



ACMG Board Statement Regarding 2018 ACMG Annual Meeting to Be Held in Charlotte, North Carolina

Last year North Carolina became the focus of national controversy over Public Facilities & Security Act House Bill 2 (HB2), which, among other things, requires that individuals must use a bathroom consistent with their “biological sex at birth” and eliminates the ability to sue for discrimination based on sexual orientation. Passage of the bill and the ensuing national controversy have been covered extensively by the press.

The American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics opposes discrimination of any kind, opposes HB2 as discriminatory and a violation of human rights and shares the concerns of many members and other potential attendees regarding HB2. Because the site of the ACMG Annual Meeting in 2018 is Charlotte, NC, the ACMG Board and leadership team carefully considered all options to address these concerns.

After serious deliberation, ACMG has determined that it is not feasible to move or cancel the 2018 ACMG Annual Meeting. ACMG meeting sites are contracted 3-5 years in advance. At this point, the financial obligations in our current contracts make it prohibitive to cancel or move the 2018 ACMG Annual Meeting.

A Commitment to Nondiscrimination

ACMG opposes discrimination in any form and is hopeful that HB2 will be repealed. However, it is impossible to predict the political and social climate or legislative issues at any potential site 3-5 years in advance and we are unable to change venues once we have signed contracts.

We have expressed our displeasure with HB2 to the Charlotte Convention & Visitors Bureau. They and the hospitality community have communicated to us their commitment to diversity, inclusion and equality and to assuring visitors that they can expect the same level of service, safety, and respect that is always afforded all of their guests. Additionally, the Charlotte Convention Center has given us their commitment to providing “all groups accommodations for bathroom facilities that will accommodate transgender persons.”

We hope ACMG members and other meeting attendees will understand the decision of the Board of Directors in this challenging situation and we look forward to seeing you in Charlotte as we focus on our mission of advancing the field of genetics and genomics.

Gerald L. Feldman

Jerry Feldman, MD, PhD, FACMG
President

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