

News release

*For immediate release, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2010*

## Public health in the genomic era: a global issue

Key issues for the future of global public health in the light of rapid developments in genomic medicine and technologies have been identified by an international expert group and published in the journal *Genetics in Medicine* and online by the PHG Foundation.

The experts concluded that genomic medicine was very much an international issue, recommending that appropriate genetic health services and research should be fostered in lower and middle-income countries (LMIC).

They also called for increased global collaboration, and ongoing efforts to integrate genomics into public health research and practice, including creation of research infrastructure for generating an evidence base for genomic medicine. This will help to bridge the current gap between the emergence of new knowledge and technologies and their application for health.

Dr Tikki Pang, Director of Research Policy & Cooperation for the World Health Organisation (WHO) observed: *“Genomics is relevant and important to all countries and populations...This Report will help clinicians, public health practitioners and relevant decision-makers frame and focus their strategies and approaches”*.

The expert group and summit was co-organised by four partners: the PHG Foundation (Cambridge, UK), the Centre for Bioethics (Indiana University, USA), the Centre of Genomics and Policy (McGill University, Canada) and the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research (University of Western Australia). It included experts in various fields from Argentina, Australia, Canada, Nigeria, the Netherlands, France, Italy, the USA and the UK.

The full report, *Public health in an era of genomic and personalised medicine*, including recommendations, is freely available from the PHG Foundation website:

[www.phgfoundation.org](http://www.phgfoundation.org)

Article: Burke W *et al.* Genet. Med. 15 Nov 2010, doi: 10.1097/GIM.0b013e3182011222

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### Notes to Editors

- The PHG Foundation is a genetics policy think-tank and health service development NGO based in Cambridge, UK
- Our mission is *making science work for health* - identifying the best opportunities for 21st century genomic and biomedical science to improve global health, and to promote the effective and equitable translation of scientific innovation into medical and public health policy and practice.
- We generate knowledge, evidence and ideas to inform, educate, and stimulate debate
- We also provide expert research, analysis, health services planning and consultancy services for governments, health systems, and other non-profit organisations

The PHG Foundation is the working name of the Foundation for Genomics and Population Health, a charitable company registered in England and Wales, charity no. 1118664 / company no. 5823194.

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