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RFL Releases Battelle Report on Genetic Testing Jobs

Genetic and genomic clinical laboratory testing generates 116,000 U.S. jobs and contributes \$16.5 billion annually to the U.S. economy, according to a report from the Battelle Memorial Institute. RFL and ACLA released the report in a January 19, 2012, briefing call with the news media.

Report author Simon Tripp, Senior Director at Battelle, said that improved health, better outcomes, and lower costs are key societal benefits of genetic and genomic lab testing. He pointed out that the U.S. is the world leader in the sector and that it is poised for continued growth. ACLA President Alan Mertz stressed to reporters that the robust economic growth from genetic and genomic testing is occurring during one of the country's deepest recession. He added the highly innovative sector is just the kind of industry the U.S. needs for the future, as it creates well-paying jobs for American workers.

Materials from the briefing, including slides, media release and the Battelle report itself, can be found at the Results for Life website, www.labresultsforlife.org.

Battelle Report Findings Appear in 500+ Media Outlets

The Battelle report appeared in more than 500 newspapers, radio stations, magazines and online sites, reaching 90 million people who visit those news outlets' web sites every day. They include such publications as the Boston Globe, Sacramento Bee, Reuters news service, Yahoo Politics, AOL Daily Finance and 150 television outlets across the country. ACLA President Alan Mertz conducted 10 radio interviews on the report, including the national radio network of Fox News. He was also interviewed by stations or networks in Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Washington State and Washington, DC.

RFL Stresses Key Role of Lab Tests in Beating Diabetes

In a January 10 media release, RFL and ACLA lauded the widely read policy journal *Health Affairs* for its special January 2012 issue on diabetes and for focusing, in particular, on the issues surrounding diabetes screening. The *Health Affairs* article called for the government's preventive services task force to consider a broader range of evidence when it updates its recommendation for screening for Type 2 diabetes, an epidemic that is projected to cost \$514 billion by 2025. ACLA Vice President Jen Bullard Bowman noted that laboratory tests can help identify people at high risk of developing diabetes and monitor the success of lifestyle changes that may prevent the onset of diabetes and its costly complications.

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