

The Road to Reaccreditation by the ACGC

The UMGCP recently completed the process of reaccreditation by the Accreditation Council of Genetic Counseling (ACGC). The process of reaccreditation began with a self-study initiated in the spring of 2011 and culminated in a site visit in February 2013. We are excited to announce that the UMGCP was granted full reaccreditation for 8-years, the maximum allowable time.

We are tremendously grateful to the many, many people that contributed to the process of reaccreditation! We had solicited input from multiple constituencies including 1) recent alumni with a greater than 90% response rate on a comprehensive online survey, 2) current trainees who participated in focus groups and individual meetings with the site visitors, and 3) clinical, research, and classroom educators who participated in focus groups, online surveys, and meetings with the site visitors. Additional input was solicited from administrators from the Department of Human Genetics, the Medical School, and Rackham Graduate School, and from employers of our graduates.

We are particularly proud of the feedback from the site visitors related to the quality of our students and of our faculty. Faculty commented on the caliber of our students and how often they tangibly contribute to clinical care. Students and alumni commented on the dedication of the faculty to their learning and professional development. The site visitors also noted that the UMGCP is highly visible within the institution and maintains a high level of support from the medical school, the graduate school, and the University community.



Importantly, the self-study process that preceded the site visit allowed an opportunity to reflect on our successes and identify areas for continued growth and expansion of our training program. We look forward to reviewing the full report from the ACGC and continuing to grow and improve our curriculum. Stay tuned for additional information!

Research Activities: UMGCP CLASS of 2013

Our research program is driven by the interests of the individual student and takes advantage of the wide variety of genetics initiatives on the University of Michigan campus and within the state of Michigan. During the month of April, members of the Class of 2013 are finalizing their data analyses, presenting their data to our faculty and students, and preparing manuscripts.

Lesli Kiedrowski explored how parents understand and utilize genetic test results on their children that generated variants of uncertain clinical significance (VUS). She conducted semi-structured qualitative telephone interviews with parents of children identified as carrying a VUS and explored their perspectives on such topics as understanding and personal interpretation, emotional responses and coping, motivation for future genetics follow-up, and feedback on genetic counseling service delivery.

Emil Higuchi analyzed the impact of non-invasive prenatal testing on attitudes towards individuals living with Down syndrome and towards the parents of children with this diagnosis. The results of this large public study will inform efforts to assess how the availability of noninvasive prenatal diagnosis may affect the public's perceptions of those with disabilities, especially children with Down syndrome.

Michelle Ernst designed an exploratory study looking at the lived experience of women diagnosed with Mayer-Rokitansky-Küster-Hauser syndrome, a disorder of sex development (DSD). Her objective was to gain insight into the specific motivators and barriers around sharing health-related information with peers in adolescence and young adulthood. The results of this study will help healthcare providers adequately support and address the needs of individuals living with a DSD.



Class of 2013. Lavanaia Sharma, Michelle Ernst, Erin Milne, Michele Bailey, Lesli Kiedrowski, and Emily Higuchi

Michele Bailey evaluated the utilization and outcomes of breast MRIs at the University of Michigan as a screening tool for individuals at increased risk for breast cancer. These results will support the appropriate utilization of these screening tools. She focused on reviewing patients' charts and analyzed for adherence to American Cancer Society screening guidelines.

Lavanaia Sharma investigated factors influencing disclosure of vision status in the workplace for individuals with retinal dystrophies, as well as the physical and emotional impacts of that disclosure. Her research will help genetic counselors and other health care providers effectively facilitate decision making about the disclosure of vision impairment in the workplace.

Erin Milne explored the attributes of genetic testing for hearing loss that are most valued by patients and parents of children with hearing loss. Her focus group sessions discussed the most important attributes of genetic testing and barriers to genetic evaluation of hearing loss. This research will help improve the genetic testing process for families with hearing loss.

SAVE THE DATES!!!

Monday April 29, 2013

AGCPD Universal Admissions Offer Date

Friday May 3, 2013

UMGCP Graduation
(Reception at Bev's Thursday Night starting at 7pm)

Friday May 17, 2013

James V. Neel Lecture in Human Genetics
Speaker: Huntington F. Willard, Ph.D.

Friday June 7, 2013

Joint UM/Wayne State Genetic Counselors Supervisors Workshop, Ann Arbor, MI

Wednesday, August 28, 2013

Fall Orientation for incoming students begins

Tuesday, September 3, 2013

Fall classes start

September 20-12, 2013

Department of Human Genetics
Retreat Gull Lake, MI

October 14, 2013

Thomas D. Gelehrter Lectureship

October 2013

UMGCP Reunion at the NSGC AEC
Details coming soon!

For more information about any of these events, contact: Monica Marvin at monicama@umich.edu



**University of Michigan
Medical School**

Supervisor Spotlight: Victoria Raymond, MS, CGC



Victoria Raymond joined the University of Michigan as a genetic counselor in the Cancer Genetics Clinic in 2006 after receiving her M.S. in Medical Genetics from the University of Cincinnati in 2006 and her BS in Biology and Chemistry from Xavier University in 2004. Upon arriving at the UM, Victoria hit the ground running, not only as a clinician, but also as a researcher, supervisor and administrator. Victoria has served as a clinical supervisor for over 20 genetic counseling students and has provided lectures in multiple UMGCP classes, including Cancer Genetics, Research Skills, and Professional Development.

In 2012, Victoria was appointed to the positions of Clinical Instructor in Internal Medicine and Lead Genetic Counselor in the Cancer Genetics Clinic. Victoria's contributions to clinical care and teaching are notable for her attention to detail (including an uncanny ability to remember the specific gene mutations found in many of the families seen in the clinic), her diligence, and her intellect. She sets a high bar for colleagues and students alike, encouraging each individual towards excellence.

In addition to her certification by the American Board of Genetic Counselors, Victoria is also certified by the Society of Clinical Research Associates as a Clinical Research Professional. Her research activities are diverse and relate to chemoprevention for familial adenomatous polyposis, personalized medicine based on molecular profiling of patients with cancer, characterization of risks associated with hereditary cancer syndromes such as Lynch syndrome, hereditary paraganglioma pheochromocytoma syndrome, and PTEN hamartoma tumor syndrome, and genetic contributions to endocrine cancers.

The year 2013 has already been incredibly productive for Victoria, who is first author on three publications, including two in the Journal of Clinical Oncology and one in the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism. We celebrate these accomplishment and look forward to her continued contributions to clinical care, teaching, and research!

The Carole McTague Genetic Counseling Enrichment Fund

Mention the name Carole McTague (UMGCP Class of 1988) to our more "seasoned" alumni, and you're likely to hear a story about her smile or her laugh. Carole was not only a graduate of our program, but also contributed to the training of students as a clinical supervisor at Beaumont Hospital.

After Carole's death in 1997, her husband, John McTague established the Carole McTague Genetic Counseling Enrichment Fund in her memory. This fund helps support student participation in national and regional meetings, genetic field clinics, and out-of-state summer internship rotations. These experiences have proven invaluable to our students.

Carole was beloved by classmates, friends and faculty. When mentoring younger and more inexperienced students, Carole always took a friendly peer-to-peer approach and was both accessible and patient. Former classmates have described Carole as fun, lively, and energetic. One classmate recalls her great laugh, "the sound of which is still in my mind." Carole was also family-oriented, always talking about her children and family. She loved to travel and experience all that the world had to offer.

One measure of Carole's generosity could be seen in her willingness to open up her home to other students; she did so both during the school year for late-night study sessions and also while she was away, encouraging everyone to take advantage of her house and her pool, which earned the nickname "McTague Resort." Her classmates also note that "if you were with her, you couldn't help yourself but be happy and positive."

With certainty, Carole has left a lasting influence on those who were fortunate enough to know her. Carole was an advocate for life-long learning and pursuing one's passions whenever possible. It was because of this zest for life, travel and education that Carole's husband made it a priority to develop a fund that would allow for these ideals to live on in future genetic counseling students at the University of Michigan.

