



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Mike Barry  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
mbarry@acpm.org  
(202) 466-2044, x106

**New Program to Help Physicians Understand Role of Genetic Screening in Preventive Medicine**

*Continuing Medical Education Course Explores Genetic Risk, Screening and Intervention*

Washington, D.C. – October 1, 2009 – The American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM) today announced the release of a new medical education program designed to improve physicians' understanding of genetic risk factors for disease, the current evidence about the use of genomic tools and technologies to determine risk, and practices for utilizing those tools to aid in disease prevention. Through an unrestricted educational grant from Navigenics, ACPM has independently developed this continuing medical education (CME) course, titled *Genetic Risk, Screening and Intervention*, to address the growing use of genetic testing services and to examine their evidence-based impact on the practice of medicine.

“Amidst the debate currently being waged in Washington and around the nation, broad agreement exists that preventive medicine must play a central role in any healthcare reform model,” said ACPM Executive Director Michael A. Barry, CAE. “When we look at advances in preventive medicine, genetic screening is one area in particular that has seen explosive growth. Having an understanding of these new technologies and their impact on risk assessment strategies is going to be increasingly relevant for physicians on the frontline of care.”

The CME course features nationally-renowned experts selected by ACPM's Advisory Panel on Genetic Risk, Screening and Intervention. W. Gregory Feero, MD, PhD, Special Advisor to the Director at the National Human Genome Research Institute at the National Institutes of Health, provides an overview of the rapidly growing field of genomics and the rise of genetic testing for common complex conditions. Ralph J. Coates, PhD, Associate Director for Science in the Office of Public Health Genomics at the Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention, reviews the evidence-based approaches that have served as the basis for recommendations and clinical practice guidelines. James P. Evans, MD, PhD, Director of the Bryson Program in Human Genetics at the University of North Carolina, explores both the opportunities and the challenges presented by genetic screening for primary care physicians today.

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The 75-minute educational program may be accessed through ACPM's Online Learning Portal at <http://tinyurl.com/ACPM-GeneticScreening>.

ACPM will also promote and distribute the program via DVD at the upcoming American Academy of Family Physicians Scientific Assembly October 14-17 in Boston, and to all ACPM members. In addition to standard CME credit toward the American Medical Association Physician's Recognition Award, the program has been reviewed and is acceptable for up to 1.00 prescribed credit by the American Academy of Family Physicians.

#### **ABOUT AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE**

The American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM) is the national professional society for physicians committed to disease prevention and health promotion. ACPM was established in 1954. Its 2,400 members are engaged in preventive medicine practice, teaching and research. Specialists in preventive medicine are uniquely trained in both clinical medicine and public health. They have the skills needed to understand and reduce the risks of disease, disability and death in individuals and in population groups. To learn more about the College, visit <http://www.acpm.org/>.

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