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Genetics/Genomics for both treatment and prevention: The evidence-base

The emerging genetics/genomics evidence-base for both treatments and prevention will be described, along with online tools for increasing both awareness and utility of the increasingly actionable information. This can be helpful to the entire spectrum of potential users, including students and other members of the public. Such tools are increasingly important as the body of literature continues to expand rapidly, making it progressively more difficult to identify and manage the evidence-base for making genetics-informed choices. Online resources will be described, including the use of standardized terminology which allows the creation of subtopic listings for any given topic, or for any given combination of topics – including for genes and gene variants. Beyond diagnosis and treatment alone, such approaches also allow identification and exploration of prevention opportunities (both embracement and avoidance). Such information can be useful for pursuing both physical and mental health. Gene-environment examples include nutrition, pharmaceuticals, pollution, lifestyle, social environment, etc. Because nutrition applies to everyone without exception, it can become a useful introductory "archetype" for promoting greater engagement, and greater genetics/health literacy.

Biography

Ron Martin received his BS and MS degrees in Food Science and Nutrition from Chapman University, in Orange, California. He worked for more than 35 years in the nutraceutical and food industries, including Hunt-Wesson/ConAgra, Plus Products, the William. T. Thompson Co., and the Nutrilite division of Alticor, where he served as Senior Research Scientist in Nutrilite's New Concepts group. Ron has been a Professional member of the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) and is President of Nutrigenetics Unlimited, Inc., which he founded in 2007 (www.Nutrigenetics.net). He is also one of the founding members of the International Society of Nutrigenetics/Nutrigenetics(ISNN, www.NutritionAndGenetics.org).

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