

Abstract of Presentation

Note: This paper should be typed in “Times New Roman” of 12pt.

Presentation Title (Should be no more than 20 words):

Ethical, Legal & Social Implications of Genomic Medicine in Mexico

Abstract:

Genomic medicine is a priority for the Mexican Government to contribute improving health care for the Mexican population. The National Institute of Genomic Medicine (INMEGEN) was created in 2004 by the Mexican Congress as an integral strategy aimed, to develop the genomic medicine to improve the Mexican healthcare system. At the moment, we are conducting the project “Genomic Diversity of the Mexican Population”, this project aims to genotype over 1 million SNPs per individual in a sample of Mexican population in order to produce a comprehensive description of LD patterns, haplotype diversity and sharing, and also to make a comparative analysis with other populations. The project was approved by the appropriate Scientific, Ethic and Biosafety Review Boards and it implemented a community consultation and consent process strategy that included: state government officials, indigenous community leaders, university authorities and members of the local student and scientific community. This project has led to the largest genomic database for Mestizos and Mexican Amerindian DNA repository worldwide. We have been working in legislative projects to establish a legal framework to regulate the issues related to genomic medicine in Mexico. These include different aspects: patents, discriminatory practices, vulnerable groups protection, investment in research, health protection, training of human resources and the protection of the biological samples. The INMEGEN has established international relationships in the matter of health by means of this participation in the

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workgroups of the Organization for the Cooperation and the Economic Development (OECD), which Mexico is part of since 1994. The promotion in genomic sciences in Mexico, specially the genomic medicine at international levels may reactivate the academic and research cooperation and will generate new challenges based on the interchange and the commercialization of goods between developed and developing countries of knowledge. We expect that the results of this model will contribute to generate public knowledge about genomic and set the basis for best practices guidelines in ELSI research.