Present a FREE program

What’s the Real Truth? The Impact of Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing

Saturday, February 8, 2014
9:30 am to 11:00 am
Swissotel, Chicago, IL
Vevey I, 2nd Floor, Event Centre

Historically, genetic testing has been administered by trained medical professionals in an environment that is controlled by medical personnel. A patient consults with their doctor, who orders and administers the test and sends the material to a lab, after which the doctor interprets the lab results for the patient. All you need to do is look at our headlines to realize how our world has changed—we now live in a world of 23andMe. Direct-to-consumer testing is a means by which individuals can, without consultation of a doctor, have genetic testing done by a private company via samples collected by the individual and have test results delivered directly from the company selling the test. Genetic testing generally involves a lengthy process of examining privacy concerns, genetic counseling and medical necessity as part of the decision making process between patients and medical personnel, all of which may be bypassed by direct-to-consumer testing. In late 2013, the FDA sent a letter to 23andMe, a provider of direct-to-consumer genetic testing, banning the sale and marketing of 23andMe’s genetic test for medical purposes. Our panel of experts will explore the benefits and limitations of direct-to-consumer testing and will discuss the advantages or disadvantages of an individual’s desire to know more about their genetic predispositions without the benefit of medical knowledge or counseling.

Moderator
Professor Nanette Elster, JD, MPH
Manager, Ethics Outreach, American Dental Association
Lecturer, Neiswanger Institute for Bioethics, Stritch School of Medicine, Loyola University
Chicago, IL

Panelists
Professor Valerie Gutmann Koch, JD
Visiting Assistant Professor, Chicago-Kent College of Law
Special Advisor, New York State Task Force on Life and the Law
Lecturer, University of Chicago MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics
Chicago, IL

Professor Katie Wasson, PhD, MPH
Assistant Professor, Neiswanger Institute for Bioethics, Stritch School of Medicine, Loyola University
Chicago, IL