

# SACGHS Genetics Education and Training Task Force

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Task Force Chair  
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# Task Force Members

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## **SACGHS**

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# Session Purpose

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- Provide update on activities of Task Force
  - Report on draft Task Force Charge
  - Elicit feedback on draft
  - Reach consensus with Committee on final draft
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# Background

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- 2004 SACGHS Resolution on Genetics Education and Training of Health Professionals
  - November 2007 SACGHS Education Roundtable
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# 2004 SACGHS Resolution

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In summary, the Resolution urged the Secretary to:

- Promote and incorporate genetic information as an integral part of health practice;
  - Provide educational and training support;
  - Encourage collaboration with State, Territorial, and other relevant organizations;
  - Support programs that promote diversity and cultural competency.
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# 2007 SACGHS Education Roundtable

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- 10 participants representing medicine, nursing, genetic counseling, physician assistants, public health, education, and laboratory medicine
  - Discussion of the following key issues: professional education and training programs, diversity in the workplace, family history, emerging issues (e.g., gene-environment), and emerging stakeholders
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# Formation of the Education & Training Task Force

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At the end of the Nov. 2007 Education Roundtable, the Committee decided:

1. The topic of genetic education and training continues to be an area of concern consistent with the SACGHS charter.
  2. The issues related to genetic education and training could be best addressed through a task force.
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# Development of the Task Force Charge

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A draft was crafted after email and telephone conferencing among the Task Force members

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# Draft Charge – the need

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Advances in genetics and genomics are leading to a better understanding of disease processes and improved application of genetic testing to guide health decisions. With increased integration of genetics into other medical disciplines, however, health professionals—with or without training or expertise in genetics—are challenged to keep pace with this dynamic and rapidly evolving field. Education will have to address the growing importance of genetics in common disease, which likely will require more knowledge and understanding about risk assessment and communication. In addition, the accelerated growth of direct-to-consumer genetic services highlights the need for informed decision making.

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## ...need

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To realize the benefits of genetic technologies and protect against potential harms, the education of healthcare professionals, the public health workforce, and the general public is critical. For these reasons, the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health, and Society (SACGHS) has formed a task force to build on the findings of Committee's 2004 resolution on genetic education and training of health professionals.

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# Draft Charge – the aims

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The task force is charged with developing a plan to identify the education and training needs of health professionals, lay health educators, and the general public in order to optimize the benefits of genetic and genomic services for all Americans. This plan will also outline the steps required to meet these needs and evaluate the efficacy of educational and training efforts. This plan includes, but is not limited to, the following activities:

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# Draft Charge – the goals

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1. Assembling evidence to determine which recommendations from the 2004 SACGHS education resolution were implemented and which ones require additional efforts.
  2. Identifying the education and training needs specific to genetics and genomics for health professionals involved in providing care for individuals and for those involved in the development of guidelines, policies, and strategies for incorporating genetics/genomics into clinical care.
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## ...goals

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3. Identifying the education and training needs of lay health educators, who are noncredentialed individuals from the local area trained to promote health and provide general healthcare services for a specific condition or program.
  4. Identifying the education needs specific to genetics and genomics for medical directors, administrators, and policy makers in the public and private sectors to inform policy development, legislation, coverage and reimbursement decisions, and other issues that directly or indirectly impact the provision of genetic services.
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## ...goals

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5. Identifying the education needs of patients and consumers to assist them in informed decision making about the use of genetic services and enhance their understanding and utilization of results and how these results impact decisions about prevention or treatment.
  6. Identifying effective educational tools that can be incorporated into electronic health records, personal health records, and clinical decision support systems that would enhance the appropriate integration of genetic and genomic technologies throughout the healthcare system without adversely impacting privacy, access, and workflow. In addition, identify gaps where such tools do not currently exist and develop recommendations on how to address these gaps.
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## ...goals

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7. Assessing the use of evaluative research methods to determine the efficacy of genetics and genomics education and training efforts.
  8. Promoting active involvement by health professional governing bodies that influence education and training (e.g., residency review, National Board of Medical Examiners) to be more proactive in their requirements for genetics in curricula, clinical training, licensing and certification, and continuing education requirements.
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# Ad Hoc Members

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As the task force begins its work, representatives with the following perspectives will be added:

- Professional societies
  - Additional health disciplines
  - Genetic educators
  - Community educators
  - State, territorial organization
  - Patients/Consumers
  - Others?
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# Next Steps

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- Decide on initial activities
  - Form work groups
  - Select ad hoc members as needed
  - Report on progress at July 2008 SACGHS meeting
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