

# Joseph D. McInerney

## National Coalition for Health Professional Education in Genetics

Joseph D. McInerney, executive director of the National Coalition for Health Professional Education in Genetics (NCHPEG), holds an MS in genetic counseling from SUNY Stony Brook. He joined the coalition on 1 September 2000. Prior to that, McInerney spent 22 years on the staff of the Biological Sciences Curriculum Study (BSCS), where he was director from 1985 to 1999. He was a member of the information and education committee of the American Society of Human Genetics from 1988-1999 and is a member of the editorial boards of the *Quarterly Review of Biology* and *Community Genetics* (The Netherlands).

McInerney was principal investigator on NCHPEG projects to develop interactive CD-ROMs on psychiatric genetics and on genetics and common disorders, for free distribution to more than 10,000 health professionals. He now is principal investigator on a NCHPEG project that has produced a 90-minute, television-based CME program on race, genetics, and health care. He directed development of the BSCS programs *Basic Genetics: A Human Approach* (2nd and 3rd editions); *Advances in Genetic Technology*; *Evolution: Inquiries into Biology and Earth Science*; and *Mapping and Sequencing the Human Genome: Science, Ethics, and Public Policy*, which was distributed free of charge to 50,000 high school biology teachers in the United States. He also directed development of three other instructional modules on the Human Genome Project, all of which have been distributed nationwide for free. He was principal investigator on projects to develop five interactive CD-ROMS (genetics and cancer; human genetic variation; emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases; systematics and taxonomy; and developmental biology) and co-principal investigator for development of an instructional module on the RNA world, for undergraduate biology. Virtually all of those programs included significant treatment of issues in ethics and public policy.

McInerney is a former president of the 8,000-member National Association of Biology Teachers (U.S.) and in 1989 was awarded lifetime membership in that organization. In 1996, he was elected a Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He is a charter member (1979) of the National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC). He also was a member of the Human Genome Project's working group on ethical, legal, and social implications (ELSI) of human genome research and was a member for four years of the ELSI study section of the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI). McInerney also was a member of the National Academy of Sciences' *ad hoc* committee on evolution and creationism, which produced two publications on the evolution/creation issue. He has published more than 100 articles, reviews, and chapters in the scientific and science-education literature.

In 2005, McInerney received the award for excellence in genetics education from the American Society of Human Genetics and the Natalie Weissberger Paul Award for national achievement from the National Society of Genetic Counselors.

## Selected Publications

### Articles

Harvey, E.K., Fogel, C.E., Christensen, K., Terry, S.F., McInerney, J.D. Providers' knowledge of genetics: A survey of 5,915 individuals and families with genetic conditions *Medical Education*, in review.

Guttmacher, A.E., Porteus M., McInerney, J.D. Genetics education for health professionals. *Nature Reviews Genetics*, in press

Hott, A.H., Huether, C.A., McInerney, J.D., et al. Genetics content in introductory biology courses for non-science majors: Theory and practice. *BioScience* 52(11): 1024-1035, 2002.

McInerney, J.D. Education in a genomic world. *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* 27(3): 369-390, 2002.

McInerney, J.D. Genes and behavior: A complex relationship. *Judicature* 80(3): 112-115, 1999.

McInerney, J.D. The year in medical genetics. *Health and Medical Annual - 2000*. Chicago: World Book Incorporated, 1999.

McInerney, J.D. Genes, behavior, and high school biology. *The American Biology Teacher* 60(3):168-173, 1998.

McInerney, J.D. Why biological literacy matters: A review of commentaries related to *The Bell Curve: Intelligence and Class Structure in American Life*. *The Quarterly Review of Biology* 71(1):81-96, 1996.

### Books and Monographs

National Academy of Sciences. *Teaching about Evolution and the Nature of Science*. (contributing author). Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press, 1998.

### Chapters in Books

Davidson, R.G. and McInerney, J.D. Principles of genetic medicine. In *Pharmacogenomics: Applications to Patient Care*. Kansas City: American College of Clinical Pharmacy, 2004.

McInerney, J.D. Public education about biotechnology. In *Encyclopedia of Ethical, Legal and Policy Issues in Biotechnology*, New York: John Wiley & Sons, 2000.

McInerney, J.D. Molecular biology: How can we translate the laboratory? In *Genes and Human Self Knowledge*, Weir, R.F., Lawrence, S.C., & Fales, E. (eds.), Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1994.

### Book Reviews

"Welcome to the Genome: A User's Guide to the Genetic Past, Present, and Future." *The Quarterly Review of Biology* 80(2):240-241, 2005.

"The Delphic Boat: What Genomes Tell Us." *The Quarterly Review of Biology* 79(1):70-71, 2004.

"Future Perfect: Confronting Decisions about Genetics." *The Quarterly Review of Biology* 77(2):199-200, 2002.

"Genome: The Autobiography of a Species in 23 Chapters." *The Quarterly Review of Biology* (76)3:350, 2001.

"Morality and the New Genetics: A Guide for Students and Health Care Professionals." *Medical Humanities Review* 2(1):88-91, 1997.