

# M University of Michigan Genetic Counseling Program

(734) 763-2933 [www.hg.med.umich.edu/gcweb/](http://www.hg.med.umich.edu/gcweb/)

Fall 2017

## Congratulations Class of 2017!



Sarah Drewes, Kelly Watkins, Christopher Deffer, Tessa Marzulla, Sarah Mazzola, Beatrix Wong

We are thrilled about the continued success of our graduates on the ABGC Certification Exam. We once again had a 100% pass rate for those that sat for the exam this summer (Sarah D, Sarah M, Christopher and Tessa). We wish Kelly and Beatrix the best of luck when they take the exam in February.

- **Christopher Deffer, M.S., C.G.C.**  
Prenatal Clinics at Fairview Health Services:  
Minneapolis, MN
- **Sarah Drewes, M.S., C.G.C.**  
Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC:  
Pittsburgh, PA
- **Tessa Marzulla, M.S., C.G.C.**  
Swedish Hospital:  
Seattle, WA
- **Sarah Mazola, M.S., C.G.C.**  
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia:  
Philadelphia, PA
- **Kelly Watkins, M.S.**  
Rady Children's Hospital:  
San Diego, CA
- **Beatrix Wong, M.S.**  
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center:  
Cincinnati, OH

## JEMF Student Research Awardees

The Jane Engelberg Memorial Fellowship Advisory Group received 37 student research proposals this year, and ten were selected for funding. Four of these awardees are from the UM Genetic Counseling Program! In addition, Carol Ko (Class of 2015) won the JEMF Best Manuscript Award.

### Kestutis Micke

*Text Messaging as an Intervention: Improving Mental Health Outcomes in Parents with a Newborn that has a Congenital Heart Defect*

### Lauren Turner

*An Evaluation of Patient Decision Making and Needs Following a Positive NIPT Result*

### Natalie Waligorski

*Accessibility of Prenatal Genetic Counseling Services Among Incarcerated Women*

### Stephanie Wiryaman

*Assessing Family-based Perceptions of the Disorders of Sex Development (DSD) Nomenclature*

### Carol Ko (Class of 2016)

*Genetic Testing Impacts the Utility of Prospective Familial Screening in Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Through Identification of a Non-familial Subgroup*

## Honoring Janice Bach: The 2017 Diane Baker Alumni Award Recipient



In this 200th anniversary of the University of Michigan, the Genetic Counseling Program is thrilled to honor an alumna who truly represents the UM tradition of being the "Leaders and Best." Janice Bach, MS, CGC is the 8th recipient of the Diane Baker Alumni Award. This award honors the vision and commitment to the profession of genetic counseling of our founder and first Program Director, Diane Baker.

Janice Bach received her Master's Degree from the University of Michigan in 1979, and has the distinction of being the first graduate of the University of Michigan Genetic Counseling Program. Since the beginning of her journey, Janice has been a visionary leader who has committed her career to building a public health genomics infrastructure for the state of Michigan. She led the development of the state of Michigan's genetics plan, which serves as a model for other states across the country. Under Janice's effective leadership, Michigan's public health genetics program has expanded to address genomics issues throughout the lifespan. The current scope includes birth defects, newborn screening, and chronic diseases like cancer and cardiovascular conditions. Janice currently serves as the State Genetics

Coordinator and Manager of the Genomics and Genetic Disorders Section at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Janice will provide the Annual Diane Baker Alumni Lecture on Monday October 23, 2017 at 4pm in 5915 Buhl. Students and faculty will have the opportunity to meet with both Janice and Diane throughout their visits. Previous awardees include Barbara Biesecker, Jill Stopfer, Amy Sturm, Stephanie Cohen, Meg Hefner, and Lori Williamson Dean. Nominations for the 2018 recipient will be requested in the spring of 2018.

## New Faces in the UM Genetic Counseling Community

The University of Michigan genetic counseling community continues to grow.



**Margarita Bekiares** began working for the Genetic Counseling Program in May of 2017. Margarita will help us support our growing community of students and faculty as the Student Services Representative dedicated to the Genetic Counseling Program. Margarita brings a wealth of experience and expertise

to this role, having previously worked as a Program Administrator for the UM Cellular & Molecular Biology Ph.D. Program where she worked with her Director and 60-70 students to incorporate new student initiatives and guide students through all aspects of this multi-disciplinary training program.



We also welcome two new genetic counselors to the University of Michigan. In July, **Safa Yusuf** began her work as a genetic counselor, splitting her time in two clinics—the Medical Genetics Clinic and the Breast and Ovarian Cancer Risk Evaluation Clinic. Safa earned her MS in Genetic Counseling from Sarah Lawrence College in 2017. In August, **Dianne Samad** joined the UM Cancer Genetics Clinic. Dianne is a 2016 graduate of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center Genetic Counseling Program.

Before joining the University of Michigan, Dianne worked at the Baylor College of Medicine as a research genetic counselor, working primarily with families and patients with Ehlers-Danlos and Smith-Magenis Syndrome.

The University of Michigan now employs 21 clinical genetic counselors, more than any other institution in the state.

# Welcome to Our Incoming Genetic Counseling Students

The 2017 academic year is a landmark year for our training program, as we welcome our largest cohort of students. The students arrived in Ann Arbor from across the country and have already impressed us with their enthusiasm and curiosity. We are looking forward to a fantastic year!



Back Row: Addie Beil, Kelsey Lenhart, Katie Ozelius, Kimberly Hilfrank, Elise Sobotka. Front Row: Lauren Seemann, Amanda Schaefer, Colby Chase, Kelsie McVeety

- **Adelyn Beil** went to the Ohio State University, graduating in 2016 with a B.S. in Molecular Genetics. While in Columbus, she worked at the Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio (SARNCO) as a crisis counselor, as well as working in the genetic counseling offices at Riverside Hospital and Nationwide Children's Hospital. She is a dual degree student at UM's School of Public Health in the Health Management and Policy Department and currently works with the Genetics and Faith Dialogue group to help facilitate scientific and religious discussions between leaders in both genetics and faith-based organizations around southeast Michigan.

- **Colby Chase** completed her B.S. in Biological Sciences with a minor in Psychology at University of the Pacific in Stockton, CA. She served as a Resident Assistant at the University of the Pacific for two years, as well as a Residence Director this past summer. She previously interned at the Martin Gipson Socialization Center, where she facilitated classes on various life skills for adults diagnosed with mental illnesses. She also worked in a lab which studied protein interactions involved in DNA repair mechanisms in the protozoan *Trichomonas vaginalis*.

- Originally from Norfolk, Massachusetts, **Kimberly Hilfrank** graduated from Franklin & Marshall College in 2015 with a B.A. in public health. While at F&M, Kimberly conducted research exploring Amish attitudes towards genetic testing and medicine. Following her graduation, she spent two years in a rural Pennsylvania high school working as a college adviser through an AmeriCorps program, The National College Advising Corps. As a college adviser, Kimberly advocated for minority, low income, first generation students who are typically underrepresented in higher education and helped them to achieve their post-high school plans.

- **Kelsey Lenhart** graduated in 2016 from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN with a BA degree in Biology and Psychology. After graduation, she worked at The Emily Program's Anna Westin House, a residential treatment facility for patients with eating disorders. She spent time there working in individual and group settings with the residents, providing therapeutic support and teaching them skills to help them continue to work toward recovery after they leave residential treatment. She also volunteered at the Walk-In Counseling Center for three years, where she assisted patients with finding free counseling services, resources, and referrals.

- **Kelsie McVeety** earned her B.S. in Biological Anthropology, with minors in Biology and Japanese, from the University of Oregon Clark Honors College. During her time at the University of Oregon, she worked as a research assistant for the Molecular Anthropology Group and completed a thesis project investigating human genetic susceptibility to AIDS. Following graduation in 2015, Kelsie attended the Ohio State University for post-baccalaureate studies. There she gained advocacy experience facilitating book clubs for adults with developmental disabilities and working as a helpline advocate for survivors of sexual violence.

- **Katherine Ozelius** earned her B.S. in Psychology with a concentration in neuroscience from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 2015. During her undergraduate years, Katherine conducted emotion regulation research in a clinical neuroscience lab. She simultaneously gained advocacy experience volunteering with inmates at the county jail, helping them to build more effective decision-making skills. Katherine worked at Bay State Community Services following graduation, gaining further advocacy experience by providing therapeutic services to children with mental health diagnoses and their families.

- **Amanda Schaefer** earned her B.A. in Biology from Luther College, in Decorah, Iowa in 2013. As an undergraduate, she did her senior project on the molecular mechanisms of cervical cancer development. After graduation, Amanda worked as a research lab technician studying cancer cell metabolism. She gained advocacy experience working with families and individuals at the Dougherty Hospice House in Sioux Falls, SD. Amanda also had the opportunity to volunteer with SibShops, a program designed to provide support to siblings of children with special health, developmental, or mental health concerns.

- **Lauren Seemann** is from Des Moines, Iowa and graduated from Cornell College with a degree in biochemistry and molecular biology in 2013. Following graduation, she spent a year in Austria as an au pair and then several years coordinating studies of language impairment in children at the University of Iowa. During her time in Iowa City, she volunteered on a crisis hotline and interned in a genetics research lab, where she learned how computational methods are used to investigate genetic questions.

- **Elise Sobotka** earned her B.S. in Biology and German Studies at Brandeis University. As an undergraduate student, she gained advocacy experience volunteering at a free housing clinic, which provided information on housing and tenant rights to low-income and immigrant clients. After graduation, she held a volunteer position assisting patients and staff in an Urgent Care, as well as working as a medical assistant at Planned Parenthood.

## SAVE THE DATES!!!

### Alumni Reception-NSGC

Friday September 15, 2017 9:00-11:00 PM  
Gordon Biersch  
401 North Front Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

### 7th Annual Thomas D. Gelehrter Lecture

*"Navigating the Genome in Clinical Medicine and Public Health"*  
James P. Evans, MD, PhD  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Oct 5, 2017 at 2:00 PM  
BSRB Kahn Auditorium

### UMGCP Open House for Prospective Students

October 13, 2017 at 3:00-5:00 PM  
5915 Buhl

### Alumni Reception-ASHG

Thursday, October 19, 2017  
7:30 – 9:30 PM  
Lake Nona A Room  
Hilton Orlando, 6001 Destination Parkway  
Orlando, FL

### Diane Baker Alumni Lecture

Janice Bach, MS, CGC  
Michigan State Department of Community Health  
*"Reflections on a 40-year Journey from Genetic Counseling to Public Health Genomics"*  
Oct 23, 2017 at 4:00 pm  
5915 Buhl

### 2018 Genetic Counseling Admissions Match

Deadline to register: December 15, 2017  
Register and find more information at: [natmatch.com/gcadmissions](http://natmatch.com/gcadmissions).

### 2018 UM Genetic Counseling Program Admissions

Application deadline: January 4, 2018  
More information can be found on the GCP website