Global Genomic Medicine Collaborative
Cape Town Declaration
on
Implementing Genomic Medicine Towards Universal Health Coverage 2030

Implementation of genomic medicine can contribute significantly to sustainable development and the health and wellbeing of individuals and society. Providing access to genomic medicine should be an important consideration for all governments across the world as they strive to provide their people with Universal Health Coverage with the view to achieving Sustainable Development Goals by the year 2030.

125 leading scientists, physicians, and other healthcare professionals from 26 countries deliberated on the theme 'Genomic Medicine Implementation in Low Resource Settings' at the 4th Global Genomic Medicine Collaborative (G2MC) Meeting in Cape Town, South Africa from 28 to 30 November 2018, in keeping with G2MC's mission of accelerating implementation of genomic medicine around the world.

Recognizing the role of genomic medicine in improving

1. patient safety and outcomes through genome-informed prescribing of medications;

2. clinical outcomes in individuals with conditions such as cancer and cardiovascular disorders;

3. patient quality of life and longevity through genome sequencing
    a. of neonates with life-threatening conditions,
    b. of children and adults with rare and undiagnosed disorders,
    c. of adults to identify individuals at high risk for diseases, leading to effective prevention, early diagnosis and improved treatment, and
    d. of neonates, children and adults to implement robust and accelerated methods for the identification, classification and timely and precise treatment of life-threatening infectious agents;

4. diagnosis of infectious diseases and identification of antimicrobial resistance; and

5. societal and family well-being.

We, the participants of the 4th Global Genomic Medicine Collaborative (G2MC) Conference in Cape Town, South Africa, call upon governments, intergovernmental agencies, international development partners, and the World Health Organization to:

1. recognize the importance of implementation of evidence-based genomic medicine as an integral part of healthcare while addressing cross cutting and country-context ethical, legal, and social issues;

2. establish workforce norms and human resource capacity development to enable the implementation of genomic medicine;

3. promote genomic medicine education at all levels (undergraduate, postgraduate, and continuing professional development of medical, other health care, scientific and biomedical informatics professionals) to prepare the workforce of the future;

4. raise awareness of and trust in genomic medicine among the general public;

5. promote research and development for low-cost highly effective genomic medicine technologies to accelerate its adoption in low and middle-income countries;

6. obtain deeper knowledge of underlying genetic variation in diverse populations worldwide to enhance the use of genomic data for population-specific genomic health programs; and

7. adopt a World Health Assembly resolution on genomic medicine to draw the attention of all concerned so that that action is taken to reduce the gap between the high and low-income countries in implementing genomic medicine

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