

Cody JD(2009). *Reply to a Letter from Drs. Ledbetter, Saul, and Moeschler. Genet Med 11(9): 682-683.*

In many scientific journals, authors have the opportunity to write letters relating to current “hot topics” in the scientific field. It is something like the “Opinions” section of a newspaper. In 2009, a discussion in the journal *Genetics in Medicine* focused on the question of whether primary care physicians should order first-line genetic testing without having the patient first seen by a geneticist. Some geneticists feel that this approach leads to unnecessary testing, and therefore unnecessary costs. They believe that it is a better idea to have a patient evaluated by a geneticist before ordering any tests. The director of the Research Center, Dr. Cody, joined this discussion by writing a letter. She pointed out that, although it might be ideal for every patient to see a geneticist before beginning the genetic testing process, this simply isn’t realistic. Patients may have referrals to multiple specialties and may have difficulty going to all appointments. Genetics clinics may have a long wait list, or may not be located near the family’s home. She encouraged genetics professionals to stop viewing developments such as this as an “infringement” on the territory of geneticists. Instead, geneticists should embrace these developments and find new and better ways to deliver services. She closed by offering some potential ways in which geneticists could participate in the integration of genetics into health care.