

The Dr. Michael S. Watson Genetic and Genomic Medicine Innovation Award

The ACMG Foundation for Genetic and Genomic Medicine (ACMGF) established the Dr. Michael S. Watson Genetic and Genomic Medicine Innovation Award to honor its first and longstanding Executive Director. Throughout his career, Dr. Watson has worked to advance the knowledge, depth and breadth of genetics and genomics as a primary clinical and laboratory specialty vital to the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of rare and common genetic disorders.

The Dr. Michael S. Watson Genetic and Genomic Innovation Award annually recognizes an early career genetic and genomic professional who has demonstrated innovation in his/her work through the development or implementation of a new concept, method or idea that has had significant impact on genetic and genomic medicine. As an innovation award, only nominees who have made contributions to the field of genetics and genomics for less than ten years will be considered.

The distinction includes a monetary gift of \$2,000, a commemorative award, as well as paid travel and registration costs for the ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics meeting or virtual meeting registration.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Nominations will be accepted from both ACMG members and non-members. Individuals may nominate themselves or colleagues. The nominee should be an emerging leader in industry, or in the medical, scientific, research or health advocacy arenas. This award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated exceptional vision about the future of genetics and genomics and is dedicated to advancing the field of science and/or medicine in a unique manner. Examples of innovation might include:

- Development of a novel approach in clinical, laboratory, or biochemical genetics/genomics.
- Fostering the use of technology or state-of-the-art scientific or medical educational tools to advance genetic and genomic medicine.
- Influencing public policy in medical genetics and genomics through advocacy, legislative means, or community collaboration.

The Selection Committee will rely on the personal statements and letters of support submitted with the nomination to determine if a nominee meets the criteria for the award.

To submit a nomination, please click the [application link](#), and attach the nominee's CV or bio-sketch, statement of innovative contributions to the field, and letters of support.

SELECTION PROCESS

Award decisions will be made by a Selection Committee appointed by the ACMG Foundation for Genetic and Genomic Medicine Board of Directors.

AWARD BENEFITS

The annual combined value of the award is \$5,000, to include:

- Cash award in the amount of \$2,000 (US)
- A commemorative plaque
- One-year membership in the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ACMG)
- Paid travel expenses to the ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting; to include domestic airfare and hotel accommodations
- Complimentary ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting registration
- Presentation and/or acknowledgement during the ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting and/or another affiliated ACMG event
- Media recognition

POST AWARD REQUIREMENTS:

The awardee must be prepared to submit the following documents to remain eligible to receive the award:

1. A W9 tax form
2. An ACMG travel expense report form confirming proof of receipt and explanation of use of funds is required within 60 days of departing the ACMG Annual Meeting
3. A quote for the official announcement
4. A headshot (which may be used for ACMG communications/public relations, websites and other marketing purposes)
5. A signed "ACMGF Opt-In" Form confirming permission to receive ongoing and future correspondence from ACMGF.

All forms and instructions on how to complete these items will be provided as part of the award notification correspondence. For questions, please contact the ACMG Foundation staff at acmgf@acmgfoundation.org or call 301-718-9603.