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Dr. Watson received his PhD in Physiology & Biophysics from the University of Alabama at Birmingham while focusing on human medical genetics and received postdoctoral training at Yale University School of Medicine where he was the Associate Director of Clinical Cytogenetics. He was director of Clinical and Molecular Cytogenetics at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, and Professor of Pediatrics and Genetics from 1986–2001 and is certified by the American Board of Medical Genetics (ABMG) in Clinical Cytogenetics and as a PhD Medical Geneticist. He served on the Board of Directors of the American College of Medical Genetics (1992-1998) and was Vice President for Laboratory Affairs, chair of the Laboratory Practice committee and co-chair of the Test and Technology Transfer Committee. He chaired the ACMG Economics Committee and the Intellectual Property subcommittee. He was co-chair of the NIH/DOE Task Force on Genetic Testing from 1995 through 1997. He co-chaired the Rare Diseases Subcommittee of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetic Testing (SACGT) of DHHS from 2000 – 2002. He directed the HRSA funded project "Newborn Screening: Toward a Uniform Screening Panel and System" from 2002 through 2005. He is director of the National Coordinating Center for Regional Genetics and Newborn Screening Collaborative Groups. As of 2001, he became an Adjunct Professor of Pediatrics at Washington University School of Medicine and Executive Director of the American College of Medical Genetics and the American College of Medical Genetics Foundation.