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Genetic Alliance Celebrates the Art of Listening

WASHINGTON, DC – February 24, 2011 – “The Art of Listening Award celebrates great service to men, women and children affected by genetic conditions,” said Sharon Terry, chief executive officer of Genetic Alliance, in announcing one of the four awards Genetic Alliance will present at its 2011 Annual Conference in June. “I am delighted that in our 25th anniversary year, Robin Bennett, a longtime colleague of Genetic Alliance, stands out as the clear choice for the Art of Listening Award.”

Bennett, MS, CGC, PhD Hon, is Senior Genetic Counselor and Co-Director of the Genetic Medicine Clinic at the University of Washington. In addition to her clinical work, she has been a pioneer in the development of genetic counseling practice recommendations, including developing criteria for pedigree nomenclature that are now the world standard. She has also taught high school, undergraduate, graduate, and medical students about genetics issues.

Furthermore, she gives her time and expertise to advocacy organizations because she values their contributions to science and public policy as well as to the lives of individuals and families with genetic conditions.

“Robin’s listening extends to support groups, colleagues, and aspirants,” said Virginia Sybert, MD, her nominator for this award. “She pays attention both to the text and subtext of the clinic visit, responds to both explicit and implicit needs, respects and values the individual, and honors the contract that we have with our patients to serve them according to their individual agenda as well as our own.”

The Awards Dinner takes place on June 25, 2011, during the Genetic Alliance Annual Conference: *25 Years of Innovation*. The conference is part of a [year-long 25th anniversary celebration](#) that also includes a Gala in September as well as salons, webinars, innovator videos, and more. In addition to the Art of Listening Award, Genetic Alliance will honor Art of Advocacy, Art of Reporting, and Art of Novel Partnership awardees. For more information and registration for the conference and/or the Awards Dinner, go to <http://www.geneticalliance.org/conference2011>.

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About Genetic Alliance

Genetic Alliance improves health through the authentic engagement of communities and individuals. In this, our 25th year, we celebrate innovation on our journey toward novel partnerships, connected consumers, and smart services. For more information about Genetic Alliance, visit <http://www.geneticalliance.org>.