

Janet Williams and Christian Simon, of the University of Iowa, recently received an award from the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The NHGRI announcement notes that "...the pace of genomic and genetic research and its application by healthcare providers is expected to increase dramatically. Examining the emerging ethical, legal and social implications of genomic research therefore will be critical to safely and effectively moving discoveries into the clinic."

The UI study will address incidental findings (IFs) in genomic research: How are patients informed of the possibility of IFs? How are decisions made to disclose, or not to disclose, IFs when they occur? What issues are important to researchers, clinicians, and the public? As part of this study, Heartland members will have the opportunity to provide their views and/or experiences regarding the occurrence of incidental findings during genomics research.