

National Coalition for Health Professional Education in Genetics

Joe McInerney, MS, CGC

Joseph D. McInerney, executive director of the National Coalition for Health Professional Education in Genetics (NCHPEG), holds an MS in genetic counseling from SUNY Stony Brook. He joined the coalition on September 1, 2000. Prior to that, McInerney was director of the Foundation for Genetic Education and Counseling and spent 22 years on the staff of the Biological Sciences Curriculum Study (BSCS), where he was director from 1985 to 1999. He was a member of the information and education committee of the American Society of Human Genetics from 1988-1999 and is a member of the editorial boards of the *Quarterly Review of Biology* and *Community Genetics*.

McInerney was principal investigator on a NCHPEG project to develop an interactive CD-ROM on psychiatric genetics, for free distribution to all members of the National Society of Genetic Counselors, of which he is a charter member. He now is principal investigator on NCHPEG projects to develop an interactive CD-ROM on genetics and common chronic disease and on race, genetics, and health care. He directed development of the BSCS programs *Basic Genetics: A Human Approach* (2nd and 3rd editions); *Advances in Genetic Technology*; *Evolution: Inquiries into Biology and Earth Science*; and *Mapping and Sequencing the Human Genome: Science, Ethics, and Public Policy*, which was distributed free of charge to 50,000 high school biology teachers in the United States. He also directed development of three other instructional modules on the Human Genome Project, all of which have been distributed nationwide for free. He was principal investigator on projects to develop five interactive CD-ROMS (genetics and cancer; human genetic variation; emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases; systematics and taxonomy; and developmental biology) and co-principal investigator for development of an instructional module on the RNA world, for undergraduate biology.

McInerney is a former president of the 8,000-member National Association of Biology Teachers (U.S.) and in 1989 was awarded lifetime membership in that organization. In 1996, he was elected a Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He was a member of the Human Genome Project's working group on ethical, legal, and social implications (ELSI) of human genome research and recently concluded a four-year tenure on the ELSI study section of the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI). McInerney was also a member of the National Academy of Sciences' *ad hoc* committee on evolution and creationism, which produced two publications on the evolution/creation

issue. He has published more than 90 articles, reviews, and chapters in the scientific and science-education literature.