



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

January 23, 2008

It is my pleasure to welcome all of you gathered today at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta to celebrate ten years of accomplishment in public health genomics. In its first ten years, the CDC National Office for Public Health Genomics has built an important foundation, fostering worldwide understanding and application of scientific discoveries in genomics to improve the public's health.

Through these efforts, which are at the heart of our Personalized Health Care initiative, CDC is enhancing the effectiveness of health care through scientific discovery and new knowledge management tools, made possible especially by genomics and health information technology. The goal is accelerated development of new and useful tools for researchers and health care practitioners, and strengthened disease prevention activities. These tools help assess and facilitate the effective use of genetic testing and family history in patient care and public health programs, with direct benefits to patients.

As we look ahead and seek to better understand the role of genetics and environment in health, public health genomics will help fill in significant pieces of the puzzle. I applaud your taking this opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of the last decade and more importantly, to press on to even greater achievements in the next ten years.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael O. Leavitt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Michael O. Leavitt