

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Board of Regents

**From:** Board Office

**Subject:** Change Statistical Genetics Subtrack to Ph.D. in Statistical Genetics and the Division of Statistical Genetics to Program in Public Health Genetics at the University of Iowa

**Date:** July 7, 2003

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**Recommended Action:**

Approve the change in the designation of the current Statistical Genetics Subtrack of the Biostatistics Ph.D. to a Ph.D. in Statistical Genetics in a newly-configured departmental unit, the Program in Public Health Genetics, in the University of Iowa College of Public Health.

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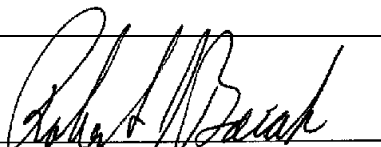
**Executive Summary:**

A "Change of Designation"	The University of Iowa requests permission to change the designation of the current Statistical Genetics Subtrack of the Biostatistics Ph.D. degree to a free-standing Ph.D. in Statistical Genetics to be offered in the newly-configured departmental unit, the Program in Public Health Genetics in the College of Public Health. The Statistical Genetics subtrack was approved in 2002 and has been offered in the Department of Biostatistics.
No Changes in Program Content	No changes in content are required since the degree is essentially a free-standing program. Faculty responsible for the Statistical Genetics subtrack previously had appointments in the Division of Statistical Genetics within the Department of Biostatistics. Now the College seeks to reorganize the existing Division of Statistical Genetics as a departmental unit, the Program in Public Health Genetics, in response to internal and national considerations.
Important to Public Health Mission	The University believes that it is imperative that colleges of public health begin training the public health workforce in the area of public health genetics. The programmatic needs of statistical genetics are sufficiently distinct from those of traditional Biostatistics that a reorganization to afford the faculty more independence in shaping their own graduate program will be highly beneficial to the educational mission of the group.

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Recommended by Board Office and ICEC	The program changes have been reviewed by the Interinstitutional Committee on Educational Coordination (ICEC) and the Board Office and both recommend approval of the proposed changes.
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Robert J. Barak

Approved:   
Gregory S. Nichols