Genomics Weekly News Digest

September 7, 2006

The Genomics Weekly News Digest is a summary of the Genomics Weekly Update that is distributed by the CDC. The contents are arranged by topic, and not all the original content is included. The items are copied and pasted into this document from the original. The original content can be accessed at: http://www.cdc.gov/genomics/update/current.htm

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GENERAL INTEREST

“Genetic secrets of human egg discovered”
(Sep 6) M & C News reports, “U.S. scientists say they have identified the genes that are unique to the human egg.”

“Party animal? Don't blame your genes”
(Sep 5) abc.net reports, “Genes shape our health and appearance more than they shape our personality, suggests a new study of thousands of people in a genetically isolated part of the world.”

ETHICAL, LEGAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES (ELSI)

The Genetic Counseling Video Project (GCVP): Models of practice

“FDA releases draft guidelines regulating complex diagnostic tests”
(Sep 6) News-Medical.Net reports, “FDA on Tuesday released draft guidelines that assert the agency's authority for regulating gene- and protein-based diagnostic tests for conditions such as breast cancer and ovarian cancer, the Wall Street Journal reports.”

CHRONIC DISEASE

Cancer

“Genetically Engineered Cells Can Transform Immune Cells Into Tumor Fighters In Humans”
(Sep 4) Medical News Today reports, “A team of researchers has genetically engineered normal immune cells to become specialized tumor fighters, demonstrating for the first time that these engineered cells can persist in the body and shrink large tumors in humans.”

Cancer Risk Assessment: Examining the Family Physician's Role
“Researchers seek genetic key to lymphoma”
(Sep 6) OPTUSnet reports, “A Gold Coast academic says one of Australia's most common cancers is becoming even more prevalent.”

Low frequency of AXIN2 mutations and high frequency of MUTYH mutations in patients with multiple polyposis

“Gene Test May Improve Breast Cancer Treatment”
(Sep 6) Yahoo News reports, “A test that checks the expression of 70 genes associated with breast cancer can help doctors determine a patient's risk of cancer recurrence or death, an international study finds.”

Cardiovascular Disease (including Hypertension and Stroke)

“Fight Back Against Inherited Sudden-Death Heart Condition”
(Sep 5) Newswire reports, “A combination of better diagnosis, treatment and genetic testing is starting to help people fight back against hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, an inherited condition that has the potential to cause sudden cardiac death.”

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH / CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH NEEDS

Congenital Conditions

“Older fathers almost six times more likely to have autistic children”
(Sep 5) News-Medical.Net reports, “Researchers in the U.S. have found that children fathered by older men have a higher risk of developing autism, possibly because of mutations or other genetic changes.”

“Researchers identify genetic risk for type 1 diabetes”
(Sep 4) News-Medical.Net reports, “A discovery at the Barbara Davis Center for Childhood Diabetes has identified a genetic risk for type 1 diabetes three to four times higher than previously thought possible.”

“Girl With a Fatal Genetic Disease Making Progress in a Clinical Trial”
(Sep 3) Red Orbit reports, “When Elizabeth Lee Hallam was born on Sept. 29, 2003, she was a textbook example of the perfect baby.”

A recessive Mendelian model to predict carrier probabilities of DFNB1 for nonsyndromic deafness

Potential impact of newborn screening for cystic fibrosis on child survival: A systematic review and analysis
Cost-effectiveness of 4 Neonatal Screening Strategies for Cystic Fibrosis

Maternal and Child Health

“Selection of embryos is on rise for couples”
(Sep 3) International Herald Tribunr reports, “As Chad Kingsbury watches his daughter playing in the sandbox behind their Chicago house, the thought that has flashed through his mind a million times in her two years of life comes again: Chloe will never be sick.”

Perceived genetic knowledge, attitudes towards genetic testing, and the relationship between these among patients with a chronic disease

MENTAL and NEUROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

Mental Health and Behavioral Conditions

“UCLA study uncovers new risk factor for schizophrenia”
(Sep 5) EurekAlert! reports, “UCLA scientists have discovered that infants who possess a specific immune gene that too closely resembles their mothers’ are more likely to develop schizophrenia later in life.”

Neurological Disorders

“Musician's cramp may run in families”
(Sep 1) Reuters Health reports, “Musician's cramp, and other so-called focal task-specific dystonias, are typically thought of as sporadic or occupational conditions.”

PHARMACOGENOMICS

Pharmacogenetics and pharmacogenomics: development, science, and translation

GENOMIC EPIDEMIOLOGY AND TOOLS FOR POPULATION HEALTH

“Genetic horoscopes' build high hopes”
(Sep 7) Mail & Guardian Online reports, “This is the most important, most wondrous map ever produced by humankind.” Thus said United States president Bill Clinton as he welcomed the unveiling of the draft sequence of the human genome -- the decoding of the three billion "letters" of DNA in our cells -- in March 2000.”
“Researcher Studies Gene Families To Explore Diversity And Evolution”
(Sep 5) Science Daily reports, "Theoretical biologist Stephen Proulx studies gene families to explore how genomes become diverse and evolve.”

“ExonHit Produces a New Map for Human Genome Expression as Well as Tools for its Study”
(Sep 5) tickertech.com reports, "22,000 Genes can Express Over 200,000 Messenger RNAs, all Detected for the First Time Thanks to ExonHit's Self-Funded Research Activities."