

Genomics

... what have you done for me lately?

The Minnesota Forum

Background

Since completing the Human Genomics Project governmental agencies, academic centers and their partners have focused on how to engage communities in a dialogue about issues in genetics and genomics. In 2004, the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) began funding community engagement projects in different regions of the country.

Minnesota, as well as 9 other midwestern states, received funding to conduct a local dialog focused on education and greater community involvement. This poster showcases their accomplishments.

Organizing Sponsor

Office of Minority and Multicultural Health

The mission is to strengthen the health and wellness of target populations in the state of Minnesota by engaging diverse populations in health systems, mutual learning, and actions essential for achieving health parity and optimal wellness. Working with a racially/ethnically, culturally and tribally diverse population, they focus attention on the health disparities among their target population.



Planning Committee & Partners

- Centro Campesino
- Great Lakes Tribal Epidemiology Center
- Hennepin County Strategic Initiatives and Community Engagement
- Macalester College
- Minneapolis Public Schools – Multilingual Multicultural Service
- Olmsted County Public Health Services
- Science Museum of Minneapolis
- Southside Community Health Series
- West Central Integration Collaborative Services
- Unity Healthnet, Inc
- University of Minnesota's Healthy Youth Development•Prevention Research Center

Attendance

The Minnesota Forum was attended by 175 community members, health advocates, health agency leaders and 24 students.

Forum Sessions & Speakers

The Human Genome

Sharon Kardia, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Epidemiology, Director of the Public Health Genetics Program

Genomics and Environmental Justice

Paul Allwood, Ph.D., MPH, RS, Assistant Director UHS/Assistant Professor

Education in Genetics and Career Opportunities

Milton A. English, Ph.D., Senior Research Fellow, Genetics and Molecular Biology Branch, Division of Intramural Research

Spirituality and Cultural Aspects of Genomics

Francis S. Collins, M.D. Ph.D., Director of the National Human Genome Research Institute

David Larsen, Interim Director of American Indian Studies at University of Minnesota, Mankato

Kao Kalia Yang, Writer for the Hmong Community

Family History and the Environment

Cynthia Hickman, MPH, District Epidemiologist – Metro, Minnesota Department of Health

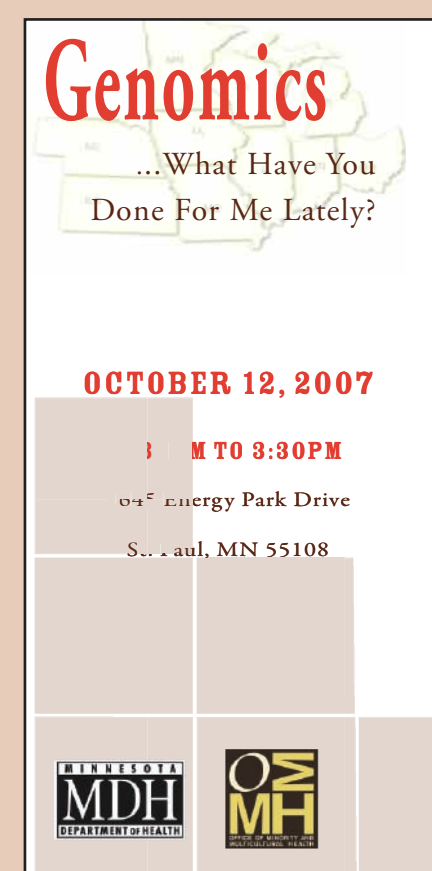
Kristin Peterson Oehlke, MS, CGC, State Genomics Coordinator, Minnesota Department of Health

Genomics, Medicine, and Society

Francis S. Collins, M.D. Ph.D., Director of the National Human Genome Research Institute at the National Institutes of Health

Genetics and Public Health

Colleen McBride, Ph.D., Chief, Social and Behavioral Research Branch



Students were recognized by Mitchell Davis, Jr., Director and Rosemarie Rodriguez-Hager, Latino Health Coordinator of the Office of Minority and Multicultural Health (OMMH) at the Minnesota Department of Health.



Youth Engagement ...with genomics



At the Science Museum of Minnesota, the audience views commercials created by Folwell Middle School's Latino Science Club. Their message – science is important!



College and high school students offered a creative way to educate young people about genomics. Their "Circles of Life" game gives everyone a chance to see how genetics affect the "Game of Life."

Adolescent health researchers and public health professionals have long recognized the effectiveness of youth development strategies. These are approaches which intentionally meet the developmental needs of young people while empowering them to build skills, competencies and assets.

The opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to their community gives young people a venue for testing out their emerging self-identity – a major task of adolescence.

When planning the Minnesota Genomics Forum, the committee identified young people – particularly young people of color – as a key audience.

Supported by the planning committee and guided by the Minnesota Department of Minority Health and Minneapolis Public Schools, two youth/adult partnerships were an important part of the Forum.

Roosevelt High School with Macalster College – Diversity in Science Collective

College and high school students worked collaboratively to promote community awareness about public health genomics. Together, they developed a genomics oriented project and attended the forum. College students built on-going relationships with the high school students and encouraged their interest in science.

"Circles of Life" was the final project created by this partnership. These creative students developed a board game that offered a fun way for young people and adults to understand the interaction between genetics and the environment as well as its impact on an individual's health and life.

Folwell Middle School with University of Minnesota Healthy Youth Development • Prevention Research Center and Hennepin County Strategic Initiatives and Community Engagement



Graduate students and middle schools students collaborated to involve Spanish-speaking youth in the education and promotion of genomics and science in their community. Adults and youth teamed up to create the Latino Science Club – an after school program.

Club meetings were used to conducted science experiments designed to tap into the inquisitive nature of young people and offer them the chance to do real investigation. Students were challenged, for example, to figure out whether an egg was raw or hard boiled –



without cracking the shell.

As a final project the club developed a series of public service announcement commercials (PSAs) entitled "Why Science is Important." Their goal was to inspire younger students to get involved with science.



Genomics Youth Project Presentation

In February, as a component of Diversity in the Sciences month, project participants were invited to a celebration showcasing their efforts. Held at the Science Museum of Minnesota, over 75 people attended to applaud the work of these impressive young adults.

The agenda included presentations by the youth groups as well as the premier of a short video that captured the process and the young people's accomplishments.



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