



# The Heredity Project



Health Promotion  
through  
Genetic Literacy

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UTHSC, Pediatrics & Preventive Medicine

CHEER Seminar, Improving Genetic Health Literacy Using  
Community-Based Approaches, February 11, 2011

# Challenges to the Implementation of Genomic Medicine

## Closing the Gaps



Translation  
Gap



Knowledge  
Gap



# Practical Applications of Genomic Medicine

## Newborn Screening

- The earliest genetic test

## Pharmacotherapy

- The right drug, the right dose, for the right person

## Reproductive Counseling

- The option of carrier testing

## Disease Risk Management

- Strategies for prevention



# Push & Pull Forces in Translation

Rapidly  
evolving  
technology

Consumer  
awareness &  
demand

Coverage &  
reimbursement

Marketing

Policy &  
oversight

Professional  
clinical practice  
guidelines

Differential  
access &  
disparities

Clinical practice  
liability issues

Industry  
incentives for  
R&D



# GAPPNet: A collaborative initiative to streamline use of genomics in clinical & public health practice

REVIEW

## The Genomic Applications in Practice and Prevention Network

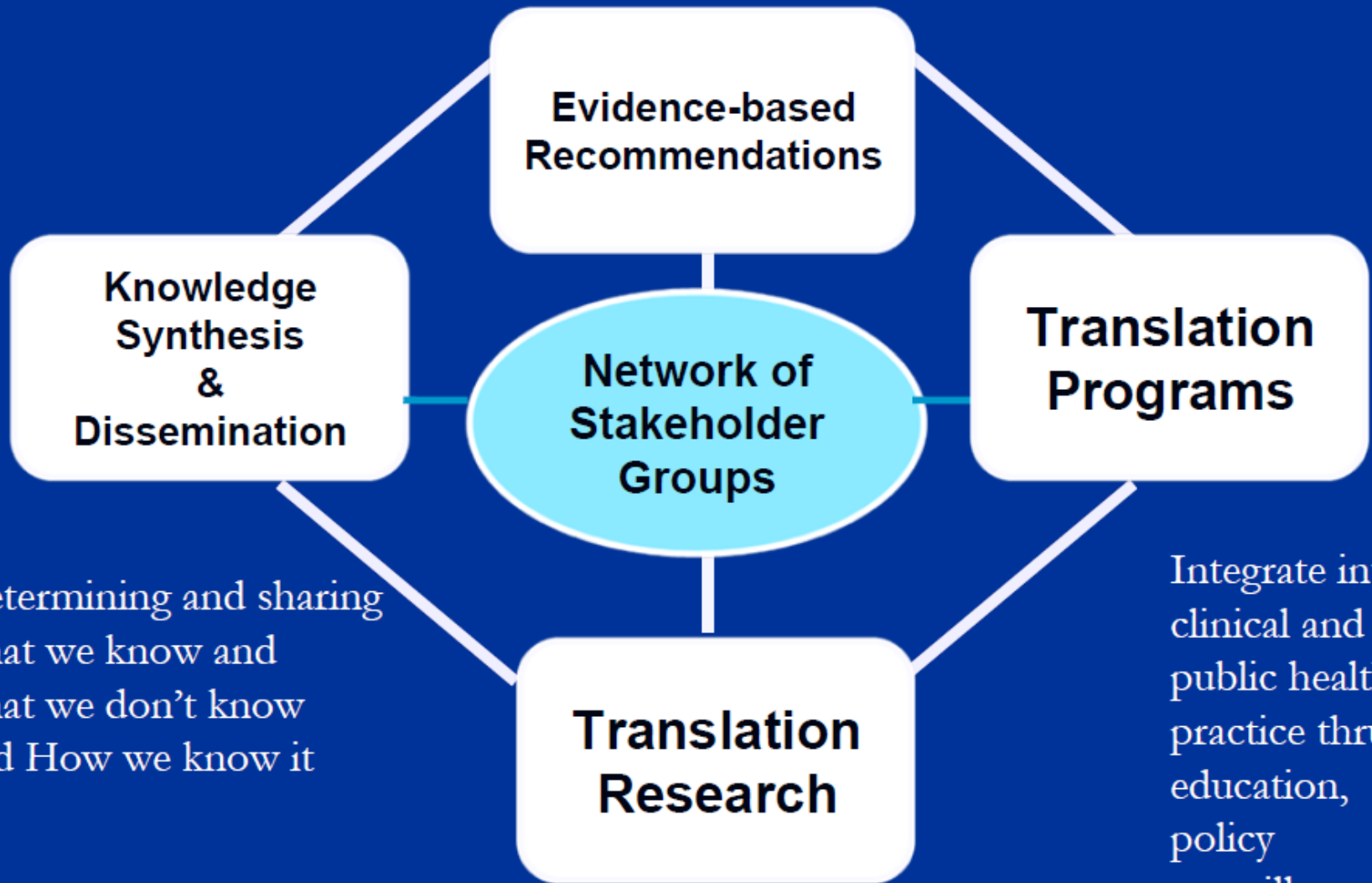
*Muin J. Khoury, MD, PhD<sup>1</sup>, W. Gregory Feero, MD, PhD<sup>2</sup>, Michele Reyes, PhD<sup>1</sup>, Toby Citrin, JD<sup>3</sup>, Andrew Freedman, PhD<sup>4</sup>, Debra Leonard, PhD<sup>5</sup>; and the GAPPNet Planning Group: Wylie Burke, MD, PhD<sup>6</sup>, Ralph Coates, PhD<sup>1</sup>, Robert Croyle, PhD<sup>3</sup>, Karen Edwards, PhD<sup>7</sup>, Sharon Kardia, PhD<sup>2</sup>, Colleen McBride, PhD<sup>2</sup>, Teri Manolio, MD, PhD<sup>2</sup>, Garvaneet Randhawa, MD<sup>8</sup>, Rebekah Rasooly, MD<sup>9</sup>, Jeannette St. Pierre, MPH<sup>1</sup>, and Sharon Terry, MS<sup>10</sup>*

Genetics in Medicine (2009) 7:488

<http://www.cdc.gov/genomics/translation/GAPPNet/>



Linking evidence to practice  
In a credible and transparent way



Determining and sharing  
what we know and  
what we don't know  
and How we know it

Integrate into  
clinical and  
public health  
practice thru  
education,  
policy  
surveillance &  
evaluation

Research to fill gaps  
and how to implement

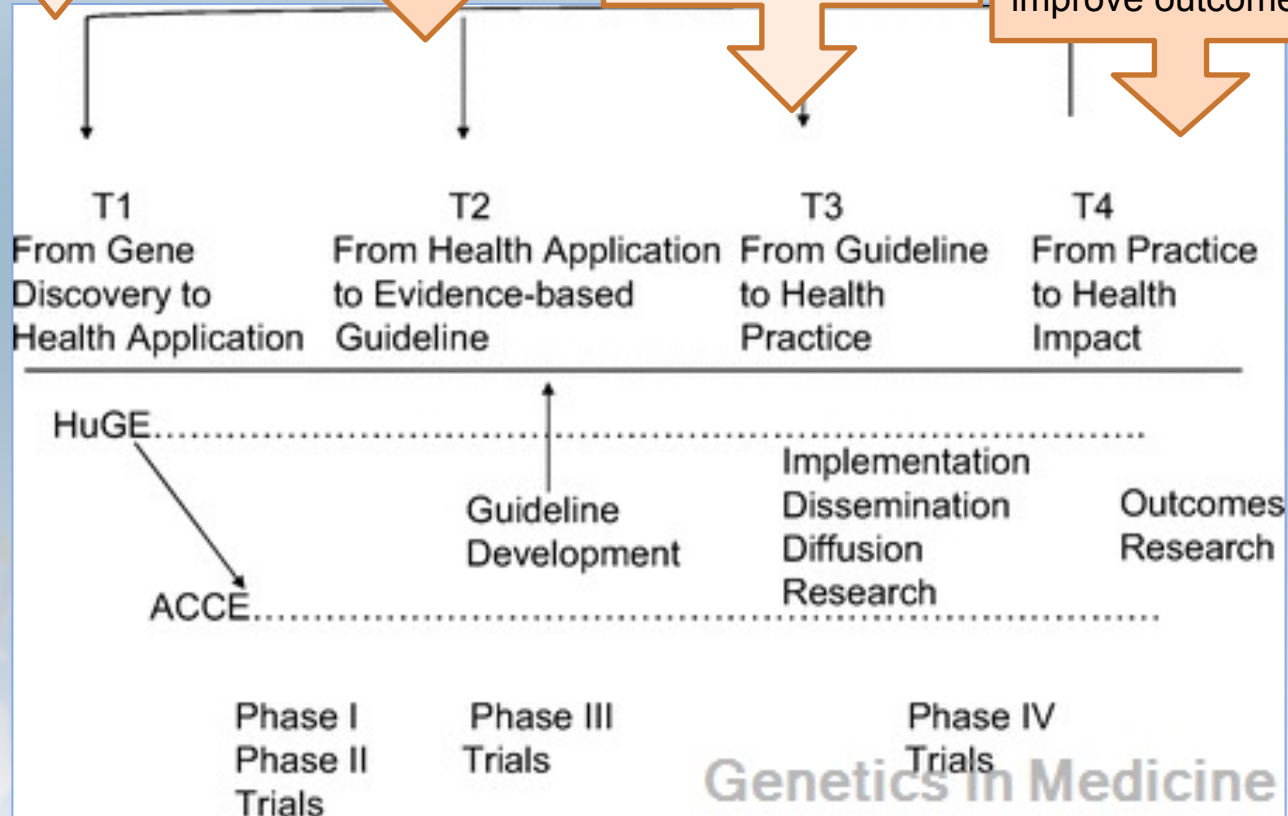
# The Continuum of Translation Research in Genomic Medicine

Association between BRCA mutations & breast cancer?

Predictive value of BRCA testing in at-risk women?

What is the uptake of testing in women meeting criteria?  
Barriers to testing?

Does testing reduce incidence or improve outcomes?



Translate genomic knowledge and applications into public health and clinical practice programs to prevent disease and improve health

## Genomics Translation Programs

Public Policy

Education

Surveillance





# Heredity Project: Goals

Develop resources to explain the role of genes in health & disease

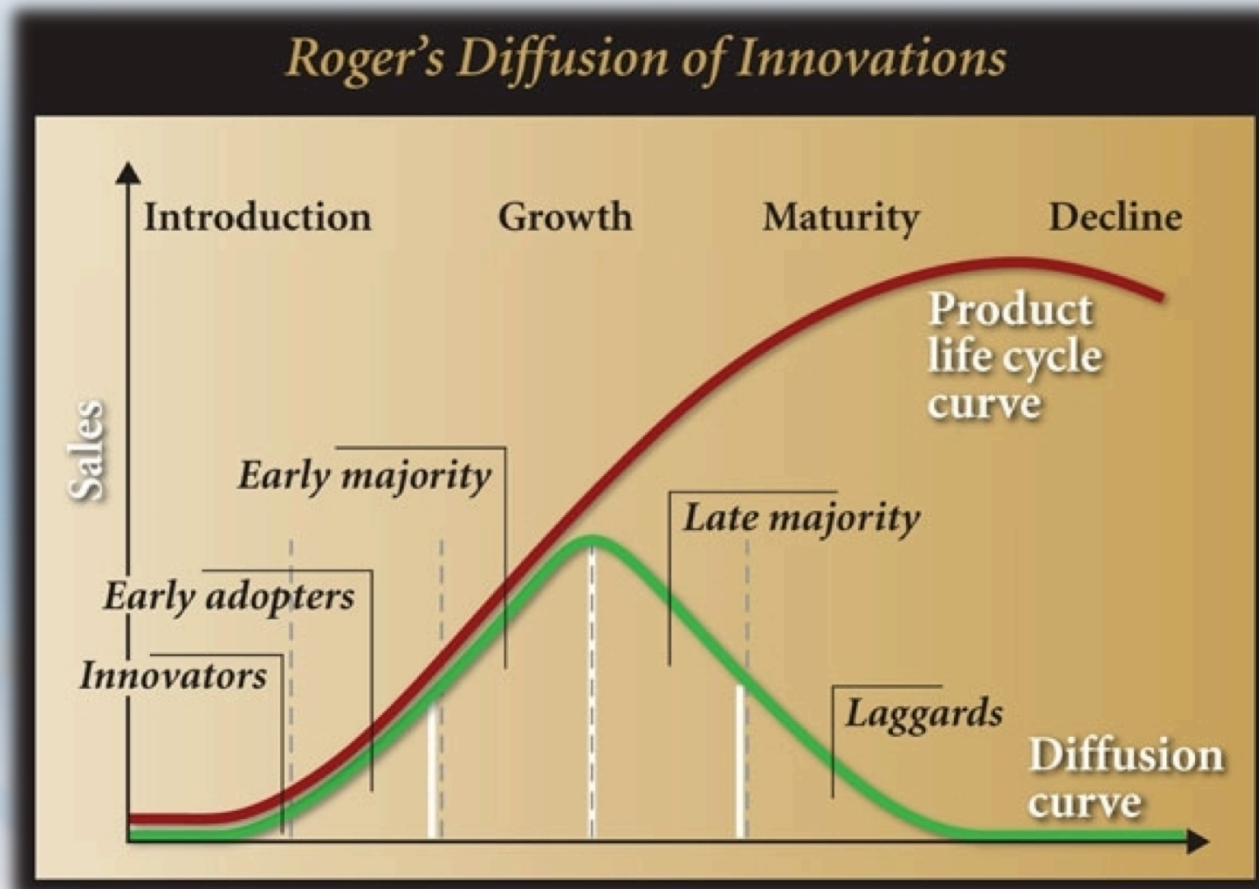
Allow community input to drive project content and direction

Target education to actionable outcomes

Align activities and objectives with national initiatives to realize the promise of genetics in health care & health promotion



# Diffusion Theory: A Framework for the Communication of Novel Practices to End Users



# Conceptual Model Diffusion of Innovation

Critical elements: an innovation that is communicated over time within a social system

Level of knowledge: awareness, how-to, principles

Re-invention by community to optimize fit

Gap-narrowing strategies: build community capacity



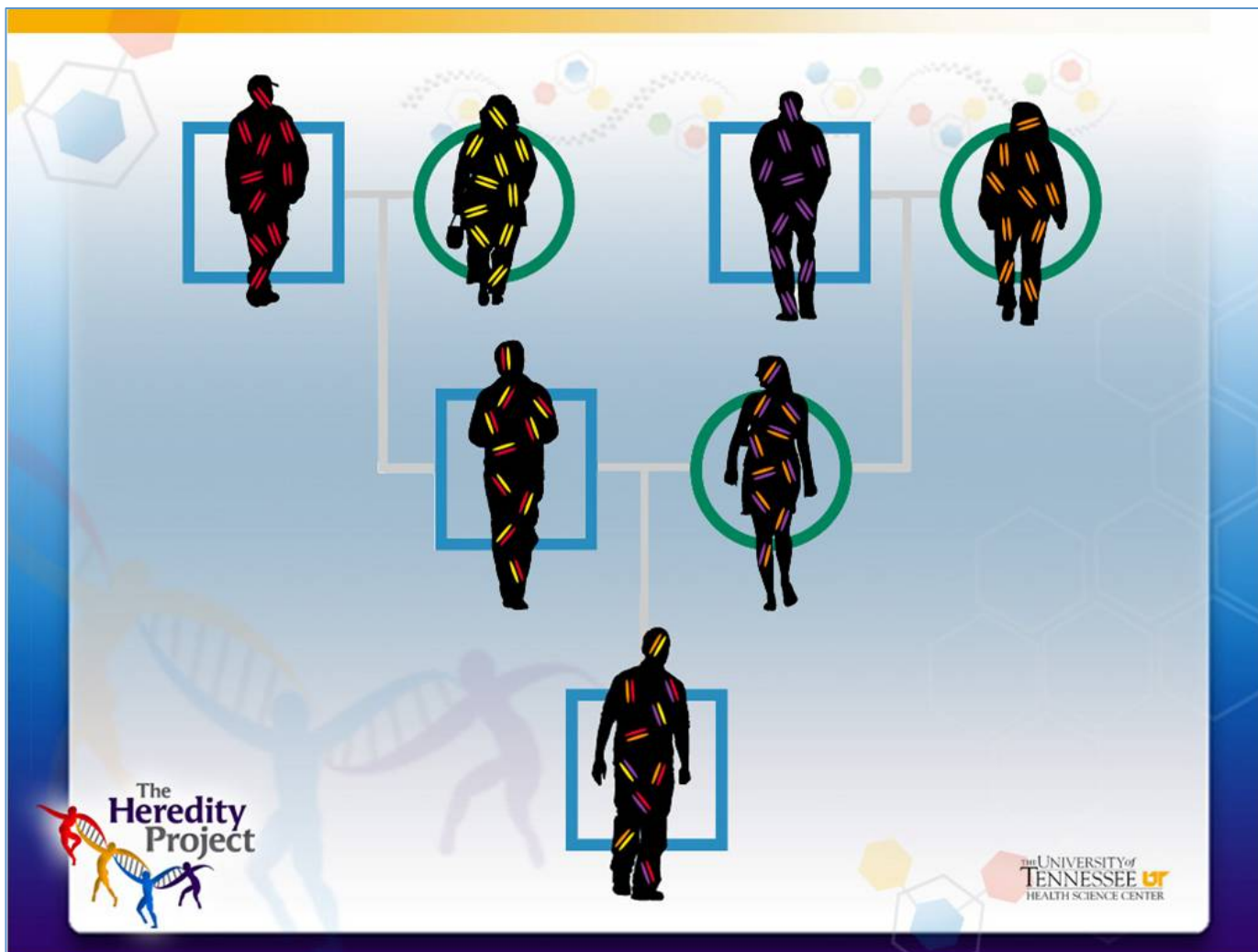
# Healthy Balance

## Pilot Project on Diabetes Risk

### Phase 1. Development of an educational intervention

- Developed image-based curriculum for communication of relatively complex information
- Delivered content to small groups to incorporate community feedback (n=92)
- Developed content-aligned questions for assessment of learning and project evaluation

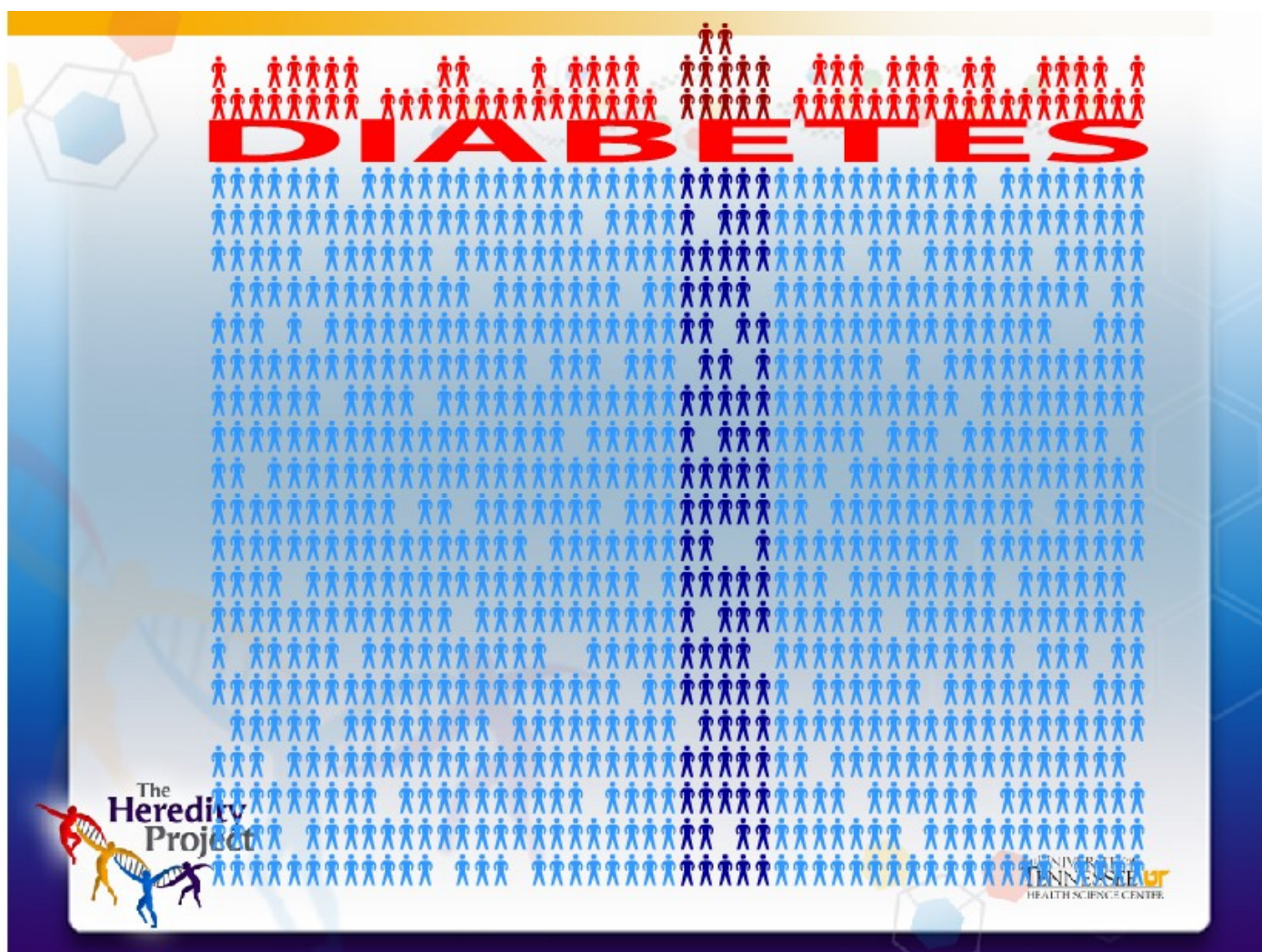




## Module 1: How genes move through families

### Objectives:

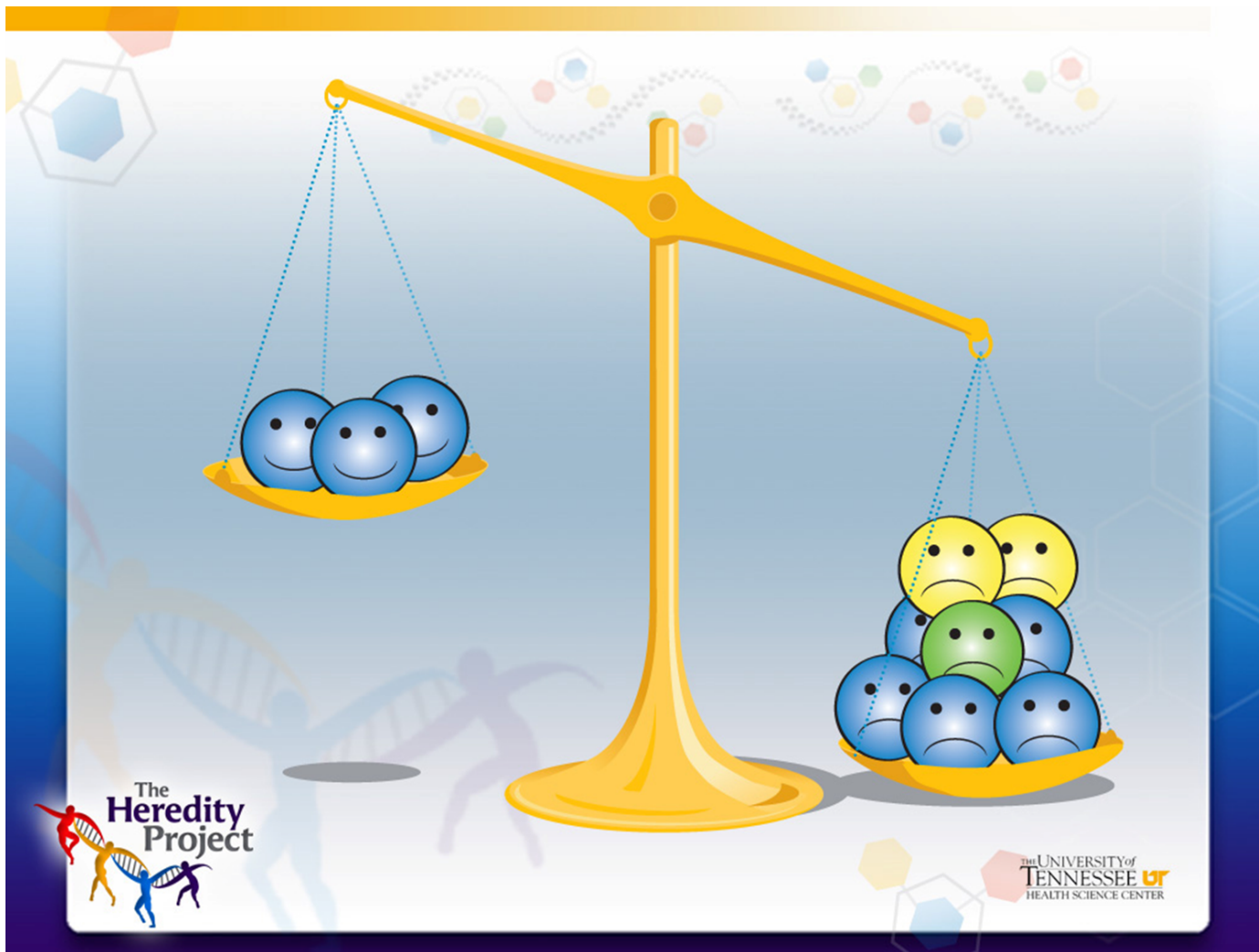
- Be able to describe genes as instructions for the structure and function of the body
- Using a single gene trait as an example, be able to use the principle of segregation to track the segregation of alleles through a family



## Module 2: What is a risk gene?

### Objectives:

- Be able to apply the principle of segregation to track risk alleles through a pedigree
- Be able to associate risk alleles with relative risk as opposed to causation



### Module 3: Healthy Balance risk model (Blue=genes, Green=environment, Yellow=lifestyle)

Objectives:

- Be able to recognize the three categories of risk that contribute to diabetes
- Be able to classify individual risk factors as components that either increase or decrease composite risk

# Community-Based Health Education



- PowerPoint presentations in small group settings
- Embedded questions and use of audience response system (clickers)
  - Learning (pre-test; post-test)
  - Attitudes
  - Demographics



# Healthy Balance

## Pilot Project on Diabetes Risk

### Phase 2. Validation Study

- Convenience sample drawn from five established community groups (n=111)
  - 64% African-American
  - 61% attended college
  - 32% diabetic or pre-diabetic
  - 46% positive family history for diabetes
- Validation study demonstrated
  - Improved knowledge ( $p < 0.0001$  based on two-sided paired-data permutation test)
  - Positive attitudes toward the presentation and its health-related content

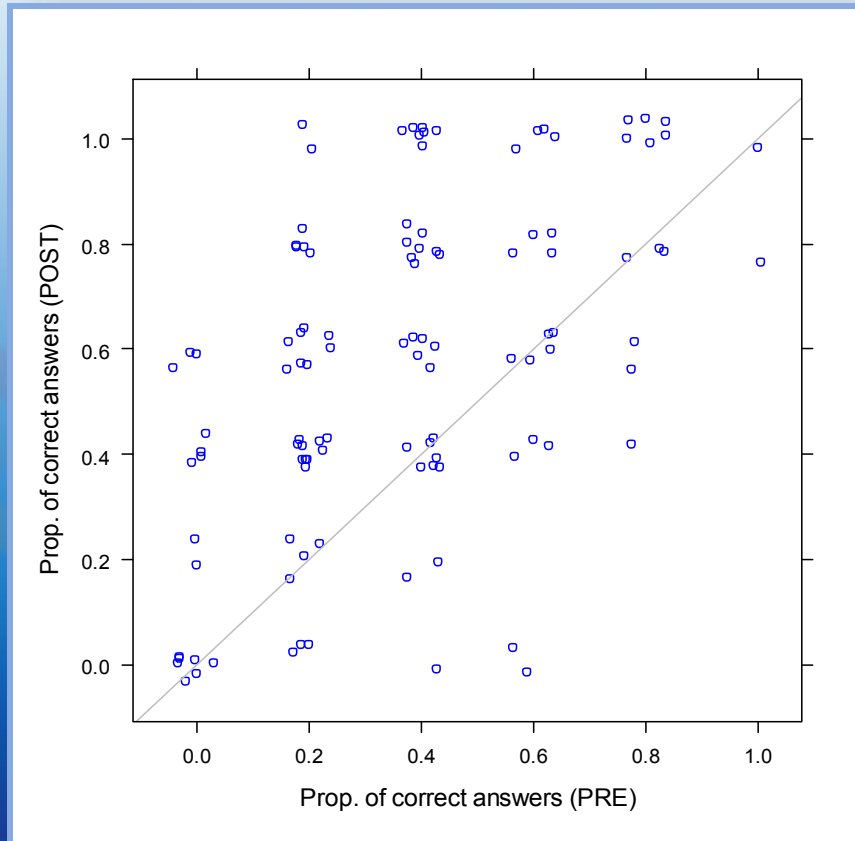


## Sample Question: What are genes?

- A. Factors that cause serious health problems in people who have them
- B. The combination of factors that determines a person's race
- C. The body's instructions
- D. Mixture of proteins & other chemicals
- E. Don't know or no opinion

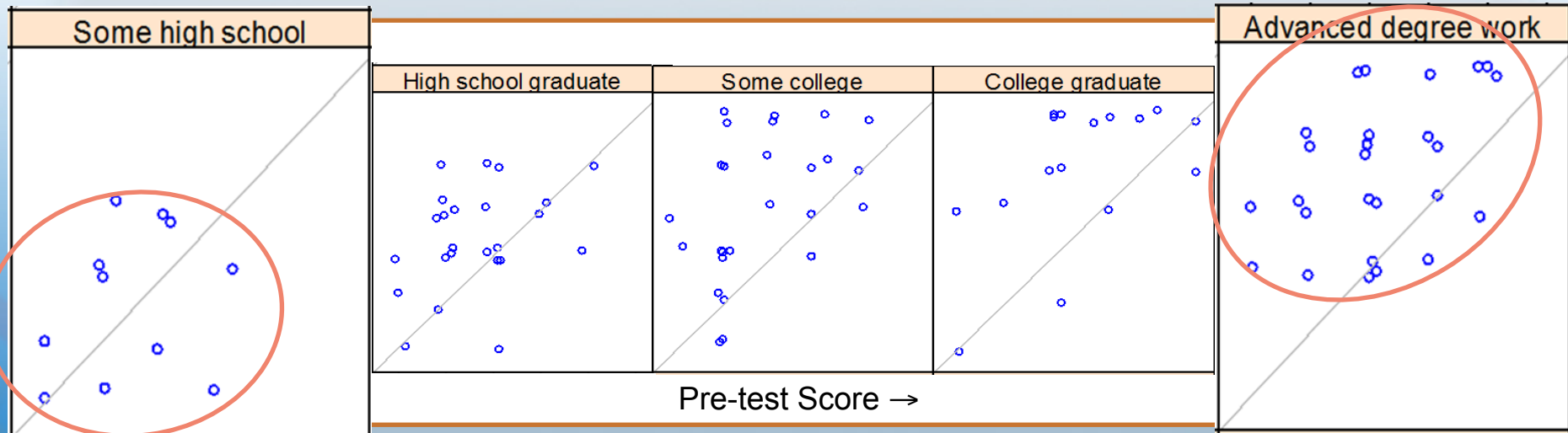
	Correct	Incorrect
Pre-test	26 (23.4%)	85
Post-test	50 (45.0%)	61

# Summary Results: Pre-test/Post-test Comparison



- Each point is 1 participant (n=111)
- X-axis: Pre-test score
- Y-axis: Post-test score
- Data points in the upper left triangle show improved scores

# Demographic Variables: Test Scores by Educational Attainment



- Pre-test (*X-axis*): all educational levels showed range of performance
  - Content appropriate for diverse audiences
- Post-test (*Y-axis*): test performance improved along with education level
  - Intervention was not effective at lowest educational level



# Family Health History

Clinical  
Practice

Genomic Tool

Public Health  
Practice

“Gathering your family health history really is the first step towards personalized medicine.”

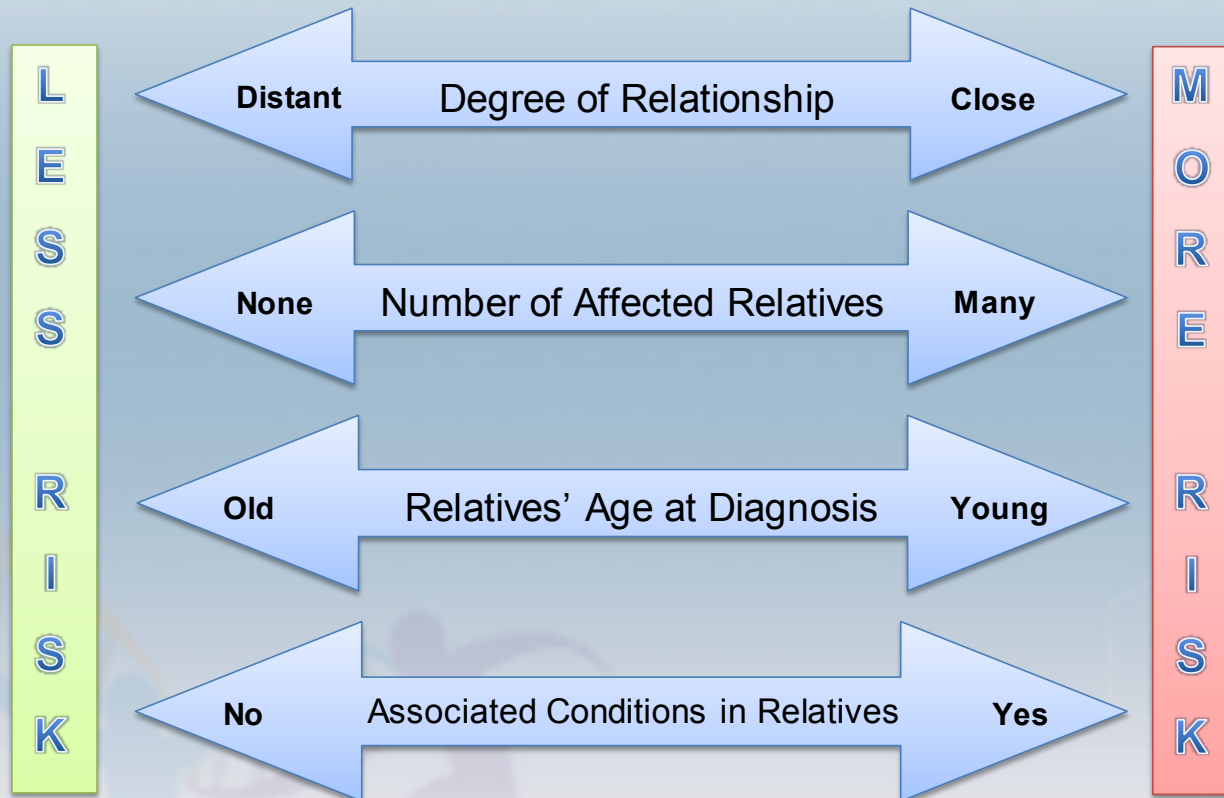
*Francis S Collins, MD, PhD,*

the UNIVERSITY of  
**TENNESSEE** **UT**  
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



# Family History & Common Diseases

## A Dose-Response Relationship



From Valdez et al 2010. Annu Rev Public Health 31:69

# Family Health History



Captures genetic risk component plus environment



Low cost & high acceptability



Organizes clinically relevant information



Promotes conversations about health in the family & community



Enhances health & genetics knowledge for the individual & the family



Highlights trends & patterns of disease for potential prevention or treatment





# Family History in Clinical Practice

Gold standard for assessing genetic risk in medical genetics

Established use in primary care but not standardized





# My Family Health Portrait

A tool from the Surgeon General

Using *My Family Health Portrait* you can:

- Enter your family health history.
- Print your family health history to share with family or your health care worker.
- Save your family health history so you can update it over time.

Talking with your health care worker about your family health history can help you stay healthy!

[Learn more about \*My Family Health Portrait\*](#)

Create a Family Health History

En Español

Use a Saved History

En Português



# Process of Self-Reported Family Health History

Talk to family members about health

Parents

Brothers & Sisters

Children



Organize the information

Draw a Family Tree

Record Health Information



Share family health history information

Healthcare Provider

Family



# Uses of Family Health History in Public Health Practice

## Risk Assessment

- Identify & stratify
- Variety of tools in use
- Few validated

## Tailored Interventions

- Early detection
- Prevention
- Family-level

## Motivation

- Health-seeking behaviors
- Healthy lifestyles
- Patient-centered



# Family History as a Genomic Tool

Need for development of standardized tools tied to outcomes

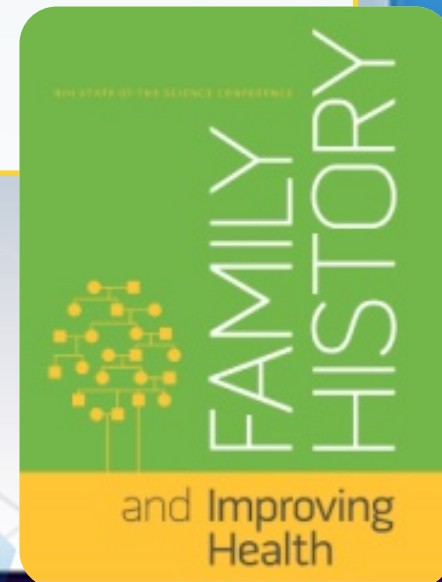
Adaptation to paradigm of evidence-based medicine

Evaluation within ACCE framework

- Analytic validity
- Clinical validity
- Clinical utility
- Ethical, legal, and social implications



NIH State-of-the-Science Conference:  
Family History and Improving Health  
August, 2009



# My Family Health Portrait

Structured Data + Connectivity = *Interoperability*

**My Family Health Portrait**



*My Family Health Portrait*

**Structured Data**





**Save to...**




**Partners**

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**healthVault**  
informed  
in more  
in one place  
many ways  
to help decisions



See how you can manage your health—and that of your family—with HealthVault.



Microsoft HealthVault

**Family Members**



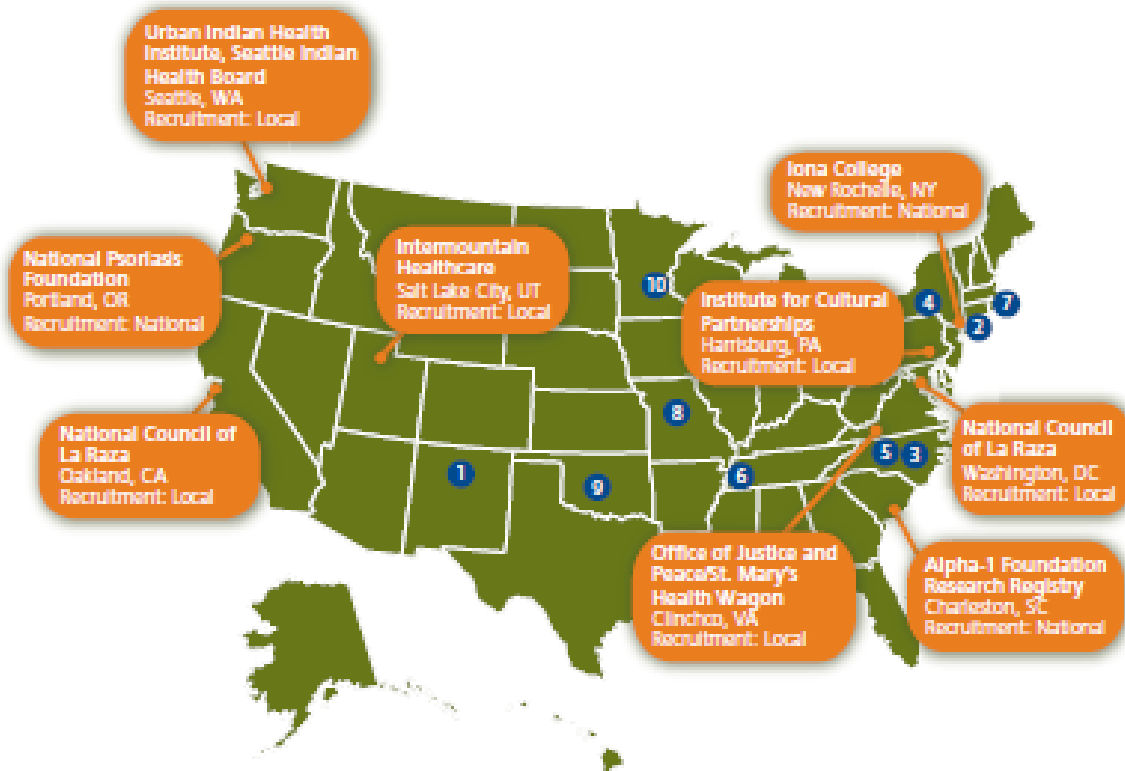
**Care Providers**



**HealthVault Affiliates**



# Community-Centered Family Health History Project



Collaboration involving diverse community partners to produce resources that increase communication about health within families

## CCRHH Program Awardees

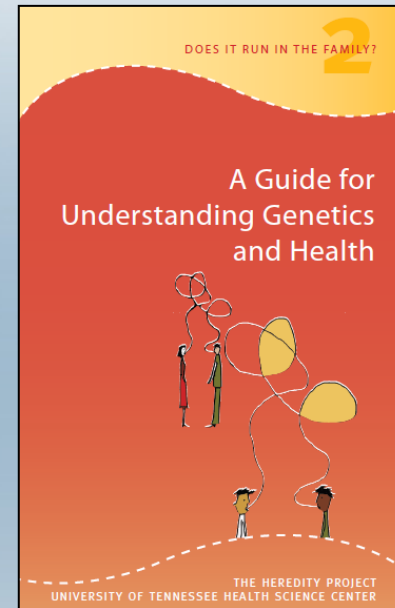
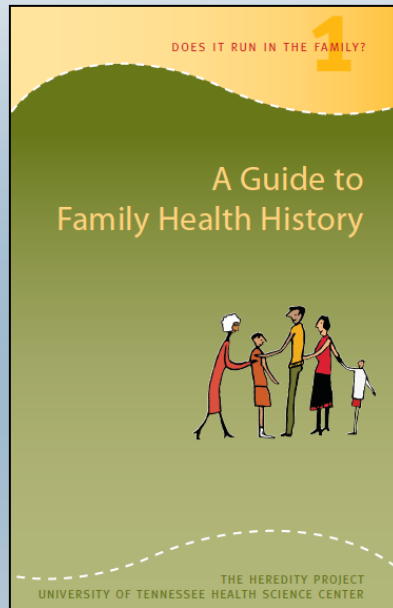
- 1 Angloma Alliance – Santa Fe, NM
- 2 Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center – Brooklyn, NY
- 3 Duke Institute for Genome Sciences & Policy – Durham, NC
- 4 Ferie Institute – Binghamton, NY
- 5 The Genomedical Connection – Greensboro, NC
- 6 The Heredity Project – Memphis, TN
- 7 Progreso Latino – Central Falls, RI
- 8 Southern Missouri Telehealth Genetics Services – Columbia, MO
- 9 University of Oklahoma College of Medicine – Oklahoma City, OK
- 10 West Side Community Health Services – St Paul, MN



[www.geneticalliance.org](http://www.geneticalliance.org)

Funded by MCHB/HRSA

# Does It Run in the Family?



- 2 booklet set written on 8<sup>th</sup>-grade level
- Community-adapted
- Non-medical



## Newborn Screening

- LeBonheur-based education project
- Dr Stacy Hines-Dowell



## Community Health Enrichment

- Health science club collaborative
- HUD Neighborhood Networks

## Primary Care Initiative

- Family health history tools in HRSA-funded Health Centers





# Acknowledgements



- UTHSC
  - Maggie DeBon
  - Fridtjof Thomas
  - Bob Shreve
  - TaJuana Redmond
  - Sim Taylor
  - Larry Tague
  - Malrie Shelton

- LeBonheur
  - Stacy Hines-Dowell
  - Jewell Ward



- Genetic Alliance
  - Vaughn Edelson
  - Sharon Terry



- Funded by NIH/NCRR



- Our community partners!

