About the Roundtable

The Institute of Medicine’s Roundtable on Translating Genomic-Based Research for Health brings together leaders from academia, industry, government, foundations, associations, and representation of patients and consumers who take an interest in advancing the science of genomics by bringing together leaders from academia, industry, government, foundations, associations, and patient and consumer representatives. The Roundtable fosters dialogue across sectors and settings and collaboration among stakeholders.

Translating genomic innovations involves many disciplines, and takes place within different economic, social, and cultural contexts, spanning a broad range of issues relevant to the translation process.

For more information about the Roundtable on Translating Genomic-Based Research for Health, please visit our website at www.iom.edu/genomicroundtable

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To achieve its objectives, the Roundtable conducts structured discussions, workshops, and symposia, and publishes workshop summaries. Specific issues and agenda topics are determined by the Roundtable membership and span a broad range of issues relevant to the translation process.

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Non-profit

35%

Industry

45%

2010 Roundtable Funding

Funded

35%

Pharma/IT

20%

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Diagnostic Applications: The Roundtable’s diagnostic applications working group focuses on issues surrounding the use of diagnostic tests in clinical practice. The group’s charge is to develop a framework that addresses the ethical, legal, and policy issues associated with the use of genomic and genetic tests in clinical practice.

Diagnostic Test Development: A Workshop (July 2010) The Roundtable hosted a workshop to examine the challenges and solutions for progressing genomic and genetic tests from the research laboratory to clinical practice.

The Roundtable has established a working group focused on the translation of genomic advances into drug treatment. Topics of discussion include advancing pharmaceuticals, the prioritization of drug development, and bridging the “valley of death” in drug development. This group is currently developing a framework for advancing genomic and genetic advances in drug treatment.

Drug Development Informed by Genetics and Genomics: The Roundtable established a working group focused on the translation of genomic advances into health care practice. The group’s charge is to develop a framework that addresses the ethical, legal, and policy issues associated with the use of genomic and genetic tests in clinical practice.

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Over the past decade, remarkable progress has been made through advances in genomics, from the identification of genes associated with disease processes to the development of pharmacogenomic tests which can minimize adverse side effects and increase treatment efficacy. These discoveries reveal the potential for benefits from this rapidly growing area of science—a benefit that will surely culminate in greater benefits for each of us as more and more research is conducted and appropriate interpretation and understanding of the results are provided. We look forward to another year where our Roundtable’s activities will continue their discussions on emerging issues, and many questions remain. How can we reconcile these discrepancies and ensure that the complexities of gene variants or linkages between diseases and biological pathways be leveraged to the benefit of patients? How can the discovery of pharmacogenetic tests which can minimize adverse side effects and increase treatment efficacy be applied to clinical practice? How can we ensure that the necessary framework for using genomic and genetic information into clinical practice is in place as it becomes an integral part of the delivery of health care?

The Roundtable has held four working group meetings focused on translating genomic advances into health management, including emergent issues of significant importance where the input of the Roundtable would be a valuable asset to the larger public health community. Since their inception, these working groups have developed genomic and genetic test development and application of genomics in health practice. Members examine issues such as epigenetics and environmental influences as well as emerging issues related to the intersection of bioinformatics and genomics, and workforce and education needs. The group is currently developing new model pathways for precompetitive use and is considering the development of new drugs.

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Over the past decade, remarkable progress has been made through advances in genomics, from the identification of genes associated with disease processes to the development of pharmacogenomic tests that can provide information about adverse events and treatment efficacy. These discoveries reveal the potential for benefit from this rapidly growing area of science—a benefit that will surely be welcome in many forms of research and many questions remain. How can the discovery of new variants or pathways between disease processes be leveraged to improve treatment or prevention? What are the ethical ramifications for using such technologies, addressing issues of confidentiality? What are the ethical and social implications surrounding these discoveries?

The Roundtable offers a unique venue for experts from academia, industry, patient and provider groups, government, and other organizations to convene and examine the challenges of advancing genomic research findings into clinical practice.

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Diagnostic Applications

This working group was established by the Roundtable in order to identify, examine, and quickly respond to timely issues of significant importance to the Roundtable. Members focused on diagnostic issues, the impact of genomic technologies on the health care delivery system, and identified partnerships to help resolve them.

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Roundtable Activities in 2010

Roundtable Meetings
The Roundtable met three times in 2010 to discuss emerging issues related to the translation of genomics into health care decisions. Topics were chosen to include updates on genomic research, ethical challenges, and perspectives on the potential for genomics to improve treatment or prevention. What were the main topics discussed during these meetings?

Messages from the Chair

The Roundtable has formed four working groups to carry out the recommendations of the 2010 work on emerging issues in the translation of genomic advances into health. Members held their first meetings in 2010 to review the current state of genomic research and the requirements for implementing genomic technologies to clinical and public health practice. Members examine issues such as the importance where the input of the Roundtable is crucial.

Rationale for Developing Newborn Screening Technologies: A Workshop (May 2010) The workshop convenes an expert panel to examine the evidence as well as potential solutions to move forward with the necessary framework for using residual newborn screening samples. The workshop is designed to address the input of the Roundtable.

Establishing Precompetitive Collaborations to Stimulate Genomic-Driven Drug Development: A Workshop (July 2010) This workshop examines issues such as advancing pharmacogenomics, the role of the Roundtable in understanding the translation of genomic advances into health care.

Over the past decade, remarkable progress has been made through advances in genomics, from the identification of genes associated with disease processes to the development of pharmacogenomics, which can improve adverse event and outcomes. These discoveries reveal the significant potential for better health care, greater patient safety, and a whole host of benefits that we are only beginning to understand. In the first panel for 2010, the Roundtable will examine how one can use the emerging science of genomics to improve treatment or prevention. What are the key takeaways from these discussions?

New Publications

Challenges and Opportunities in Using Resident Newborn Screening Scales to Improve Overall Birth Defects (July 2010) The workshop convenes an expert panel to examine the evidence as well as potential solutions to move forward with the necessary framework for using residual newborn screening samples. The workshop is designed to address the input of the Roundtable.
About the Roundtable

The Institute of Medicine’s Roundtable on Translating Genomic-Based Research for Health brings together leaders from academia, industry, government, foundations, associations, and representatives of patients and consumers who share a common interest in accelerating advances in genomics toward improving health and reducing health disparities. The Roundtable is an independent and inclusive forum that holds periodic public meetings to develop strategies for improving health through an enhanced translation of genomic and genetic research findings into medicine, public health, and education.

Translating genomic research involves many disciplines, and takes place within a different regulatory, social, and cultural context. Consequently, a need for increased communication and understanding across these fields. Furthermore, these interactions have produced a diversity of interests to be addressed, including in the context of equity, economic implications, and ethical, legal, and social issues.

The priorities and areas of emphasis for the Roundtable include: 1) issues related to the translation of genomic research findings into medicine, public health, education, and policy; 2) issues related to the evolving requirements for equal access, and public perspectives. As a convening mechanism for interested parties with different perspectives to meet and discuss complex issues of mutual concern in a neutral setting, the Roundtable fosters dialogue across sectors and institutions and fosters collaboration among stakeholders.

The Institute of Medicine’s Roundtable on Translating Genomic-Based Research for Health explores and implements strategies for improving health through the translation of genomics to medicine and public health; and 3) ethical, legal, and social issues such as the potential economic and social implications of new genomic research findings into medicine, public health, education, and policy.


deduce and disseminate research findings; and inform the health professional community and the general public on matters related to genetic research findings. The Roundtable has interacting co-chairs, and in consultation with the Institute of Medicine, provides a forum to address issues of mutual concern in a neutral setting. The Roundtable brings together leaders from academia, industry, government, foundations, associations, and representatives of patients and consumers who share a common interest in accelerating advances in genomics toward improving health and reducing health disparities.

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The Roundtable provides independent, objective, evidence-based advice to the Institute of Medicine on a wide range of topics in the health sciences. In addition, the Roundtable serves as an opportunity for consensus-building among scientists, practitioners, and policymakers, and provides a vehicle for communicating the need to understand and responsibly apply genomic information to improve health and reduce health disparities in the population. The Roundtable membership and span a broad range of issues relevant to the translation process.