

Challenges to Widespread Adoption of Pharmacogenetics

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Thane Kreiner, PhD Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs



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Genomes are Information Intensive

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- 3.4B DNA bases
- 22,000 +/- "genes"
- Splice variants
- Polymorphisms
- "Dark matter"
- Methylation

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Challenge: Regulatory Paradigms

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U.S. Food and Drug Administration



国家食品药品监督管理局 STATE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION





国立医薬品食品衛生研究所 医薬品医療機器審査センター Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Evaluation Center

Companion diagnostics
Patterns as analytes
Low risk, high benefit

Challenge: Gene Patents

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- DNA sequence patents of doubtful validity
- Gene patents create transaction costs and stifle useful innovation
- At least 18% of genes patented: "surprisingly high" (*Science* 310: 239-240, 23 September, 2005)

Future patents on DNA sequences should be the exception
Distinguish uses: basic research, diagnostics, therapeutics
Create mechanisms to deal with extant gene patents, e.g., pools



100K SNP Arrays (121,575 SNPs)



Genome-wide coverage enables association of human traits with genetic loci



Multiple Sclerosis

- Multiple sclerosis is a chronic autoimmune disease that affects the central nervous system
 - Wide range and type of symptoms
 - "Flare-ups" are unpredictible
 - Genetic & environmental components to disorder



Studied by Daniel Cohen at the Serono Research Institute



Challenge: Environmental Effects v. Genetic **Determinism**

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Diet



Drugs





Infectious Disease



Lifestyle Choices



Exposures

Challenge: Potential for Discrimination

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- Burlington Northern began secret genetic testing of its workforce in 2000, hoping to prove a "pre-existing condition" and avoid paying workers' compensation costs.
- The EEOC sued for discrimination based upon predictive genetic testing
- Case settled in 2002 with Burlington Northern paying \$2.2 million to the workers

• Strong nondiscrimination legislation for insurance and employment

- National (passed in U.S. Senate, awaiting House action)
- International standards?
- Changes in health care systems may be necessary
 - Remove incentive to discriminate
 - Ensure equitable access





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Challenge: Confounding Race and Genetics

- BiDil (hydralazine/isosorbide) is the first drug approved by the FDA for a specific "racial" group (African Americans)
- 43% increase in 1 year survival rates for African Americans
 - How much African American?
 - Socio-economic factors and lack of access to quality health care are most often cited for the increased rate of heart disease in African Americans
- Lack of consistent terminology in the literature
 - Confounding of continent of origin with social constructs

Analyze contributing genetic factors
Focus on the highest return interventions





2M ADEs in US per year, 100,000 deaths, \$170 B



(each person = 10 people)

Trial conducted with 469 patients in 1.6 years

Getting to market

Getting to market faster (longer economic life)

• Staying on the market (and avoiding litigation)

Avoiding ADEs and ineffective prescriptions



Challenge: Dynamics of Extant Healthcare Delivery Systems

- US spends 15% of GDP on health care
 - Inefficient
 - Inequitable
 - Competition encourages cost-cutting, not investment

• Long-term health -> preventative medicine - PGx

- Newborn screening (including PGx?)
- Non-genetic interventions
- Include contribution of health to GDP

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Challenge: Genetic Literacy

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General Public



Medical Professionals



The Next Generation

Reform medical education: no genetics exceptionalism
Ensure equitable general education systems



- e.g., antidepressants
- To test for placebo effect, must have at least 500 participants
 - Is this ethical?
 - What clinical behaviors would change?





Challenge: Ethics of Eliminating Placebo Effect





Challenges to the Widespread Adoption of PGx/Targeted Medicine

- Unrealistic expectations
- Regulatory paradigms
- Gene patents
- Environmental impacts/determinism
- Discrimination
- Confounding of race and genetics
- Ascribing appropriate value
- Healthcare delivery systems
- Genetic literacy
- Placebo effect

Status quo? Incremental change? Frame shift?



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