Disease Risks Derived From Genetic Variants Need Clinical Context

In the January 2010 issue of *Genetics in Medicine*, Catharine B. Stack, Ph.D., a biostatistician for the Coriell Personalized Medicine Collaborative® (CPMC®), responded to an article by Mihaescu R, et al. entitled, “Evaluation of risk prediction updates from commercial genome-wide scans.”

Dr. Stack’s response highlighted limitations of the disease risk estimates provided by commercial companies offering genome-wide scans and challenged a common assumption and emphasis on the average risk in the overall population.

In light of current research, Dr. Stack stated that two approaches that may help put these risks into context are referring to comparable risk estimates from the clinical literature and presenting disease risk based on both genetic and non-genetic risk factors – as done in the CPMC® research study.

To read the article in its entirety, visit the *Genetics In Medicine* website: http://journals.lww.com/geneticsinmedicine/Citation/2010/01000/Disease_risks Derived_from_genetic_variants_need.9.aspx