

# GENETIC COUNSELING PROGRAM

<https://tinyurl.com/UMGCPProgram>

## A Birthday for the UMGCP! 40 Years and Going Strong

2019 marks the 40th year of our Genetic Counseling Program (UMGCP). Since its inception, the UMGCP has provided a comprehensive and rigorous curriculum that relies heavily on the strengths of the Department of Human Genetics, Michigan Medicine's clinical enterprise, and the broader UM community. Our graduates can be found using their expertise to provide clinical care, conduct research, shape public policy, and inform commercial genomic applications. 40 years ago, our class sizes were 4 or less, and our clinical training team in Ann Arbor consisted of fewer than 5 GCs in 2 clinical settings. This fall, we welcomed 10 incoming students and 11 returning students. Our current student class surpasses our recent strategic goal of "20 students by 2020." This goal was designed to respond to demands for genetic counselors both locally and nationally. Today our students have the opportunity to learn with greater than 30 physicians and 25 GCs at Michigan Medicine genetic clinics in cardiology, ophthalmology, internal medicine, pediatrics, oncology, and maternal fetal medicine, as well as clinicians from other institutions in Michigan and beyond. Michigan Medicine's workforce expansion allows us to stay true to our commitment to provide an individualized, integrated, and supportive environment. Collaborations with partners across the university have allowed us to make important strides in increasing the diversity of our program. 19% of our student body is from a traditionally underrepresented minority, 25% were Pell grant recipients as undergraduates, and 20% are males. In 2020, we will embark on strategic planning as part of a reaccreditation review by the Accreditation Council of Genetic Counseling. We look forward to hearing input from our alumni, faculty, students, and community members, as we vision for the future and think about how we can continue to provide an outstanding education.



## Honoring Sara Scollon: The 2019 Diane Baker Alumni Award Recipient



The UMGCP recently honored Sarah Scollon, MS, CGC (UMGCP Class of 2006), the 10th recipient of the Diane Baker Alumni Award. Sarah's career path as a genetic counselor began in Hawaii where she served as a Genetic Counselor and Project Research Specialist for the Hawaii Department of Health from 2006 to 2011. Sarah then moved to Baylor College of Medicine/Texas Children's Hospital in 2011 where she is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics. Sarah has distinguished herself as a leader in the area of genomics counseling and has helped advance the niche of pediatric cancer counseling. She has been a thought leader in the integration of genomics into clinical care, serving as co-chair for the Genetic Counseling Working Group of the NIH-funded Clinical Sequencing Exploratory Research (CSER) Consortium from 2012 through 2017 and co-chair of the CSER Consortium Education and Return of Results Working Group in 2017 and 2018. Most recently, she has taken on research roles in pediatric precision oncology as the study genetic counselor with the Texas KidsCanSeq and NCI-COG Pediatric MATCH clinical trials. In addition to her interest in genomic medicine research, Sarah remains a dedicated clinician, serving families affected by childhood cancer. She has also been instrumental in the development of Baylor's Genetic Counseling Training Program. During her visit to Ann Arbor, Sarah gave an engaging and thought provoking seminar to our genetics community, "Navigating the Genomic Era: Adaptations and Innovation." In addition, she met with current students and provided words of wisdom regarding their studies and career paths.

## Meet Our New Students!

This fall, we welcomed 10 new students to the UMGCP! To learn more about our new students, [click here!](#)



## Congratulations Class of 2019!



Congratulations to the Class of 2019! 10 new Genetic Counselors have joined the field, and we couldn't be more proud!

Addie Biel, M.S., C.G.C.  
*UM Pediatric Genetics, Ann Arbor, MI*  
Colby Chase, M.S., C.G.C.  
*UM Medical and Cancer Genetics, Ann Arbor, MI*  
Kelsey Lenhart, M.S., C.G.C.  
*Fairview Hospital - Prenatal, Minneapolis, MN*  
Kelsie McVeety, M.S.  
*Beaumont Cancer Genetics, Royal Oak, MI*  
Mackenzie Mosera, M.S., C.G.C.  
*Vanderbilt - Pediatric Genetics, Nashville, TN*

Katie Ozelius, M.S., C.G.C.  
*Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA*  
Amanda Schaefer, M.S., C.G.C.  
*University of Iowa, Otopseq, Iowa City, IA*  
Lauren Seeman, M.S.  
*University of Virginia - Pediatric Genetics, Charlottesville, VA*  
Natalie Waligorski, M.S., C.G.C.  
*Kaiser, Portland, OR*

## New Educational Opportunities: Precision Health Graduate Certificate Program



In Fall of 2019, the Precision Health Graduate Certificate Program accepted its first student cohort, with a goal of training a cadre of precision health scientists who are able to apply cutting-edge, multi-disciplinary knowledge in the pursuit of improving patient and population health.

The program is open to all PhD, MS, MA, M.Engines, and masters or doctoral level graduate students enrolled at the University of Michigan. This focus will allow for collaborative learning across incredibly diverse disciplines. The Precision Health Graduate Certificate Program aims to provide core experiences in the three precision health domains (Discover, Treatment, and Health) and six competency domains including, 1) Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications of Precision Health, 2) Data Science and Predictive Health Analytics, 3) Biosocial Determinants of Health/Policy/Economics, 4) Human Genetics in Health and Disease/Molecular Medicine, 5) Bioinformatics/Computational Genomics, and 6) Consumer Health Informatics and Healthcare Systems Engineering for Precision Health. The next cohort will enroll in Winter 2020.

The certificate can be completed by motivated genetic counseling students in 2-4 semesters, concurrent with the GCP curriculum. This program is part of the Department of Learning Health Sciences, the first-in-the-nation basic science department focused on the sciences related to learning across multiple levels of scale (i.e. individual, group, organization, region, nation) in order to improve health in systemic ways by advancing the sciences that make learning effective, routine, and efficient.

## Congratulations Audrey Norby!



We are thrilled to announce that Audrey Norby is the recipient of the 2019 Outstanding Supervisor Award, collaboratively bestowed by the University of Michigan Genetic Counseling Program and the Association of Genetic Counseling Program Directors. Audrey has served as a genetic counselor at Michigan Medicine's Fetal Diagnostic Center since 2009. She is known as a receptive supervisor and an incredible teacher, who builds student confidence and competence. During her work in a very fast-paced, high stress clinic, Audrey works diligently to ensure a high standard of patient care, while maintaining a positive learning environment for students. Students appreciate Audrey's frank and honest approach to supervision - she "tells it like it is" in a way that students can hear, respond, and grow. Thank you and congratulations, Audrey!

### SAVE THE DATES!

9th Annual Thomas Gelehrter Lecture  
"Genetics of Fatty Liver Disease"  
Helen H. Hobbs, M.D., UT Southwestern Medical Center  
October 29, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.  
BSRB - Kahn Auditorium

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UMGCP Reception - NSGC  
Wednesday, November 6, 2019  
8:00-10:00 p.m.

Gracie's  
326 S. West Temple  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

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Deadline to Register for Admission Match  
December 13, 2019

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UMGCP Application Deadline  
January 5, 2019

More information available on our website

## New Faces in the UMGCP!



We are excited to announce that **Beth Dugan** is joining the leadership team of the UMGCP, where she will serve in the newly established role of Assistant Program Director. Beth comes to us with extensive experience in prenatal genetics, teaching, and clinical supervision. She received undergraduate degrees in biology and sociology from the University of Michigan before attending Case Western Reserve University's Genetic Counseling Program. For over 15 years,

Beth provided prenatal genetic counseling services for patients in Detroit and at U-M's Fetal Diagnostic Center. Most recently, Beth worked with Mainstream Genomics, where she helped develop online patient education tools and performed market research to understand how healthcare professionals decide to add genetic testing to their practice. Beth is interested in genetic professionals' duty to warn at-risk relatives, the psychosocial impact of genetic testing in genomic medicine, and uses of technology to support physician and patient experiences with genetic testing.

Beth has worked closely with Bev Yashar, Program Director, and Monica Marvin, Associate Program Director, in her varied roles as a course director, clinical supervisor, research mentor, and member of the Executive Faculty. We look forward to continuing these collaborations and know that Beth's expertise will enable her to make important contributions to developing the next generation of genetic counselors.



**Brynn Arnall** began working for the GCP in June of 2019. Brynn is the main contact for all administrative GCP issues and helps manage admissions, coursework and evaluations, and financial aid awards and benefits for incoming and continuing GCP students. Brynn has worked at U-M since 2015, originally in LSA at the Newnan Academic Advising Center. She then transferred to the Office of New Student Programs, where she helped implement Orientation programs for thousands of new students and their parents. She is also completing her Master of Social Work at Michigan State University.

## Commitment to Diversity: Funding to Support the Next Generation of Genetic Counselors

Our Genetic Counseling Program and the University of Michigan believe that diversity in our student body is an essential dimension of excellence in education. Each year, Rackham provides funding to graduate programs and sponsors activities aimed at recruiting an outstanding and inclusive student body. For the UMGCP, these include activities designed to raise awareness of the genetic counseling profession, increase readiness for graduate school, and make the processes of applying to and interviewing at the UMGCP accessible to individuals from groups that are historically underrepresented in higher education and in our profession.

During the 2020 admissions cycle, a limited number of travel grants and funding for relocation are available for applicants experiencing financial hardship or that are from an educational, cultural, or geographical background that is underrepresented within the genetic counseling profession. The travel grants are intended to help defray some of the costs associated with interviewing at our program, and the relocation funds are for students who matriculate at the UMGCP. Eligibility for these awards is based on review of the application for admission. No additional paperwork is required. Information about additional funding options for UMGCP students can be found on the [funding your education section](#) of our website.