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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Children's Mercy Pediatric Bioethics Center Joins a Nationwide Consortium Studying the Ethical Issues Surrounding Returning Research Results

The center is awarded a grant from the National Human Genome Research Institute

Kansas City, Mo – September 26, 2011 – Jeremy R. Garrett, Ph.D., research associate with the [Children's Mercy Bioethics Center](#) at Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics receives a \$74,750 grant from the National Institutes of Health's National Human Genome Research Institute.

Dr. Garrett joins a consortium of bioethicists across the country looking at when and how researchers should return to study participants information about their risk for diseases or conditions discovered during studies of their genomes. A genome is all the genetic material contained in an organism, including its chromosomes, genes and DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid).

The NIH's National Human Genome Research Institute hopes these studies will shed light on real-life applications of returning genomic results to study participants as well as some of the legal and ethical issues surrounding returning research results.

Dr. Garrett's research will examine the ethical implications of sharing individual genetic findings and will recommend policies to regulate this practice.

"Genetic research can tell whether we carry lethal mutations, can reveal our ancestry, and might help doctors and scientists design treatments that are more effective for patients," Dr. Garrett says. "Many genetic findings, however, are difficult to interpret and of uncertain significance. Disclosing this to the participant can cause undue anxiety and has no benefit."

Dr. Garrett received one of seven grants, totaling \$5.7 million. Other research institutions that received grants and are part of the consortium are Children's Hospital of Boston, Johns Hopkins University, Columbia University, Vanderbilt University, and University of Washington School of Medicine.

About Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics

Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics, located in Kansas City, Mo., is one of the nation's top pediatric medical centers. The 314-bed hospital provides care for children from birth through the age of 18, and has been recognized by the American Nurses Credentialing Center with Magnet designation for excellence in nursing services, and ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of "America's Best Children's Hospitals." Its faculty of 600 pediatricians and researchers across more than 40 subspecialties are actively involved in clinical care, pediatric research, and educating the next generation of pediatric subspecialists. For more information about Children's Mercy and its research, visit childrensmercy.org or download our mobile phone app *CMH4YOU* for all phone types. For breaking news and videos, follow us on [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#).

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