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Perinatal Nutrition Working Group Finds New Home in *Expecting Health*

Washington, DC (July 22, 2015) —After years of stellar leadership from the National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition (HMHB), the Perinatal Nutrition Working Group (PNWG) has joined nonprofit Genetic Alliance, a leader and trusted voice in newborn health. Consisting of a dynamic network of over 1,200 disease organizations, for nearly thirty years Genetic Alliance has partnered with health organizations, consumer groups, and federal and community agencies to promote healthy behavior and consumer education. Genetic Alliance is prepared to grow the PNWG into an even more valuable nutrition resource for families and their healthcare providers.

The PNWG—a working group of healthcare professionals is dedicated to empowering expectant and new moms with the facts about the role healthful eating plays in positive pregnancy outcomes. This program will be part of the Genetic Alliance *Expecting Health* initiative, which houses maternal and child health activities at the nonprofit, including [Baby's First Test](#), the nationally recognized clearinghouse for newborn screening information.

“As an organization well-versed in engaging diverse experts in pregnancy and newborn health, Genetic Alliance is prepared to clear up confusion among moms-to-be and their doctors about healthful foods, like seafood, with encouraging, science-based information,” said Sharon F. Terry, President and CEO of Genetic Alliance. “By bringing parents and healthcare providers to the table, Genetic Alliance is uniquely positioned to optimize infant development and health in the U.S, and we are excited for the challenge.”

This is a critical opportunity and a remarkable time for Genetic Alliance to drive a program with a clear, evidence-based focus on promoting the benefits of healthful food choices during and after pregnancy. Bringing experts up to speed on the latest in emerging science and helping them keep pace with cutting edge messages is an important part of the mission. For instance, the weight of the science is clear: consumption of two to three seafood meals during pregnancy and breastfeeding provides vital omega-3s without introducing health risk. That’s not a message most mom’s to be are getting.

“We’re thrilled to work with Genetic Alliance to help moms-to-be understand and act on

the latest nutrition science,” said Mary Harris, PhD, RD, nutrition researcher and long-time member of the Perinatal Nutrition Working Group.

With support from key stakeholders, the expert members of the PNWG, Genetic Alliance is excited to embark on this new journey with the goal of bringing accurate messaging to the forefront of pregnancy health and parenting dialogue.

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About Genetic Alliance

Genetic Alliance engages individuals, families, and communities to transform health. Founded in 1986, it is the world's largest nonprofit health advocacy organization network. Genetic Alliance's network includes more than 1,200 disease-specific advocacy organizations, as well as thousands of universities, private companies, government agencies, and public policy organizations. *For more information about Genetic Alliance, visit www.geneticalliance.org.*

About the Perinatal Nutrition Working Group

The PNWG is comprised of top professors of obstetrics, doctors of nutrition and registered dietitians who serve as an evidence-based resource to physicians, organizations and women about the role of healthful foods like seafood during pregnancy. *For more information about Perinatal Nutrition Working Group, visit www.geneticalliance.org/pnwg.*