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RFL Briefing with *The Hill* on Genetic Testing in Cancer Care

In mid November, staffers from House and Senate offices, NIH, think tanks and provider groups, among others, heard expert speakers and two Members of Congress underscore the value of genetic testing in cancer care. Rep. Michael Burgess, MD (R-TX) (at right), Vice Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee - who recently introduced legislation on the genetic tests that provide the backbone for personalized medicine - said, "We're on the brink of great discoveries." Rep. Charlie Gonzalez, (D-TX), speaking after Dr. Burgess, stressed that genetic testing is redefining diagnosis and front-line care for cancer. Recalling that it was only in the year 2000 that the mapping of the human genome was nearing completion, "Think of that ... Eleven years ago, and where are we today We've made incredible progress...".



The event was sponsored by Results for Life and the American Clinical Laboratory Association in conjunction with *The Hill* newspaper. The session focused on how the rapid innovation in genetic testing is resulting in significant advances in a range of cancer care, including leukemia, colon cancer, and breast cancer.

RFL Briefing Featured First-Hand Experience of Cancer Experts, Physicians, Clinical Labs

The audience at the briefing, held in the Longworth House Office Building, also heard first-hand accounts of physicians and experts about the powerful impact

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genetic testing in cancer care is making. [Mara Bloom](#), Executive Director, Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center, outlined the five goals of her organization's Genotyping and Targeted Therapies Program: "Better cancer diagnoses; earlier intervention, with more effective and safe therapy; better quality of life; long term cost savings; and faster drug development." Marc Grodman, MD, President, CEO and Chairman of the Board, Bio-Reference Laboratories, stressed that regulatory systems must be structured so that such important medical advances reach patients. "This is something that we, as laboratorians and myself as a clinician, are passionate about: the ability to bring in the latest innovation to patient care," said Dr. Grodman.

Reinforcing the real-world impact of genetic tests, the CEO of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN), [Bill McGiveny](#), said that more than 800 biomarker tests are currently recommended by guidelines developed by the group, which is the largest cancer guideline group in the world. The briefing concluded with a vision of the future of genetic and genomic testing, provided by [Simon Tripp](#), Senior Director, Battelle Memorial Institute.

Online, On Twitter, and On Demand

The session was live-tweeted on the [RFL twitter site](#), heard on live streaming, and is available "on demand" on [The Hill website](#); the video and briefing materials are also available on the RFL website: www.labresultsforlife.org.