

**Update on the Development of the SACGHS Pharmacogenomics Report**  
*Kevin T. FitzGerald, S.J., Ph.D., Ph.D.*

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DR. FITZGERALD: Right. Thank you, Reed. It's only going to take a few minutes this morning just to give you a brief update on where we stand with this process. Again, these are the members of this task force and not only, as Reed said, do you never, ever get to retire from this committee, but you get put on all sorts of different task forces. Right, Emily?

DR. WINN-DEEN: Yes.

DR. FITZGERALD: When you try to leave, they just give you more work.

So as you may be familiar, we had the roll-out of this draft report on March 23rd at the Personalized Medicine Coalition event where the Secretary of Health and Human Services announced his personalized health care initiative. The draft report was put up on the SACGHS website, and the SACGHS listserv was used to disseminate the draft report to the 936 people on that. In addition, there were 283 other individuals and organizations that were targeted because of their potential interest in the report, and one way we discerned that interest was to look at the people we referenced in the report. We figured they might want to know that they'd been referenced. So we sent it to them and then also to a variety of organizations which we thought would be interested and their membership might be interested. So we sent them the draft report that they might disseminate it to their members.

Public comments were received and that period ended June 1st. We received a total of 57 public comments from basically four different groups: the government, so other groups within HHS and elsewhere; companies such as Abbott, Amgen, Eli Lilly, Genzyme; and then organizations, about 18 of those, including the Blues, the Medical Association, Nursing Association, Nurses Genetics, PhRMA, and the Personalized Medicine Coalition; and then individuals representing academia, health care providers, researchers, et cetera. This was the breadth of the spectrum that we were able to get feedback from on the report.

So our time line for the future. We are now in the process of collating and analyzing the responses that we received. We will have a conference call of the task force members on August 16th to pull together the individual analyses that have been done on the responses. These analyses and this synthesis will then be worked into the draft report and the recommendations, and then that will then go out to the committee in October. You'll probably get it about the end of October, so that you'll have a couple of weeks or so before the November meeting to look at the report where, hopefully, the recommendations will be finalized and any small editorial changes will be made. And then the target is to be able to transmit the report to the Secretary in February, and as you may well know, the Secretary has 30 days then to respond to that. So the target is for the final report to be released to the public in March of 2008.

And that's where we stand at the moment, and if there are any questions, I'd be happy to have Suzanne answer them.

(Laughter.)

DR. TUCKSON: The floor is open, please.

(No response.)

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DR. TUCKSON: Well, I think, first of all, I'm encouraged by the number of people that have written in, organizations and otherwise. I do know in my normal work world this report received an awful lot of attention, and I know that there were a lot of people across the country who put a lot of energy in their responses back to this committee. So I think clearly we've touched an important element, and I think that the work stands.

I think the comments, at least that I'm aware of that you received have been favorable. I think they've given you good input, but from what I understand, I think that the work is clearly on target.

DR. FITZGERALD: Other than yours, yes.

DR. TUCKSON: Great. With that, Kevin, thank you very much.

DR. FITZGERALD: Certainly.

DR. TUCKSON: I know you've got to run out for a couple of minutes, but you'll be right back.

DR. FITZGERALD: Yet another meeting.

DR. TUCKSON: Thank you. All right, great. Appreciate it.