

**For Immediate Release**  
Thursday, July 19, 2007

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**Genetic Alliance Releases**  
**“Understanding Genetics: A New England Guide for Patients and Health Professionals”**

(Washington, DC, July 19, 2007) – Genetic Alliance announced today that it has published “Understanding Genetics: A New England Guide for Patients and Health Professionals” in collaboration with the New England Public Health Genetics Education Collaborative, a subcommittee of the New England Regional Genetics Group (NERGG, Inc). The manual provides educational resources on genetics for patients and health professionals in the New England states and increases awareness of specialty care in genetics. It offers a basic introduction to genetics concepts and describes the different types and applications of genetic tests. It also provides information about the diagnosis of a genetic disease, family history taking, newborn screening, and genetic counseling. A section on local information focuses on patient care, patient and professional education, and specialty genetics services in the New England region. The 80-page manual is available in print and electronic formats and is being distributed by New England’s state public health departments.

“New England Regional Genetics Group is exceptional at connecting patients, providers and the public to quality resources and catalyzing policy change in the region. This joint project with them will expand their reach and provide a much needed resource to patients and providers in New England,” said Sharon Terry, President & CEO, Genetic Alliance.

“Collaborating with Genetic Alliance on this project has been a wonderful experience for NERGG, Inc. Genetic Alliance recognized the need for this type of educational genetics resource manual, and by working with our New England PH Genetics Education Collaborative, our region now benefits from their insight,” said Mary-Frances Garber, MS, CGC, Executive Director of NERGG, Inc.

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Genetic Alliance leverages the voices of millions of individuals and families living with genetic conditions and transforms leadership by increasing the capacity of organizations to achieve their missions. The Alliance builds communication and mentoring networks, designs and sponsors rigorous training courses, and provides infrastructure that strengthens and empowers the 600 organizations that are part of the Genetic Alliance network. The technical assistance provided to advocacy organizations through the

network results in measurable growth: increased funding for research, access to services, and support for emerging technologies. For more information: [www.geneticalliance.org](http://www.geneticalliance.org).

The New England Public Health Genetics Education Collaborative, consisting of representatives from New England's six public health departments, has committed to joint efforts and sharing resources so that all in the region will have knowledge of genetics and its effects on health, with the goal of improved health outcomes. A subcommittee of NERGG, Inc., the Collaborative supports the NERGG, Inc. mission to promote the health of both children and adults by increasing the awareness of genetics concerns, the understanding of the role of genetics in healthcare, and the availability of appropriate services.

Funding for this manual was provided by the Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, Grant U22MC03959-03-00.