The finding suggests that it may be possible to attack these different cancers with the same therapy.”

“Lack of key enzyme associated with development of rare tumor”
(June11) EurekAlert! reports, “Researchers at the National Institutes of Health have discovered that a rare tumor of the adrenal glands appears to result from a genetic deficiency of an important enzyme.”

“Discovery of SLIRP gene could lead to cancer breakthroughs”
(June 9) News-Medical.Net reports, “Western Australian researchers have discovered a new gene that could lead to breakthroughs in breast and prostate cancer, as well as diabetes.”

“Protein From The Wrong Side Of The Tracks Aids Cancer Virus”
(June 8) Research News reports, “A protein made by a cancer-causing virus using an unusual gene enables that virus to infect immune cells and persist in the host, new research shows.”

Using Family History to Assess Women’s Cancer Risk in a Parish Nurse Setting
Cherry C *Nurs Health Sci* 2006 Jun;8(2):129

Concerns of Young Women Who are Positive for Brca1 and/or Brca2
Hamilton R *Nurs Health Sci* 2006 Jun;8(2):127

BRCA1 and BRCA2 genetic testing in Italian breast and/or ovarian cancer families:
mutation spectrum and prevalence and analysis of mutation prediction models
Hormonal Disorders

“Two Seville Doctors Discover The Gene That Causes The Hereditary Cushing’s Syndrome”
(June 13) Medical News Today reports, “Two Seville-based scientists of the Molecular Genetics Laboratory of Virgen Macarena Hospital have discovered the gene responsible for the hereditary Cushing’s syndrome, a disease that is the result of an increase of the blood cortisol level, a hormone produced by the adrenal glands.”

Asthma

“Gene Variation Affects Asthma Drug Treatment”
(June 15) Medical News Today reports, “Researchers at the University of Dundee have discovered that a significant proportion of young asthmatics may not benefit from a commonly used asthma medicine known as salmeterol, due to a gene variation which is present in around 13% of the population.”

“Danes find the asthma gene”
(June 9) The Copenhagen Post reports, “A Danish team of scientists has found the gene responsible for the development of asthma.”

Osteological Disorders

“Gene research hope to ease brittle bone pain for men”
(June 13) News.scotsman.com reports, “Scientists in Edinburgh are set to carry out groundbreaking genetic research into the soaring number of men suffering from the crippling bone condition osteoporosis.”

Genetics of osteoporosis
Huang QY & Kung AW Mol Genet Metab 2006 Jun

Ocular Disease

“3 new cataract causing genes found”
(June 12) Zeenews.com reports, “Geneticists at the Centre for Genetic Disorders of Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU) have identified three genes that lead to cataract among the Indian population.”

Family history of inflammatory bowel disease in patients with idiopathic ocular inflammation

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH / CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH NEEDS

Congenital Conditions

“New step toward treatment for Duchenne muscular dystrophy”
(June 8) EurekAlert! reports, “The team led by Dr. Jacques P. Tremblay, a researcher with the Human Genetics Department at Quebec City’s Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Québec (CHUQ) and professor with Université Laval’s Faculty of Medicine, has taken an important step toward a cure for Duchenne muscular dystrophy.”

Sharing Information with Children about Their Genetic Conditions
Maternal and Child Health

“Gene Expression In Labor; And More -- Press Release From PLoS Medicine”
(June14) Medical News Today reports, “A Research Article, Perspective and e-Letter all published today discuss the use of microarrays to discover genes involved in childbirth.”

Genetic Issues in Pediatric Pancreatitis

MENTAL and NEUROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

Neurological Disorders

“Single copy of Parkinson's-risk gene mutation may lead to earlier symptom onset”
(June12) EurekAlert! reports, “Mutations in a gene already known to play a role in causing an inherited form of Parkinson disease may also influence the age at which symptoms of the neurological disorder appear.”

PHARMACOGENOMICS

Complex disease-associated pharmacogenetics: drug efficacy, drug safety, and confirmation of a pathogenetic hypothesis (Alzheimer's disease)
Roses AD, et al. Pharmacogenomics J 2006 Jun

GENOMIC EPIDEMIOLOGY AND TOOLS FOR POPULATION HEALTH

Resources for Genetic Variation Studies
Serre D & Hudson TJ Annu Rev Genomics Hum Genet 2006 Jun

Genetics and genomics nursing: scope and standards of practice
Greco KE Nurs Health Sci 2006 Jun;8(2):125

A pioneer nursing genomics staff development program

Demystifying online genetic databases

Smokers' Perceptions about Genetic Contributions to Smoking