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June 30, 2010

Steven Teutsch, MD, MPH, Chair
HHS Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health, and Society

Submitted via email to:
Kathryn Camp
Office of Biotechnology Activities
National Institutes of Health
6705 Rockledge Drive, Suite 750
Bethesda, Maryland 20892
campkm@od.nih.gov

Dear Dr. Teutsch:

The American Nurses Association (ANA) is grateful for the opportunity to review the Draft Report, **Genetics Education and Training of Health Care Professionals, Public Health Providers, and Consumers**. We congratulate those who drafted this remarkably comprehensive, beautifully written, well-organized and articulate document. Many of the proposed recommendations promise to address the identified genetics education and training needs of health care professionals, public health providers and consumers and patients.

The ANA is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 3.1 million registered nurses, the single largest group of health care professionals in the United States. Health care is a top national priority and is likely to remain one for the foreseeable future. RNs provide the 24/7 bedside care that is at the heart of health care in the United States. For over fourteen years, ANA has been actively involved in the work of human genetics as it unfolds following the sequencing of the human genome and the development of new technologies used to promote health and manage disease. Additionally, ANA works collaboratively with nurse educators to assure adequate education in genetics to promote the effective translation of new genetic knowledge into clinical practice.

The Draft Report's discussions of the topics are indeed accurate and complete. We agree with McInerney's summary of factors contributing to the limited amount of genetic

content in Nursing curricula across programs.

The conclusions of the Draft Report follow from the literature review and SACGHS survey and interview results. The questions posed by SACGHS were well designed and addressed the preparation of the health care workforce for clinical translation of genetics from multiple perspectives. The five themes regarding future directions in genetic education of health care professionals are of particular importance to nurses. We look forward to continuing our efforts, with other health care professionals, in integrating genetics throughout the entire continuum of our educational programs. In the second bullet, line 962, the term 'medical' might be replaced with 'health care professional' to reflect this in a more inclusive way.

The draft recommendations target the issues and concerns identified in this report. They are specific and actionable. All would benefit from the last part of recommendation 1. F., "develop a plan to monitor the outcome of these efforts."

Nurses have a particular interest in continuing education. Any CE initiatives should take into consideration the findings of the Cochrane Collaboration, which stated "...that improvement in health care provider behaviors (through CE) and ultimately, patient health outcomes, is dependent on the complexity of the learned material, method of instruction, and health care providers' access to interactive practice."

The recommendations are especially strong in the invitation for public-private partnerships. It would be wonderful to see all of the recommendations carried out simultaneously, but given the constraints of resources we believe that faculty development is key. Thus the activities in recommendations 1, 2, 4 and 6 have a higher priority.

We look forward to supporting the implementation of this important work, and appreciate the opportunity to review this draft. If we can be of further assistance, or if you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Martha Turner PhD, RN, Assistant Director of ANA's Center for Ethics and Human Rights, at 651-967-1342, martha.turner@ana.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Jean Schumann". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Mary Jean Schumann, MSN, MBA, RN, CPNP
Chief Programs Officer
American Nurses Association