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## National Library of Medicine Links All Conditions in the *Genetics Home Reference* to **AsktheGeneticist**<sup>SM</sup>

(Atlanta, GA, January 2006) - Emory University's Department of Human Genetics announced today that the *Genetics Home Reference*, <http://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/>, part of the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, has not only added the **AsktheGeneticist**<sup>SM</sup> website ([www.askthegen.org](http://www.askthegen.org)) to its *Resources Section*, but has linked **AsktheGeneticist**<sup>SM</sup> to every condition summary. The *Genetics Home Reference* team cited Emory's "impressive attention to public inquiries" for their decision. Since the link, the number of questions received on **AsktheGeneticist**<sup>SM</sup> has increased six-fold.

**AsktheGeneticist**<sup>SM</sup> is a collaborative effort of the Department of Human Genetics at Emory University and the Department of Genetics at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Led by PI Catherine Tesla, MS, CGC, the mission of **AsktheGeneticist**<sup>SM</sup> is to answer questions about genetic concepts, and the etiology, treatment, research, testing, and predisposition to genetic disorders. By providing a portal to information about genetics, **AsktheGeneticist**<sup>SM</sup> seeks to promote education and awareness of genetics in medicine for the public and those working in healthcare, and serves as a regional model for online genetics education.

Emory's Department of Human Genetics plays an instrumental role in increasing access to accurate information about genetics in medicine. The impact of genetics on healthcare is extraordinary. Over the last 30 years alone, the number of identified single gene disorders – those resulting from one or more mutations (DNA changes) in a single gene – has increased from 2,500 to over 16,000. One in 20 individuals will have clinical signs of a genetic disorder by the age of 25. Information resources such as **AsktheGeneticist**<sup>SM</sup> serve as an important vehicle to guide patients to clinical genetic centers. "We are seeing an explosion of knowledge in the understanding of human disease, thanks in large part to discoveries made every day in the field of genetics. We are translating genetic research rapidly and directly into clinical care", says Stephen T. Warren, Ph.D., William Patterson Timmie Professor of Human Genetics and Chairman, Department of Human Genetics.

*Genetics Home Reference* is the National Library of Medicine's web site for consumer information about genetic conditions and the genes or chromosomes responsible for those conditions. The *Genetics Home Reference* has a Q&A at the end of each condition summary that links to **AsktheGeneticist**<sup>SM</sup>.

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