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ROUND TABLE TITLE:

CRD14: BIO-MEDICAL, EPIDEMIOLOGICAL, PUBLIC HEALTH AND NUTRITIONAL STUDIES

GENETICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH

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CO-CHAIR: PROF. G. PADDIAIH

ABSTRACT

Genetic disease control is a major public health issue. A new era in science has emerged in the last decade with the field of study of genomics. It aims towards a better understanding of health through integrating broad information on the genome, with data on environmental factors such as nutrition, physical fitness, and disease. When studied at the population level, this area is generally referred to as public health genomics (PHG). Healthcare around the world is at a crossroad. Genes play important roles in the etiology of most, if not all, human diseases ranging from cancer to coronary heart disease. The roles that genes play differ greatly, ranging from genes that completely determine the disease state (i.e., disease genes) to genes that interact with other genes and environmental factors in causing disease (i.e., susceptibility genes). These genetic risk factors include numerous polymorphic traits and enzyme systems involved in the metabolism of drugs and carcinogens.

There is an urgent need for integration of human genetics into public health practices for improving community health.

Keywords: Public health, Genetics

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