



April 20, 2023

The Honorable Eric Swalwell  
U.S. House of Representatives  
174 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for Pharmacogenomics Legislative Package

Dear Representative Swalwell:

On behalf of the Personalized Medicine Coalition (PMC), which represents more than 220 innovators, scientists, patients, providers, and payers to promote the understanding and adoption of personalized medicine concepts, services, and products for the benefit of patients and the health care system, I am writing to share our support for introduction of your forthcoming legislative package on pharmacogenomics (PGx). If enacted, the two bills that comprise this package would facilitate incremental but meaningful progress toward ensuring that the United States health care system takes full advantage of our increasing understanding of drug-gene interactions to ensure that safer and more effective treatments are targeted to the right patients at the right time, leading to more effective and efficient health care.

PMC defines personalized medicine as an evolving field in which physicians use diagnostic tests to determine which medical treatments will work best for each patient or use medical interventions to alter molecular mechanisms that impact health. By combining data from diagnostic tests with an individual's medical history, circumstances, and values, health care providers can develop targeted treatment and prevention plans with their patients.

PGx is a cornerstone of personalized medicine, providing a way to guide treatment and prevention strategies based on individual patient characteristics. The use of diagnostic tests to detect drug-gene associations can play an important role in avoiding adverse events, optimizing drug dosing, and identifying patients who will or will not respond to certain medications.

In 2017, the State of Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System partnered with Coriell Life Sciences to provide PGx testing and comprehensive medication management to their patients. Findings published from their experience revealed that the real-world use of PGx testing and active medication management informed by PGx test results leads to more appropriate medication selection. Not only did patient outcomes improve, but the system saved \$37 million dollars in 32 months thanks to decreased outpatient and emergency department visits as well as inpatient hospitalizations.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President**

*Edward Abrahams, Ph.D.*

**Chair**

*Lincoln D. Nadauld, M.D., Ph.D.*  
Culmination Bio

**Vice Chair**

*Lauren Silvis, J.D.*  
Tempus

**Treasurer**

*Mark Stevenson*  
Thermo Fisher Scientific

**Secretary**

*Michael S. Sherman, M.D., M.B.A., M.S.*  
RA Capital Management

*Antonio L. Andreu, M.D., Ph.D.*  
European Infrastructure for Translational  
Research (EATRIS)

*Randy Burkholder*  
PhRMA

*Kevin Conroy*  
Exact Sciences

*William S. Dalton, Ph.D., M.D.*  
M2Gen

*Stephen L. Eck, M.D., Ph.D.*  
MacroGenics

*Lori Frank, Ph.D.*  
New York Academy of Medicine

*Sarah Hersey*  
Bristol Myers Squibb

*Kris Joshi, Ph.D.*  
Change Healthcare

*Richard Knight*  
American Association of Kidney Patients

*Peter Maag, Ph.D.*  
Kyverna Therapeutics

*Anne-Marie Martin, Ph.D.*  
GlaxoSmithKline

*Howard McLeod, Pharm.D.*  
Clarified Precision Medicine

*J. Brian Munroe*  
Bausch Health Companies

*Elizabeth O'Day, Ph.D.*  
Olaris, Inc.

*Michael J. Pellini, M.D., M.B.A.*  
Section 32

*Kimberly J. Popovits*  
10x Genomics

*Prasanth Reddy, M.D.*  
Labcorp

*Apostolia Tsimberidou, M.D., Ph.D.*  
MD Anderson Cancer Center

*Michael J. Vasconcelles, M.D.*  
ImmunoGen

*Jay G. Wohlgemuth, M.D.*  
Quest Diagnostics

Clear improvements in patient care and cost savings for health care systems can result from PGx testing and comprehensive medication management strategies. While PGx tests relevant to certain drug-gene associations have been available for more than a decade, routine testing is not widely utilized. Unfortunately, the number of adverse drug events occurring in this country continues at an alarming rate. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that about 1.3 million emergency department visits and 350,000 hospitalizations in the United States are due to harms from medication use. Many of these situations could be prevented by better integrating genetically informed prescribing and medication management into routine clinical care. In fact, a recent study published in *The Lancet* showed that utilizing PGx along with drug-gene interaction guidelines decreased adverse drug reactions by 30%.

We therefore applaud your efforts to make progress around PGx testing with the *Right Drug Dose Now Act of 2023*. We understand this bill would direct action across multiple federal agencies to inform the nation's plan to prevent adverse drug events, improve the reporting and collection of PGx information through electronic health records, and facilitate program improvements that would allow regulators to accept this information.

Patients and providers must also be aware of and understand the potential uses of PGx testing in order to make informed treatment decisions. The public awareness and health care professional education campaigns detailed in the *Pharmacogenomics Research and Education Act* can help close some knowledge gaps about drug-gene interactions and adverse events. Additionally, the increased funding authorized in the *Pharmacogenomics Research and Education Act* for the Genomic Community Resources program would further facilitate integration of PGx testing into patient care if the full funding amount is appropriated to the National Institutes of Health.

Genetically informed prescribing offers a realistic mechanism to improve individual patient outcomes while reducing overall health care costs. Thank you for your leadership on this legislative package and for championing the field of personalized medicine. If you have any questions about the content of this letter or if we can be of assistance as the bills advance through the legislative process, please contact me at [cbens@personalizedmedicinecoalition.org](mailto:cbens@personalizedmedicinecoalition.org) or 202-499-0986.

Sincerely,



Cynthia A. Bens  
Senior Vice President, Public Policy