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OECD Workshop on Genetic Testing

Vienna 2000

Guest Editor: Elettra Ronchi, Paris

*Editorial***Genetic Testing: Policy Issues for the New Millennium**Elettra Ronchi<sup>a</sup>, David Harper<sup>b</sup>, Anthony Taylor<sup>c</sup>, Alexander G. Haslberger<sup>d</sup><sup>a</sup>Health and Biotechnology Activities, Biotechnology Unit, OECD, Paris, France;<sup>b</sup>Environment and Health Branch, Department of Health, London, UK, and Chair of the Working Party on Biotechnology, OECD, Paris, France;<sup>c</sup>Genetics Policy Unit, Department of Health, London, UK,<sup>d</sup>Ministry for Social Security, Health, Generations IX/9b, Vienna, Austria[Address of Corresponding Author](#)*Community Genetics* 2000;3:161-163 (DOI: 10.1159/000051131)**Key Words**

- Genetic testing
- Policy issues
- OECD

**Abstract**

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The advent of molecular genetic testing in clinical laboratories has led to the introduction of a bewildering array of tests for many hundreds of genetic disorders. With the completion of the human genome project, the number is expected to increase significantly since one of the first applications of knowledge about the molecular basis of a particular disorder is the ability to develop a clinical diagnostic test. Computational advances and genomic technologies that enable rapid parallel testing of many genetic markers and mutations will further stimulate the growth of this sector. This progress is expected to lead to major changes in the infrastructure, performance and delivery of genetic services and, as a consequence, is challenging the limits of current services and the related ethical and regulatory frameworks.

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