

GENETIC COUNSELING PROGRAM

<https://tinyurl.com/UMGCPprogram>

Learning, Growing, and Thriving During a Pandemic PART 2

As we wrote in our Spring 2020 newsletter, the COVID-19 pandemic has challenged all of us to think creatively about how to optimize learning in a dynamic, uncertain environment. We have always prided ourselves on being experimental and flexible in our approaches to genetic counseling graduate training and have been using this mindset to develop multi-faceted solutions in collaboration with our students, faculty, staff, patients, and the broader Michigan and genetic counseling communities.

This semester, our genetic counseling students are taking classes through a variety of modalities including in-person, remote, and hybrid. The small size of our student cohort has allowed us to conduct most of the “GC student dedicated courses” in-person, while slightly larger courses, including those taken together with other graduate students, are conducted remotely. This array of classes provides a nice opportunity for our students to continue to feel connected, build community, and receive a high quality educational experience. Along the way, each of us is becoming savvy in the nuances of online education while remaining thankful for each day that local public health metrics allow us to see each other in person, even if it is just for a few hours per week.



Clinical activities have also adapted, with some clinical rotations occurring in-person and others remotely. Our supervisors have been incredibly open to this experimental space, embracing the brave new world of remote supervision. During the summer of 2020, some students completed clinical rotations at Michigan Medicine while others completed “remote” rotations with sites like the Huntsman Cancer Institute (Salt Lake City, UT), Spectrum Health (Grand Rapids, MI), and Medical College of Wisconsin (Milwaukee, WI). For these remote rotations, students, patients, and supervisors were working from different locations. Thanks to the collaborative nature of our community of supervisors, the rotations were more successful than we could have ever imagined. We are continuing to rely on this hybrid clinical training model this fall. Our first year students are completing observational rotations at 13 unique sites (9 in-person and 4 remote) while our senior students are completing rotations at 6 Michigan Medicine sites, 5 other local sites, and 1 remote commercial site. Alumna Samantha Greenberg (Class of 2016) will share the lessons learned about remote supervision at NSGC in a post-conference symposia, *Learning in a digital world: Adapting to remote education and supervision*, on Sunday November 22. Samantha will also include a sneak peak of data from current student Farid Barquet Ramos’ thesis, which is focused on the opportunities and challenges genetic counselors experience with remote supervision.

We have also used the pandemic as the impetus to build an arsenal of simulated patient scenarios that complement our patient-facing rotations. We first rolled these out over the summer as part of a novel summer clinical bootcamp we developed to help students jumpstart their entry into the summer’s intensive clinical training environment. Many of our alumni (including Sarah Mazzola, Lauren Seemann, Kestutis Micke, Julie Frank, and Mackenzie Mosera) and supervisors at Michigan Medicine and across the country (including Renee Chard at the Maine Medical Center) have been incredible resources in the development and implementation of this program.

Our success in these new endeavors has been dependent on our supportive and compassionate community. We are so proud of the ways that everyone has stepped up and look forward to yelling “Go Blue” together at a future UMGCP event.

Honoring Amy Gaviglio: The 2020 Diane Baker Alumni Award Recipient



The University of Michigan Genetic Counseling Program is excited to announce that Amy Gaviglio is the 11th recipient of the Diane Baker Alumni Award. This annual award honors the contributions of our first Program Director, Diane Baker, to the profession of genetic counseling.

Amy received her Master’s Degree in Genetic Counseling from the University of Michigan in 2007. While in training, she developed a strong interest in public health and accepted a position at the Minnesota Department of Health after “cold-calling them” as a second year student. From 2007 to 2019, Amy served as a Genetic Counselor with the Newborn Screening Program for the Minnesota Department of Health. Notably, she quickly rose to a position of leadership when she became the supervisor of the short-term follow-up program for the department in 2009. Throughout her career, Amy has been a tireless and highly effective advocate for the newborn screening program in Minnesota. Her efforts have been vital in a number of major policy decisions, including the development of Minnesota’s newborn screening model that relies on genetic counseling in the delivery of newborn screening results.

In 2019, Amy started her own independent consulting business, Connetics Consulting, which has allowed her to consult with the Newborn Screening and Molecular Biology Branch at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In her role as a public health genetics consultant, she also works closely with the Association of Public Health Laboratories and Expecting Health/Baby’s First Test. Amy has helped to define a unique role for genetic counselors in the public health sector and has emerged as a respected expert in newborn screening and a valued member of the public health genetics community.

Amy has also made time to share her expertise with genetic counseling trainees through the establishment of a 5-week specialty rotation at the Minnesota Department of Health for genetic counseling students with a specific interest in public health. In addition, she has served as a research advisor for numerous genetic counseling trainees at the University of Minnesota.

Amy’s contributions are appreciated at the state and federal levels as she serves as a member of more than 10 workgroups and committees involved in newborn screening policy development. She also shares her expertise directly with the genetic counseling community through her engagement with various NSGC committees and SIGs. Congratulations Amy!

Details regarding this year’s Diane Baker Lecture will be released shortly. The lecture will be delivered remotely.

Congratulations Jessica Omark!



We are thrilled to announce that Jessica Omark is the recipient of the 2020 University of Michigan/Association of Genetic Counseling Program Director's Outstanding Supervisor Award. Jessica was nominated for this award by members of the UMGCP Class of 2020. Jessica is a relatively new but highly effective supervisor at the University of Michigan Genetic Counseling Program. Jessica joined the Division of Pediatric Genetics Metabolism and Genomic Medicine at Michigan Medicine in June 2018 after receiving her MS in

Genetic Counseling from the University of Texas UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences in 2018. Students describe Jessica as encouraging, constructive, and approachable, with clear expectations for students. She makes time for discussions with students on progress towards goals, which ultimately enables them to reach these goals. Jessica also provides balanced and specific feedback that enables students to make changes to their counseling. Lastly, Jessica fosters an environment that makes students feel valued and like they are a trusted part of the team. We are thrilled to have Jessica as part of our team at the University of Michigan and appreciate her enthusiasm for and contributions to genetic counseling students.

Welcome to the UMGCP Class of 2022!

We welcomed 7 new students to our program this fall! We'd like to wish them a big, warm welcome!



Anna is originally from Martinsville, IN and graduated from Denison University in 2017 with a major in Biology and a minor in Spanish.

Fun fact: Anna survived quarantining with her sister, brother-in-law, and baby niece in a 1-bedroom apartment for 6 months.



Erika is originally from Yellow Springs, OH. She graduated from Cornell University in 2016, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Biology and Society. For fun, Erika likes to hangout outside, float down the Huron River in the summer, travel, try new restaurants, hang out with her two cats, Brie and Blue, and watch reality television.



Gabrielle graduated from The Ohio State University in 2019 with a major in Molecular Genetics and a minor in Public Health.

Fun fact: Gabrielle biked 100 miles with her quaran-team from Columbus, Ohio to her hometown of Loveland, Ohio for Pelotonia, which is an organization that raises money for cancer research.



Samantha graduated from Eastern Michigan University in 2020 where she majored in Cellular & Molecular Biology and minored in Psychology.

Fun fact: Samantha has been snorkeling in the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of Cairns, Australia. She saw lots of different fish, including clown fish, giant clams, sea anemones, and corals!



Hailey is originally from Iowa City, IA. She graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2020, where she majored in Biology and minored in Dance and Psychology. For fun, Hailey loves to dance, try out new coffee shops, play with her new kitten and go on bike rides.



Renata is originally from Coralville, IA. She graduated from Truman State University in 2020 where she majored in Biology and minored in Disability Studies and Psychology.

Renata's main hobby is horseback riding! She spends most of her free time out with her horse. When she is not at the barn, she enjoys reading and spending time outside.



Lindsay is originally from Perrysburg, OH. She graduated from the University of Toledo in 2020 where she majored in Biology and minored in Chemistry.

Fun fact: Lindsay is the oldest of three sisters and hopes to become scuba certified sometime in the near future.

Where is the Class of 2020 now?



Elysa Bond: *Rush University Medical Center, Cancer Genetics*

Rachel Gosselin: *Nationwide Children's Hospital, Pediatric Genetics/Pediatric Cardiology*

Kimberly Hilfrank: *Columbia University Medical Center/Presbyterian Hospital, Cancer Genetics*

Ilana Miller: *Children's National Medical Center, Pediatric Genetics*

Nichollette Sloat: *Duke Cancer Center, Cancer Genetics*

Elise Sobotka: *City of Hope, Cancer Genetics*

Mackenzie Trapp: *University of Virginia, Pediatric Genetics*

Anna Vercruyssen: *Banner MD Cancer Center, Cancer Genetics*

Kristen Wong: *University of Utah School of Medicine, Pediatric Neurology*



Save the Date!

Friday, November 20, 2020, 6:30 p.m. EST: UMGCP Reception
More details coming soon. This online event will be an opportunity to connect with other alumni, faculty, supervisors, and current students.

December 15, 2020: Recommended Deadline to Register for Admission Match

January 5, 2021: UMGCP Application Deadline

April 23, 2021: Match Results Date

