



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Thursday, October 23, 2008**

**Media Contact:**  
ASHG Press Office  
301-637-7346 (o)

[press@ashg.org](mailto:press@ashg.org)

## **Roderick McInnes, M.D., Ph.D., Named President-Elect of The American Society of Human Genetics**

BETHESDA, MD – October 23, 2008 – The American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) recently elected Roderick McInnes, M.D., Ph.D., of The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) and the University of Toronto, to serve as president in 2010. Dr. McInnes is currently a Senior Scientist in the Developmental and Stem Cell Biology Program at SickKids and a University Professor and Professor of Molecular Genetics and Paediatrics at the University of Toronto.

“As a leading researcher in human genetics, Dr. McInnes has been at the forefront of discoveries that are truly advancing the field. ASHG and its members look forward to benefiting from his leadership during his tenure as President in 2010,” said Joann Boughman, Ph.D., executive vice president of ASHG.

With nearly 8,000 members, ASHG is the primary professional membership organization for human genetics specialists worldwide. The Society’s Annual Meeting, set for November 11-15 this year, is the world’s largest gathering of human genetics professionals, and it provides an international forum for top experts in the field to present their latest cutting-edge developments in human genetics and genomics research.

“Human genetics research has been progressing at an extraordinary pace over the past few decades, and ASHG’s members have played a tremendously important role in achieving new advances,” said Dr. McInnes. “It is a great honor to have been elected to lead this distinguished group in 2010.”

Dr. McInnes served on the ASHG Board of Directors from 2005 to 2007. As of January 1, 2010, Dr. McInnes will begin his term as president of ASHG, after serving as president-elect in 2009. In his role as president of ASHG, Dr. McInnes will be responsible for providing leadership and direction to the Society and its members. He will also be responsible for presiding at all meetings of the Society and of the Board of Directors, and for appointing ASHG committee chairs, members, and other representatives on behalf of the Society.

At The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Dr. McInnes’ research is part of a broad range of studies examining mechanisms of embryonic development and tissue regeneration. His work uses the mammalian retina as a model system for studying the central nervous system in order to identify key molecules required for development of the eye, pinpoint genes associated with retinal degeneration, and locate novel regulators of neural development and function.

Dr. McInnes earned his M.D. in 1970 from Dalhousie University Medical School in Halifax, Nova Scotia. In 1977, he completed a fellowship in pediatrics at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada

in Ottawa, and then in 1978, he received a Ph.D. from the Department of Biology at McGill University, Montreal. Dr. McInnes is currently a senior investigator and member of the faculty at the University of Toronto, where he holds the Ann and Max Tannebaum Chair in Molecular Medicine, and is a Professor in the Departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Genetics. He also serves as the Scientific Director of the Institute of Genetics at the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).

## **ABOUT THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HUMAN GENETICS**

Founded in 1948, The American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) is the primary professional membership organization for human genetics specialists worldwide. The nearly 8,000 members of ASHG include researchers, academicians, clinicians, laboratory practice professionals, genetic counselors, nurses and others involved in or with a special interest in human genetics. The Society's mission is to serve research scientists, health professionals and the public by providing forums to: (1) share research results through the Annual Meeting and in [The American Journal of Human Genetics \(AJHG\)](#); (2) advance genetic research by advocating for research support; (3) educate future genetics professionals, health care providers, advocates, teachers, students and the general public about all aspects of human genetics; and (4) promote genetic services and support responsible social and scientific policies.

For more information about ASHG, please visit <http://www.ashg.org/>.

###