PART III

GENOMICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH: CURRENT APPROACHES AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES
Introduction:
The Role of International Stakeholders in Genomics and Public Health

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1. INTRODUCTION

In today’s world, genomics and public health advancements are dependent upon international collaboration. Scientists collaborating at an international level carry a significant share of genomics research. Moreover, funding agencies and private funders routinely fund international projects. The World Health Organization, UNESCO, and other international institutions are key actors in the development of public health policies and strategies. Finally, patients all around the world are ultimately the recipients of the benefits of such advancements. What is the role of these different stakeholders?

Stakeholder involvement raises both theoretical and practical challenges. The interconnected nature of scientific research and the global scale of the challenges that public health concerns raise are only likely to increase the international dimension of genomics and public health activities. Moreover, differences in the cultural values, legal frameworks and political goals of the various stakeholders may have a negative impact on future development. How do we acknowledge the international dimension of genomics research and develop strategies that aim to foster international dialogue among the key actors? What groups should be represented? Who can legitimately speak for each group? How to reconcile conflicting