

## Welcome Class<sup>of</sup> 2017

We are thrilled to welcome the UMGCP Class of 2017 to our community and look forward to working with them over the next 2 years.

**Christopher Deffer** earned his B.S. in Biology, Genetics and Biotechnology from The University of Iowa. After graduation he worked in quality control for Integrated DNA Technologies and gained experience in genetic counseling shadowing at The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. His advocacy experiences include volunteering with the Clarissa C. Cook Hospice House and the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center.

**Sarah Drewes** earned her B.S. in Genetics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Sarah's undergraduate research involved studying DNA replication in yeast and creating a website to support the study of Xeroderma pigmentosum. Sarah gained advocacy experience serving as a respite care provider, conversational English tutor, and a crisis helpline volunteer for runaway and homeless youth.

**Jamie Love-Nichols** earned her B.S in Biology and American Studies from Tufts University. Her honors thesis examined civil rights in genetic medicine using a case study of neonatal screening for PKU. She volunteered with Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts Counseling and Referral Hotline. She also worked as a research assistant coordinator for clinical studies of autism and related neurodevelopmental disorders at Boston Children's Hospital.

**Tessa Marzulla** earned her B.A. in Biology from Lewis & Clark College. Her research focused on the phylogenetics of brown spiders and *Speyeria* butterflies. She also worked in two behavioral neuroscience labs, studying the neurological pathways of bird song acquisition and mouse models of human diseases and environmental exposures. Tessa's advocacy experiences include volunteering at Ronald McDonald House and serving as a crisis line advocate for the Portland Women's Crisis Line.



Christopher Deffer, Jamie Love-Nichols, Beatrix Wong, Sarah Drewes, Sarah Mazzola Kelly Watkins, Tessa Marzulla.

**Sarah Mazzola** earned her B.S. in Biology from The Ohio State University. As an undergraduate, she worked as a student intern with cardiovascular genetics for The Ohio State Wexner Medical Center in the Department of Human Genetics. She gained advocacy experience volunteering for the Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio (SARNCO), responding to survivors at various Ohio hospitals.

**Kelly Watkins** earned her B.A. in Psychology from Connecticut College. Her research focused on morphine addiction in rats as a student researcher in a neuroscience lab. She also worked at Washington University in St. Louis, studying retinal neurons, as well as at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, MA, studying the neuro-protective effects of pomegranate during pregnancy. Her advocacy experience includes volunteering at BJC Hospice in St. Louis, where she provided support to patients and yoga classes to caregivers.

**Beatrix Wong** earned her B.S. in Molecular Genetics, Microbiology and Human Biology from the University of Toronto. Her research focused on yeast genomics and metabolomics. She also worked as a genetic counseling assistant for the Familial Breast and Ovarian Clinic at Women's College Hospital, and worked at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto performing exome sequencing and targeted *PMS2* sequencing. Beatrix's advocacy experience includes serving as a crisis hotline volunteer at the Toronto Distress Centre.

## Congratulations to Our 2015 Graduates!

**Michelle Jacobs, MS** - Genetic Counselor  
University of Michigan Cancer Genetics: Ann Arbor, MI

**Caitlin Hale, MS** - Genetic Counselor  
Stanford: Lucile Packard Children's Hospital: Palo Alto, CA

**Kate Partynski, MS** - Genetic Counselor  
Children's Hospital of Orange County: Orange, CA

**Kyle Salsbery, MS** - Genetic Counselor  
Marshfield Clinic: Marshfield, WI

**Alex Yragui, MS** - Genetic Counselor  
New Mexico Perinatal Associates: Santa Fe, NM



Kyle Salsbery, Caitlin Hale, Michelle Jacobs, Alex Yragui, Katlyn Partynski.

## Kudos to Our Award Winning Student Researchers!



In our research program each student has the opportunity to explore their individual interests while taking advantage of the wide variety of genetics initiatives on our campus and within the state of Michigan. Students have access to a wide variety of funding sources, including University and varied state and national resources. This fall, we bring your attention to the awards received by 5 members of the UMGCPC Class of 2016: **Parker Read, Carol Ko, Diane Koeller, Mary Oliver, and Samantha Greenberg.**

**Parker Read** is the 2015 recipient of the James V. Neel Fellowship. This fellowship is intended to support the development of genetic counseling clinical research scholars. Parker's thesis work, *Optimizing the Genetic Counseling Team*, aims to assess which professionals in a genetic counseling clinic are contributing to individual tasks, and how the skills and expertise of genetic counselors are utilized. This information will be used to identify areas in which the efficiency of genetics clinics can be improved to best utilize the unique skill set of genetic counselors.

**Carol Ko** and **Diane Koeller** are both 2015 recipients of the Jane Engelberg Memorial Fellowship (JEMF). The JEMF Award is granted by the National Society of Genetic Counselors to improve the practice of genetic counseling by providing support for scholarly investigation. Carol's research project, *The Impact of Genotype Screening on Adverse Events in Families of Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Patients* will explore communication of risk information among family members with HCM and inform efforts towards the most appropriate utilization of testing and medical resources for this patient population. Diane's research project, *Genetic Counseling Utilization Among Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing Customers*, seeks to learn more about patient's experiences with DTC testing, as well as identify predictors of genetic counseling utilization following this testing. This information will be used to better prepare genetic counselors for interactions with these patients.

**Mary Oliver** is a 2015 recipient of a Michigan Association of Genetic Counselors (MAGC) Student Award. Mary's research project,

*Paternal Adaptation to a Child's Diagnosis of Down Syndrome: Predictors of Personal Well-Being and Family Quality of Life*, aims to understand the experiences of fathers who have a child with a diagnosis of Down syndrome, including family dynamics and personal attributes related to resilience. This information will help genetic counselors identify and encourage the development of factors contributing to positive adaptation in fathers.

**Samantha Greenberg** is a 2015 recipient of the National Society of Genetic Counselors Education Special Interest Group Award. Samantha's research project, *Maximizing a Community-Based High Risk Cancer Screening Program: Educational Intervention Implementation and Evaluation*, follows up on her year-long study by gathering more information on how patients in community-based settings view genetic services and barriers to utilization. This information will be used to improve knowledge and understanding to facilitate greater uptake of genetic services in these populations.

## Congratulations to Anne Madeo: 2015 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 are excited to announce that Anne Madeo (Class of 1999) is the recipient of the 6th Annual Diane Baker Alumni Award. Anne first worked at the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) in Bethesda, MD, where she made tremendous contributions to the field of hereditary hearing loss. She also worked as the Associate Director of the Johns Hopkins University/National Human Genome Research Institute (JHU/NHGRI) Genetic Counseling Training Program and as an investigator in the social and behavioral research branch of NHGRI, studying uncertainty and adaptation in rare and undiagnosed diseases. Most recently, Anne joined the Genomic Medicine Service of the Veterans Health Administration and is developing policies and procedures to provide national telemedicine genomic services to veterans. She is the current president of the American Board of Genetic Counseling

(ABGC) and has served as the chair of the ABGC Certification Exam committee, chair of the National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC) Abstract Review Workgroup and NSGC liaison to the CDC's National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities. Her career exemplifies emerging trends in genetic and genomics-focused care and the application of innovative approaches to genetic counseling.

During her visit to Ann Arbor, Anne met with various genetic counseling program faculty and enjoyed a lunch and individual discussions with first- and second-year students, where she discussed her experiences and gave advice on how students can launch their own careers. Anne also provided her seminar to the Department of Human Genetics and the larger University community.

Previous awardees include Barbara Biesecker, Jill Stopfer, Amy Sturm, Stephanie Cohen, and Meg Hefner. Nominations for the 2016 recipient will be requested in the spring of 2016.



## The Team, the Team, the Team!

### We welcome the three newest additions to our Genetic Counseling Community

**Kristen Hanson** recently returned to her alma mater, as a genetic counselor in the Cancer Genetic Clinic. Kristen earned her MS in Genetic Counseling from the University of Michigan in 2009. She has previously worked in pediatric genetics, newborn screening, and cancer genetic counseling settings. In addition to her clinical responsibilities, Kristen is also a member of the NSGC Marketing and Communications Workgroup, works as an ABGC Item Writer, and is an associate editor of *Perspectives in Genetic Counseling*.

**Michelle Jacobs** is also an alumna of our program who accepted a position in the Cancer Genetics Clinic in May of 2015. Michelle earned her B.Sc. (Honors) in Biology from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, and earned her MS in Genetic Counseling in April 2015. In addition to her clinical responsibilities, Michelle will be co-editing the newsletter *Crossover*, a Canadian version of *Perspectives in Genetic Counseling*.

**Rachel Fisher** recently joined the University of Michigan Pediatric Genetics Clinic. She earned her undergraduate degree in Sports Management from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and earned her MS in Genetic Counseling from the University of Cincinnati. In addition to her clinical responsibilities, Rachel is also contributing to the development of the state of Michigan's Newborn Screening Program for Pompe disease.