Virtual Lecture: Transforming Prenatal Screening: From New Technologies to Gender Reveal Parties

Screening for fetal genetic conditions has been part of routine prenatal care since the 1980s. The completion of the Human Genome Project, combined with developments in higher throughput, lower cost DNA sequencing technology, facilitated a major transformation in prenatal testing in 2011. Sequencing of fetal DNA from the blood of pregnant women has been the largest and most successfully implemented genetic test in history. This new approach to prenatal testing is far more accurate than prior approaches but has led to both positive and negative downstream effects on health care and society.