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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

Meeting of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetic Testing

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, DHHS.

ACTION: Meeting notice.

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Pursuant to Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given of the first meeting of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetic Testing (**SACGT**), U.S. Public Health Service. The meeting will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on June 30, 1999 at the National Institutes of Health, Building 31, C Wing, Conference Room 10; 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20892. The meeting will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to adjournment with attendance limited to space available. The first **SACGT** meeting will be for orientation and organizational purposes. There will be a limited period of time provided for public comment and interested individuals should contact the **SACGT** Executive Secretary as shown below.

Under authority of 42 U.S.C. 217a, section 222 of the Public Health Service Act, as amended, the Department of Health and Human Services established the **SACGT** to advise and make recommendations to the Secretary through the Assistant Secretary for Health on all aspects of the development and use of genetic tests. The **SACGT** is directed to (1) recommended policies and procedures for the safe and effective incorporation of genetic technologies into health care; (2) assess the effectiveness of existing and future measures for oversight of genetic tests; (3) and identify research needs related to the Committee's purview. The establishment of the **SACGT** was recommended by the Task Force on Genetic Testing (TFGT) of the NIH-DOE Working Group on the Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications (ELSI) of the Human Genome Project as well as the Joint NIH-DOE Committee to Evaluate the ELSI Program of the Human Genome Project.

The **SACGT** is composed of 13 non-governmental experts in relevant medical, scientific, and professional fields, including genetic testing, medical genetics, genetic counseling, primary health care, public health, clinical laboratory management, diagnostic technology, ethics, law, psychology, and social sciences, as well as patient/consumer advocates. Since the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Advisory Committee (CDC) and the Medical Devices Advisory Committee (FDA) have relevant roles in ensuring the quality and safety of genetic testing laboratories and genetic test kits, one current member of each of these committees serve on the **SACGT**. The heads, or their designees, of six DHHS agencies are nonvoting, ex officio members of the **SACGT**. The agencies are the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Food and Drug Administration; Health Care Financing Administration; Health Resources and Services Administration; and National Institutes of Health.

The draft meeting agenda and other information about the **SACGT** will be available at the following web site: [http:// www.nih.gov/od/orda/sacgtdocs.htm](http://www.nih.gov/od/orda/sacgtdocs.htm). Individuals who wish to provide public comments or who plan to attend the meeting and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should notify the **SACGT** Executive Secretary, Ms. Sarah Carr, by telephone at 301-496-9838 or E-mail at [sc112c@nih.gov](mailto:sc112c@nih.gov). The **SACGT** office is located at 6000 Executive Boulevard, Suite 302, Bethesda, Maryland 20892.

Dated: June 2, 1999.

David Satcher,  
Assistant Secretary for Health and Surgeon General.  
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