

## MI-LEND: A Rich New Learning Environment

The Michigan Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities, known as MI-LEND, was established in 2016 to equip graduate students from multiple fields to work to provide evidence-based screening, diagnosis and treatment of neurodevelopmental disabilities and serve as advocates for individuals and families. MI-LEND is part of the growing national network of programs funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau and Autism Collaboration, Accountability Research, Education and Support Act. Within Michigan, the program includes Central Michigan University, Michigan State University, University of Michigan, Western Michigan University and Wayne State University. Trainees at each institution spend 300 hours over the course of two semesters learning and working together through online discussions, in-person trainings, clinical observations and family and community experiences.



Michigan Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities

Third-year dual-degree student Mackenzie Mosera is the first genetic counseling student to participate in the MI-LEND program and reflects that “it has been an incredibly rewarding experience to be part of the MI-LEND program, as it has allowed me to develop a more profound understanding of the lived experience of many diagnoses and has provided interdisciplinary insight and leadership skills.” One of her favorite parts of the program has been the opportunity to observe in several different specialty clinics, including Pediatric Dentistry, Neonatal Follow-Up Clinic, Audiology, Autism Evaluation, and Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics. Furthermore, the MI-LEND program pairs trainees with local families who have a child with a neurodevelopmental disability. Mackenzie appreciates the rich insight her family has provided on how they’ve adapted to the diagnosis and continue to help their child successfully engage with the community. Her participation in MI-LEND will help her better serve as an advocate for her patients and their family’s needs as she begins her career as a pediatric genetic counselor.

## Michigan Online: #HereToLearn

We are excited to share information about the launch of Michigan Online, the University’s new online learning resource for alumni, students, staff, and faculty. Through Michigan Online you have access to a variety of learning opportunities including courses (4-6 weeks, self-paced), series (several related courses), online degrees (including Masters Degrees in Public Health and Business Administration), and Teach-Outs (short online learning events on important topics in society). Subjects include Arts & Culture, Business, Data Science, Education, Health, Science, Social Sciences and Technology. ‘



Access to most of the content is free to alumni, students, staff and faculty and requires you log in with your unickname and password. Alumni can visit <https://its.umich.edu/accounts-access/getting-access/unicknames-accounts/alumni> for help with your unickname. Take advantage of this new free learning opportunity!

## Summer Genetic Counseling Interest Group

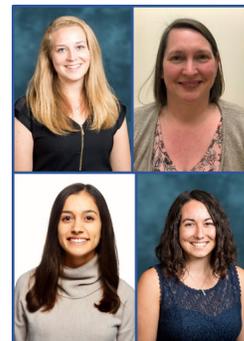


The University of Michigan Genetic Counseling Program will be conducting our 6th annual UM Summer Genetic Counseling Interest Group for individuals considering entering the profession. During the months of June, July and August, we will be meeting one evening per month through group video calls. The goals of the discussions are to increase participants’ vocabulary related to genetic counseling and allow for interactions with practicing genetic counselors at the University of Michigan. Topics discussed during the group video calls are expected to cover multiple areas of clinical genetic/genomic practice.

If you are interested in participating in the Summer Genetic Counseling Interest Group, please sign up at: <https://goo.gl/forms/3YzNN6oRv0xUF8Ju2> by May 20.

# Welcome to Michigan Medicine's Newest Genetic Counselors

We are thrilled to announce the addition of four new genetic counselors to our Michigan Medicine community. Kara Reynolds joined the team at Fetal Diagnostic Center in the fall of 2018. Kara earned her MS in Genetic Counseling from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2000 and previously worked as a genetic counselor in California and Wisconsin in prenatal, pediatric, cancer, and adult specialties. This summer, Marie Louise Henry (Ohio State Genetic Counseling Program Class of 2019) and Colby Chase (UMGCP Class of 2019) will begin working in the Division of Genetic Medicine in the Medical Genetics Clinic and the Cancer Genetics Clinic. Marie Louise comes to us with a particular interest in familial non-medullary thyroid cancer and Colby Chase has an interest in how at-risk emerging adults gather information about Huntington disease. This summer we will also welcome Adelyn Beil to the Division of Pediatric Genetics Metabolism and Genomic Medicine. Addie will be graduating from the UM with her MS in Genetic Counseling and MPH in Health Management and Policy. Addie's interests include the intersections of genetics and faith, public health genomics, and the return of research results. With the addition of these four genetic counselors, Michigan Medicine will employ 27 genetic counselors, more than any other institution in the state.



Top: Adelyn Beil, Kara Reynolds  
Bottom: Marie Louise Henry, Colby Chase

## Improving the Practice of Genetic Counseling in Michigan

The year 2019 ushers in a number of critical landmarks for genetic counselors within the state of Michigan and more specifically at Michigan Medicine. On December 28, 2018, Governor Rick Snyder signed Senate Bill 331, the State of Michigan Genetic Counseling Licensure Bill, into law. This bill, sponsored by Senator Judy Emmons, was introduced in the 2017-2018 legislative cycle, passed the Senate in June 2018 and the House in December 2018, both with overwhelming majorities. Efforts to achieve licensure in the state of Michigan have been ongoing for over a decade, and have included the introduction of six bills between 2009 and 2018.



The path to success required both persistence and collaboration with varied health care institutions, advocacy groups, professional organizations, and other important stakeholders. Key champions in these efforts included the Michigan Association of Genetic Counselors, Monica Marvin (Clinical Associate Professor and Associate Director of the UMGCP), Angela Trepanier (Wayne State University) and Cheryl Harper (Quest Diagnostics). The passage of this critical bill will ensure Michigan citizens are receiving genetic counseling services from the most appropriately trained individuals and makes Michigan the 26th state to pass a licensure law. Rules and regulations are currently being drafted by Licensing and Regulatory Affairs and the Board of Medicine, with input from representatives of the Michigan Association of Genetic Counselors. This process is anticipated to take about two years. More information about this landmark bill can be found at <https://www.nsgc.org/p/cm/ld/fid=19>.

In February 2019, a second milestone occurred – the approval of a 4-step career ladder for genetic counselors. The career ladder provides a much needed structure to the GC workforce at Michigan Medicine and will be very helpful for our growing community and for individual genetic counselors as they plan their careers. This process was initiated in 2016 and relied on input from all the Michigan Medicine genetic counselors, multiple physician champions, several human resources business partners and ambulatory care unit leadership.

Over the past three-years as the genetic counseling workforce has evolved, Monica Marvin has been a consistent advocate for our profession. We want to thank her for bringing together the key players and helping to keep the genetic counseling profession at the forefront of discussions about improving health care delivery at Michigan Medicine.

## SAVE THE DATES!!!

### GC Student Research Presentations

Fridays, April 5, 12, 19, 26  
4-5 pm in 5915 Buhl

### GC Admissions Match Results Release Day

April 26

### Department of Human Genetics Graduation Reception

May 2, 3:00pm  
2960 Taubman Health Sciences Library

### UMGCP Graduation Party

May 2, 7-9 pm  
Bev's House

### UM/WSU Genetic Counseling Supervisor Workshop

May 17, 2019  
5915 Buhl Building, Ann Arbor

### 19th Annual James V. Neel Lectureship

May 21, 2019 at 2 pm  
BSRB Kahn Auditorium  
Dr. James Lupski, Baylor College of Medicine

### Fall Orientation for Incoming Students

August 28-30, 2019

### Fall Classes Begin

September 3, 2019

### Introduction to the UMGCP-Webinar

October 2, 2019; 4-5 pm  
Intended Audience: Prospective Students  
More Details to Come this Summer

### Introduction to the UMGCP-Open House

October 18, 2019; 3-5 pm  
Intended Audience: Prospective Students  
More Details to Come this Summer

For more information, contact us at [UMGenetics@umich.edu](mailto:UMGenetics@umich.edu)