# Glossary

**Biomarker-** A biological molecule found in blood, other body fluids, or tissues that is a sign of a normal or abnormal process, or of a condition or disease.

**Biorepository-** A collection of biological samples — such as tissue, blood, urine, DNA and live cells — that are linked with clinical data from a patient's electronic medical record. Also known as a biobank.

**Chromosome-** Structure within a cell that stores genetic information. The typical human has 23 chromosomes.

**Colorado Revised Statutes-** State laws that prevent genetic information from being used to decide on the provision of health care insurance or Medicare supplement insurance coverage.

**dbGaP-** A public database of genetic data shared for researches all over the country.

**DNA-** DNA is the complex molecule that contains the basic instructions for most known forms of life, including humans.

**Gene-** A working piece of DNA that contains the instructions for building proteins.

**Genome-** The complete set of genes or genetic material present in a cell or organism.

**Genomics-** The branch of molecular biology relating to the structure, function, evolution and mapping of genes.

**Genotyping-** The process of determining differences in the genetic make-up of people by looking at their DNA.

**GINA-** Genetic Information Non-discrimination Act (GINA) is a federal law that prevents genetic test results from being used to decide health insurance coverage and costs. GINA also prevents some employers from using genetic test results against workers.

**Pharmacogenomics-** The study of how a person's unique genetic makeup affects his or her response to medications.

**Personalized Medicine-** The personalization and customization of health care, with decisions and treatments tailored to each individual patient in every way possible.

**SNP-** Occurs when a single letter in a person’s genome differs between people.