



**November 14, 2013**

Welcome to the second issue of *The Genomics Landscape*, a monthly email message that aims to disseminate information directly from the NHGRI Director to the broader genomics community and other interested recipients. Each month, I will endeavor to highlight two to four topics, typically featuring one in greater detail.

This month, *The Genomics Landscape* includes:

- [Announcing the first Director of NHGRI's Division of Genomics and Society](#)
- [Federal Employee of the Year honorees hail from NHGRI and NIH Clinical Center](#)
- [NHGRI participates in annual American Society of Human Genetics meeting](#)
- [Knowing Your Family Health History is a powerful tool](#)

You received this email and one in October (and will receive a similar one in December) because we have identified you as part of the 'NHGRI constituency.' **To receive *The Genomics Landscape* beginning in January 2014, you will need to 'opt in' through a simple sign-up procedure (see below),** and I genuinely hope that you do so! Below, you will also find an email address for sending me suggestions for topics to discuss in the future — I would really like to know what interests you and what information I can provide, so please make suggestions!

All the best,

**To continue receiving *The Genomics Landscape* each month, you must sign up via the following ListServ before December 31, 2013:**

[list.nih.gov/cgi-bin/wa.exe?A0=NHGRILANDSCAPE](http://list.nih.gov/cgi-bin/wa.exe?A0=NHGRILANDSCAPE)

**To suggest topics for future messages, please send an e-mail to:**

[NHGRILANDSCAPE@MAIL.NIH.GOV](mailto:NHGRILANDSCAPE@MAIL.NIH.GOV)

### ***Announcing the first Director of NHGRI's Division of Genomics and Society***

Following an extensive search process, I am delighted to announce my selection for the first Director of the newly established Division of Genomics and Society: Dr. Larry Brody. A long-standing member of the Institute, Larry is currently Chief of the Genome Technology Branch within our Intramural Research Program and Chief Scientific Officer of the trans-NIH Center for Inherited Disease Research.

I established the Division of Genomics and Society in 2012 as part of an Institute-wide reorganization. It is one of four divisions that make up the Institute's Extramural Research Program. The Division of Genomics and Society is now responsible for overseeing an expanded program related to the many societal issues relevant to genomics research and genomic advances, incorporating and extending the activities of NHGRI's Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications (ELSI) Research Program. The latter was established in 1990 as part of the Human Genome Project, and aims to pursue multidisciplinary research and training designed to explore the impact of genomics on society.

Larry's expertise and interests are wide-ranging, from human genetics and genomics to the public understanding of science. As a bench scientist, he played an instrumental role in early and important discoveries about the *BRCA1* gene, which is responsible for a hereditary form of breast cancer. His research efforts have regularly included studying the practical implications of genomics. For example, Larry was a co-architect (along with Dr. Colleen McBride) of the NHGRI Multiplex Initiative, an innovative project that aimed to better understand how the general public comprehends and reacts to personal genetic testing results.

Larry has also invested considerable amounts of his professional efforts to addressing the broader societal issues relevant to contemporary genomics research. He has worked on several projects related to genomics, society, and minority populations and, most recently, he served as a key

### ***Federal Employee of the Year honorees hail from NHGRI and NIH Clinical Center***



*Julie Segre, Tara Palmore, and Team, with Cokie Roberts*

A team of researchers from NHGRI and the NIH Clinical Center has received a highly prestigious Service to America Medal for their efforts to protect patients from infections with drug-resistant bacteria. The group demonstrated a new way to trace transmission routes using cutting-edge genome-sequencing methods that will help hospitals facing similar crises in the future. The Partnership for Public Service – which grants the Service to America or "Sammie" medals – awarded them the coveted "Federal Employee of the Year" designation for their dedication and innovation in the face of daunting conditions. White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough presented the award to the team at an evening ceremony on October 3. The NHGRI honorees were Drs. Julie Segre and Evan Snitkin. To learn more, please visit

<http://www.genome.gov/27555212>.

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### ***NHGRI participates in annual American Society of Human Genetics meeting***

The annual meeting of the American Society of Human Genetics was held October 22-26 in Boston, MA. NHGRI scientists presented numerous talks and posters, moderated sessions, and hosted an information booth at this year's meeting which featured the interface between genomics and medicine. Highlights included a panel

developer of the public exhibition “Genome: Unlocking Life’s Code,” which opened in June at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History. Moreover, on multiple occasions, he worked closely with the U.S. Solicitor General in the drafting and editing of legal briefs and in the preparation of oral arguments for the gene-patenting case that went before the U.S. Supreme Court earlier this year.

Larry brings an extraordinary and diverse body of accomplishments and credentials that will serve him well in leading this newly created Division. His perspective as an active researcher combined with a demonstrated long-term interest in the intersection of science and society makes him uniquely qualified to lead this critical part of NHGRI’s research program. I have worked with Larry for nearly 20 years, all while we have both been at NHGRI. He is one of the most engaging and generous colleagues that I know, and I am extremely excited to have him join my core leadership team at the Institute.

Finally, I want to express my profound thanks to Dr. Mark Guyer (NHGRI Deputy Director), who has served as the Acting Director of the Division of Genomics and Society on an interim basis while the search for a permanent Director was conducted. Mark’s stewardship of the Division for the past year has been outstanding. Also, a special thanks to Karen Rothenberg (my Senior Advisor on Genomics and Society), who has been extremely helpful in the formulation of plans for this new Division and in preparations for the arrival of the permanent Director. Karen will continue to be an important part of our efforts to develop the vision for this Division and the Institute’s activities in this area more broadly.

Please join me in welcoming Larry Brody to his new role as an NHGRI Division Director!

discussion about the return of genomic results, a play that showcased important issues in genomics, and a session featuring the NHGRI Genomic Sequencing and Newborn Screening Program. For more details, please visit [www.genome.gov/27555224](http://www.genome.gov/27555224).

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***Knowing your family health history is a powerful tool***



***My Family Health Portrait***  
A tool from the Surgeon General

Health professionals know that common diseases (such as heart disease, cancer, and diabetes) and rare diseases (such as hemophilia, cystic fibrosis, and sickle cell anemia) can run in families. This Thanksgiving, the Surgeon General encourages you to talk with your family and learn about your family health history. It is easy to create a sophisticated portrait of your family's health by using the “My Family Health Portrait” online tool. To learn more, please visit [www.hhs.gov/familyhistory/](http://www.hhs.gov/familyhistory/).



### ***New Funding Opportunities***

Pre-application: Opportunities for collaborative research at the NIH Clinical Center (X02)

[grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-13-357.html](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-13-357.html)

Opportunities for collaborative research at the NIH Clinical Center (U01)

[grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-13-358.html](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-13-358.html)

Interpreting variation in human non-coding genomic regions using computational approaches and experimental assessment (R01)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HG-13-013.html>

### ***New Genomics Videos***

The African Diaspora: Integrating Culture Genomics and History Symposium at NMNH

[http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL1ay9ko4A8skLYfn8d9nlp\\_o9LLVky3P](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL1ay9ko4A8skLYfn8d9nlp_o9LLVky3P)

Searching for Your Roots: Integrating Culture, Genomics, and History

[www.ustream.tv/recorded/38662321](http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/38662321)

Hunting the nightmare bacteria: FRONTLINE investigates the rise of deadly drug resistant bacteria

[www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/hunting-the-nightmare-bacteria/](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/hunting-the-nightmare-bacteria/)

TedMed talk on NHGRI's Encyclopedia of DNA Elements (ENCODE)

<http://www.tedmed.com/talks/how?id=103852>

### ***Genomics News of Interest***

The benefits of looking across many cancer genomes: A perspective

[www.genome.gov/27555167](http://www.genome.gov/27555167)

NIH awards \$17 million in grants to augment genomics research in Africa

[www.genome.gov/27555182](http://www.genome.gov/27555182)

TCGA study of glioblastoma tumor genome reveals new details, potential treatment strategies

[www.genome.gov/27555271/](http://www.genome.gov/27555271/)

Jackson Lab adopts NCHPEG's website

<http://www.genome.gov/27554478>

Previous editions of *The Genomics Landscape* can be accessed at [www.genome.gov/27527308](http://www.genome.gov/27527308).

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To suggest topics for future *The Genomics Landscape*, please send an e-mail to [NHGRILANDSCAPE@MAIL.NIH.GOV](mailto:NHGRILANDSCAPE@MAIL.NIH.GOV).

