

Arnold Dicke
Vice President,
American Academy of Actuaries, and
Executive Vice President—Product Actuary,
USLIFE Corporation,
New York, NY 10038–4985, USA

Response: The Policy Forum did not include specific predictions about the impact of genetic information on insurance availability and cost. It did provide data on the current impact: survey results showing 22% of individuals from families with genetic disorders have been discriminated against and case studies in which individuals have been treated unfairly by insurers on the basis of genetic information. The concern of the National Action Plan on Breast Cancer (NAPBC) and the National Institutes of Health—Department of Energy Working Group on Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications is shared by many. A majority of Americans (86%) are very or somewhat concerned that insurers or employers might use genetic test results to discriminate (Harris Poll No. 34, 1995). The U.S. Congress is also concerned about this issue. On 15 November, Senator Mark Hatfield (D-OR) introduced the "Genetic Privacy and Nondiscrimination Act of 1995" (S. 1416), which would prevent

discrimination by employers and insurers on the basis of genetic information.

Dicke argues that the Policy Forum ignores the impact of the recommendations on the system of risk classification. The current system takes into account the risk of diseases whose genetic components are not yet identified—these risks are spread. Retaining a system of spreading these risks need not be detrimental to industry. In fact, a number of states have already enacted laws to prevent the use of genetic tests to restrict access or increase health insurance rates. Such a law has been in place in Wisconsin for 5 years, and we are unaware of any adverse effects on the insurance industry in that state.

Kathy Hudson*
Francis Collins†
National Center for Human
Genome Research,
National Institutes of Health,
Bethesda, MD 20892, USA

*Assistant Director for Policy Coordination. †Director;
Co-chair, Hereditary Susceptibility Working Group,
NAPBC.

Corrections and Clarifications

In note 17 (p. 805) of the report "Superior parietal cortex activation during spatial attention shifts and visual feature conjunction" by M. Corbetta *et al.* (3 Nov., p. 802), the Charles A. Dana Foundation and NIH grant NS32979 should have been credited with support.

In the Random Samples item "Scientists as managers" (3 Nov., p. 741), Alan Merten's name and e-mail address were spelled incorrectly. Merten can be reached at merten@johnson.cornell.edu.

In the report "Aberrant subcellular localization of BRCA1 in breast cancer" by Yumay Chen *et al.* (3 Nov., p. 789), the amino acid position of the putative nuclear localization signal NKLRKRKRRP was given incorrectly. The correct position for the signal is amino acids 500 to 508.

Letters to the Editor

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