Developmental disabilities (DD) impact the global and adaptive functioning of individuals. In the past, the genetics field has focused primarily on a medical model of care for individuals with a developmental disability, a perspective divergent from the philosophies embraced by non-medical workers who are the most populous workers in the intellectual disability field, thus creating a medical versus functional dichotomy of care. This session will review the process, value, and importance of a genetic assessment in individuals with DD, will highlight how a genetic diagnosis can aid in optimizing health care and function across many areas of an individual's life, and will stress the importance of collaboration between the medical genetics field and health care providers.

The VKC welcomes participants with disabilities. Contact kc@vanderbilt.edu for disability access information.