

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
1. INTRODUCTION	13
2. GENOMICS AND THE GENOME PROJECTS	19
2.1 Introduction	19
2.2 What are genes and how do they function?	19
2.3 The development of molecular genetics	24
2.3.1 Classical genetics	24
2.3.2 Molecular genetics	28
2.4 Characterizing the human genome	30
2.4.1 The identification of human disease genes	30
2.4.2 The Human Genome Project	31
2.4.3 Mapping the human genome	32
2.5 Functional genomics	32
2.5.1 Annotation of the human genome	32
2.5.2 Proteomics	33
2.5.3 Transcriptomics	34
2.5.4 Gene regulation	35
2.5.5 Bioinformatics	36
2.6 The genomes of other organisms	36
2.6.1 Introduction	36
2.6.2 The pathogen genome project	36
2.6.3 The genomics of disease vectors	39
2.6.4 The genomes of the worm, fruitfly, yeast and various animals	39
2.6.5 The central importance of the mouse genome project	39
2.6.6 Plant genomics	40
2.7 Summary	41
3. THE POTENTIAL OF GENOMICS FOR HEALTH CARE	43
3.1 Introduction	43
3.2 Monogenic disease	43
3.3 Communicable disease	47
3.4 Cancer	51
3.5 Complex multifactorial disease	55
3.6 Developmental abnormalities and mental retardation	58
3.7 Ageing	60
3.8 Pharmacogenomics	61
3.9 Gene therapy	63
3.10 Stem cell therapy	64
3.11 Plant genomics and human health	66
3.12 Forensic medicine	67
3.13 Biotechnology	69
3.14 Broader issues of biology	69
3.15 Summary	70

4. RELEVANCE AND TIME-SCALE OF ADVANCES IN GENOMICS FOR GLOBAL HEALTH	71
4.1 Genomics in the context of current world health problems	71
4.2 When will the medical promises of genomics be fulfilled?	73
4.3 Maintaining the balance of research planning and health care	75
4.4 Will the medical applications of genome research be affordable?	77
4.5 Summary	78
5. THE POTENTIAL OF GENOMICS FOR THE HEALTH OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	79
5.1 Introduction	79
5.2 Examples of what is feasible now	80
5.2.1 The inherited disorders of haemoglobin.	81
5.2.2 Genetic resistance to communicable disease	84
5.2.3 The introduction of DNA diagnostics for communicable disease	86
5.2.4 Drug-resistant organisms	86
5.2.5 Pharmacogenomics	89
5.2.6 Non-communicable disease	90
5.3 The development and provision of services in clinical genetics and DNA technology	92
5.4 Genomics for the control of communicable disease: future directions	93
5.5 Forging international partnerships in academia	102
5.6 Regional collaboration	103
5.7 Information technology and bioinformatics	104
5.8 Summary and future possibilities	105
6. POTENTIAL RISKS AND HAZARDS OF THE APPLICATIONS OF GENOMICS AND THEIR CONTROL.....	107
6.1 Introduction	107
6.2 Genetic manipulation	108
6.3 Risks in non-human genomics	109
6.3.1 Animals and insects	109
6.3.2 Plants	110
6.4 Changing the genetic constitution of individuals or populations	111
6.5 Genetic databases	113
6.6 Biological warfare and other political misuses	118
6.7 Stem cell gene therapy	120
6.8 Summary	122
7. JUSTICE AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE POST-GENOMIC ERA	123
7.1 Introduction	123
7.2 Current inequities in the provision of health care	124
7.2.1 Inequities in health status and disease burden	124
7.2.2 Issues of development and poverty alleviation	125
7.3 Research priorities and access to the benefits of research	127
7.3.1 The gap between developed and developing countries in health research	127
7.3.2 Redressing the developed-developing country gap	131

7.3.3	Developing research capacities	133
7.4	Intellectual property and sharing the benefits of research	135
7.4.1	Patents	135
7.4.2	Patenting genetic material	136
7.4.3	The TRIPS agreement	140
7.4.4	Biological resources and benefit sharing	142
7.5	Ownership and access to genetic databases	144
7.6	Summary	146
8.	ETHICAL ISSUES IN GENETIC RESEARCH, SCREENING, AND TESTING, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	147
8.1	Introduction	147
8.2	Informed consent	149
8.2.1	Principles	149
8.2.2	Genetic testing in health care and research	150
8.2.3	Other approaches to regulating genetic testing, screening and research	153
8.2.4	Genetic databases	153
8.3	Confidentiality of genetic information to prevent discrimination and stigmatization	155
8.3.1	Confidentiality and its appropriate limits	155
8.3.2	Discrimination and stigmatization	157
8.4	Gender issues	160
8.5	Eugenics	162
8.6	The disability rights movement's challenge to genetic screening and testing	165
8.7	Nontherapeutic genetic interventions: genetic enhancements	167
8.8	Gene therapy, stem cell therapy and human cloning	170
8.9	Summary	173
9.	EDUCATION AND PUBLIC POLICY	175
9.1	Introduction	175
9.2	Level of knowledge about genetics	175
9.3	Public perceptions of biotechnology and genetic engineering	177
9.4	Lack of organizations for setting public policy and ethical standards for genomics	180
9.5	Requirements for education and policy-making in the genomics era	183
9.5.1	Public education	183
9.5.2	Health care professionals	184
9.5.3	The educational role of clinical genetics services	184
9.6	Summary	185
10.	RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WHO AND ITS MEMBER STATES	187
10.1	Introduction	187
10.2	Recommendations	188
10.2.1	Technical cooperation between WHO and its Member States	188
10.2.2	WHO's normative function	193
10.2.3	An advocacy role for WHO	195
10.3	Closing Summary and Key Messages	198

ANNEX A GLOSSARY OF TECHNICAL TERMS .....	.201
ANNEX B CONSULTATION PROCESS .....	.209
Annex B1: Outline of consultation process and timeline .....	.209
Annex B2: Consultations .....	.210
B2.1 Consultation on the ACHR Report on Genomics and Health .....	.211
B2.2 Brasilia Regional Consultation on Genomics and World Health .....	.216
B2.3 The Bangkok Multiregional Consultation on Genomics and World Health .....	.218
Annex B3: List of contributing WHO staff .....	.224
Annex B4: List of relevant background WHO work on genetics, genomics and biotechnology .....	.225
Annex B5: Profiles of Report writers .....	.227
ANNEX C REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING .....	.229