

Welcome Class of 2015

We are thrilled to welcome the UMGCP Class of 2015 to our community and look forward to working with them during their graduate training. Based on their past records of success, we know that their future contributions will be rich and varied.

Samantha Greenberg earned her B.S. in Neuroscience from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. While an undergraduate, she served as a resident assistant and participated in the honors program. Prior to joining the UMGCP, Sam spent two years in Teach for America teaching seventh grade science in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Sam is enrolled in our dual degree program in Genetic Counseling and Public Health.

Caitlin Hale earned her B.S. in Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics from the University of California, Los Angeles. As an undergraduate, she worked as a research assistant with a genetic counselor studying the effect of newborn hearing screening on genetic testing for deafness. Since graduation she has worked in clinical research for the University of Colorado Cancer Center. Caitlin's advocacy experiences include serving as a hotline volunteer for a rape crisis center.

Michelle Jacobs earned her B.S. from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. As an undergraduate, Michelle volunteered for a crisis line, served as a peer mentor, and worked at a school for children with special needs. She spent a summer in Israel volunteering for an ambulance corp and also completed field work in the Galapagos Islands.

Diane Koeller earned her B.S. in Biological Sciences and Psychology from Carnegie Mellon University. She is enrolled in the Genetic Counseling and Public Health Dual Degree Program. Diane's advocacy experiences include volunteering for an online crisis center, a hospice, the UPMC Cancer Genetics Center, and Global Medical Brigades in Honduras. As an undergraduate, she also worked as a research assistant and a teaching assistant.



Kate Partynski, Caitlin Hale, Kyle Salsbery, Alex Yragui, Diane Koeller, Michelle Jacobs and Samantha Greenberg.

Kate Partynski earned her B.A. in Biology from the University of San Diego. As an undergraduate, she worked as a peer counselor through USD's wellness center and served as a peer mentor to first-year students. She also worked as a teaching assistant in biology and organic chemistry laboratory classes.

Kyle Salsbery earned his B.A. in Biochemistry from Taylor University in Indiana. He interned at Mayo Clinic as part of the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) in the Vaccine Research Group lab. Kyle was also a resident assistant and participated in multiple mission trips to foreign countries while at Taylor.

Alex Yragui earned her B.S. in General Biology from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. As an undergraduate, she volunteered at Ann Arbor Hospice and mentored at-risk children in the Detroit Public Schools. She also participated in research at the University of Michigan Biological Station.

Congratulations to the UMGCP CLASS OF 2013!!!



Lavania Sharma, Michele Bailey, Emi Higuchi, Lesli Kiedrowski, Michelle Ernst, Erin Milne.

Michele Bailey, MS
Genetic Counselor
Diagnostic Cytogenetics: Seattle, WA

Michelle Ernst, MS
Genetic Counselor
Yale Cancer Center: New Haven, CT

Emi Higuchi, MS
Genetics Outreach Specialist
University of Wisconsin: Madison, WI

Lesli Kiedrowski, MS, MPH, CGC
Genetic Counselor
UT Southwestern: Dallas, TX

Erin Milne, MS
Genetic Counselor
Mayo Clinic: Rochester, MN

Lavania Sharman, MS
Professional Support Specialist
Myriad Genetics Laboratory: Salt Lake City, UT

Kudos to Our Award Winning Student Researchers!

This fall, several members of the UMGCP Class of 2014 received awards for their work in research, including Lauren Hipp, Caroline Weipert, and Emily Moe.

Lauren Hipp is the 2013 recipient of the Neel Genetic Counseling Fellowship. This fellowship is intended to support the development of genetic counseling clinical research scholars. Lauren's research project is entitled *Clinical Predictors of Mutation Positive Status in Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy: A Novel Risk Algorithm*. The results will inform clinicians in their decision to pursue genetic testing for affected individuals, with the potential to limit inappropriate test referrals and promote the cost effective use of genetic testing. She is working with Sharlene Day, MD and Patty Arscott, MS in the UM Inherited Cardiomyopathy Program.

Emily Moe is the 2013 recipient of the Jane Engelberg Memorial Fellowship (JEMF) Student Research Award. This fellowship is awarded by the National Society of Genetic Counselors and is designed to improve the practice of genetic counseling by providing support for scholarly investigation. Emily's research project is entitled *Assessing Current Practices in Prenatal Genetic Counseling Regarding a Prenatal Diagnosis of Down Syndrome*. The objective of Emily's project is to refine the communication process in genetic counseling regarding a prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome so that it is responsive to patients' needs and optimizes patient-centered decision-making. Emily has a national research committee with members in North Carolina, Wisconsin and Michigan.

Caroline Weipert is the 2013 recipient of the Michigan Association of Genetic Counselors Student Research Award. Caroline's project is entitled *Examining the Conceptual Framework Underlying Oncologists' Understanding of Whole Genome Sequencing for Cancer Patients*. Caroline hopes to gain an understanding of the reasoning behind physician enrollment of patients into whole genome sequencing protocols, identify common misconceptions in clinician knowledge, and gain an understanding of the factors clinicians believe most important regarding genome sequencing results. Her project is part of a multi-unit collaborative research project at UM.

Congratulations to Stephanie Cohen: 2013 Diane Baker Alumni Award Recipient

The tradition of excellence that distinguishes our genetic counseling program alumni owes a great deal to our founder and first Program Director, Diane Baker, MS, CGC. The annual Diane Baker Alumni Lecture honors Diane's vision and commitment to the profession.

We were thrilled to welcome Stephanie Cohen (Class of 1993) back to Ann Arbor on September 23 - 24 to receive the 4th Annual Diane Baker Alumni Award. Stephanie has been an advocate for the field of genetic counseling having served as the immediate past-president of the Indiana Network of Genetic Counselors (INGC) and as the current chair of the National Society of Genetic Counselors Access and Service Delivery Committee. She also led an NSGC taskforce that defined and evaluated genetic counseling service delivery models.



Recipient Stephanie Cohen and Diane Baker

During her visit, Stephanie provided the Diane Baker Alumni Lecture, entitled "Next Gen GC: Improving Access to Genetic Counselors with Innovative Service Delivery." Stephanie's lecture highlighted her national and local efforts to increase access to quality genetic counseling services, stressing the importance of collaboration, innovation, and utilization of the unique skill sets of multiple health care professionals. Stephanie's visit also included ample time for mentorship of our genetic counseling students, as well as meetings with current faculty and old friends. Stephanie's career path is emblematic of the contributions to the profession, students, and patient care that we celebrate in the Diane Baker Award Lecture Series.

Previous awardees include Barbara Biesecker, Jill Stopfer, and Amy Sturm. Nominations for the 2014 recipient will be requested in the Spring of 2014.

Welcome to the Michigan Genetic Counseling Community!

We are thrilled to welcome the newest additions to the University of Michigan Genetic Counseling community. With these additions, more than twenty genetic counselors are now working at our UM Ann Arbor campus.

Carmen Williams, MS, CGC and **Jenae Johnson, MS, CGC** are both new additions to the University of Michigan Cancer Genetics Clinic. Carmen is a 2013 graduate from Northwestern who joined the group in July with a particular interest in the evaluation and management of patients at increased risk for pancreatic cancer. Jenae will begin her work at UM in early November and is a 2008 graduate of Indiana University who has worked as a genetic counselor at the Thompson Cancer Survival Center in Knoxville, TN for the last five years.

Lauren Bogue, MS, CGC is a 2011 graduate of Indiana University who joined the Department of Neurology in September. She serves as a genetic counselor in the Pediatric Neuromuscular Clinic and also supports the department's research initiatives as a research study coordinator, with a focus on Charcot Marie Tooth disease.

2013 ABGC Board Examination: Continued Success!!!

Congratulations to recent alumni, **Katya Brossart, Jillian Huang, Lesli Kiedrowski, Brittany Batte, Heidi Dreyfuss** and **Michelle Kluge** who joined the ranks of ABGC Certified Genetic Counselors. The performance of our alumni on the ABGC certification examination remains outstanding. Since 2007, we have had 45 alumni take the examination, with all 45 alumni achieving certification. Of particular note, over 95% achieved certification on their first attempt. Their success is a testament to the strength of our students, curriculum, and faculty.