

On the Road with UM Genetic Counseling Students

Thanks to the Carole McTague Genetic Counseling Enrichment Fund, UMGCP students have exciting opportunities to attend national conferences relevant to genetic counseling. In October 2015, all senior students attended the NSGC Annual Education Conference in Pittsburgh, where Carol Ko and Diane Koeller were recognized as Jane Engelberg Memorial Fellowship Recipients, and Samantha Greenberg was recognized as an Education Special Interest Group Award Recipient. In addition, dual degree students Samantha Greenberg and Diane Koeller presented findings from their thesis work, as did all members of the class of 2015. Attendance at the NSGC meeting afforded a multitude of opportunities such as meeting UMGCP alumni, building relationships with the genetic counseling community, exploring timely topics in the field of genetic counseling, and attending presentations geared toward new counselors entering the workforce.



In March, Mary Oliver, Carol Ko, and Diane Koeller attended the Future of Genomic Medicine conference in San Diego, California, while Linford Williams, Shenin Dettwyler, and Samantha Greenberg traveled to American College of Medical Genetics conference in Tampa, Florida. Attending an additional meeting was particularly beneficial for students who had accepted job offers, as they were able to tailor their conference experience by attending presentations relevant to their future specialty. Furthermore, knowledge gained from these meetings was used to develop student-driven presentations on upcoming “hot topics” in genetics for their Professional Development class, focusing on CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing technology as well as expansion of newborn screening and newborn exome sequencing.

Congratulations to

Monica Marvin: Rackham Master’s Mentoring Award Recipient



Our amazing associate director Monica Marvin was recently awarded the Rackham Master’s Mentoring Award in recognition for her career-long excellence guiding genetic counseling students through graduate training. The Rackham Graduate School gives this annual honor to one to two mentors within University of Michigan academic community. Monica has served as an integral part of our training program for 10 years as the clinical director and has provided direct mentorship to our graduate students that has supported their clinical, research and professional endeavors. She also works at the University of Michigan Cancer Genetics Clinic and is actively involved in the Michigan Association of Genetic Counselors (MAGC) and the National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC).

Monica’s nomination dossier for the Master’s Mentoring Award contained many letters of support from our community including current students, graduates of the program, and Monica’s clinical colleagues. From her open door policy to her thoughtful and passionate tenacity for the advancement of the genetic counseling profession, Monica embodies the essential qualities of a genetic counselor mentor and is an example to us all. Congratulations, Monica!

2016 ABGC Board Examination: Continued Success!



Congratulations to our 2015 alumni Caitlin Hale, Michelle Jacobs, Kate Partynski, Kyle Salsbery, and Alex Yragui, who recently joined the ranks of ABGC Certified Genetic Counselors. Once again, our graduates achieved a 100% board exam pass rate on their first attempt (compared to the 2015 national first time candidate pass rate of 80%). We are proud of this accomplishment, which is a testament to their hard work, intellect and training.

Mary-Claire King to Provide Rackham Commencement Address & Receive Honorary Degree



Rackham Graduate School has invited Mary-Claire King, a trailblazer in the molecular genetics field, to speak at the 2016 University Graduate Exercises commencement on April 29th.

Professor King was instrumental in the discovery of the *BRCA1* tumor suppressor gene, which opened the door to the field of clinical cancer genetics. She has been a strong proponent

for increased utilization of *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* genetic testing within both high risk populations as well as those without a family history of the disease. Dr. King has also been vocal about the harm of patenting genes, and its impact on access to clinical genetic testing.

Dr. King has worked on many other profound and far-reaching projects within the field of modern human genetics. She spearheaded the analysis of mitochondrial DNA to identify children who were stolen from dissidents' families during

Argentina's Dirty War and also applied genetic tools to identify victims of violence in Bosnia, Cambodia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala and Rwanda.

Dr. King will deliver the Rackham Commencement Address on Friday April 29. In recognition of her achievements in science and humanitarian work, she will also receive an honorary degree from the University of Michigan. Later that day, Dr. King will visit with faculty in the Department of Human Genetics.

SAVE THE DATES!!!

Monday, April 25, 2016

**Genetic Counseling Program
Universal Admissions Offer Date**

**Genetic Counseling Program Graduation
Events**

Dept of Human Genetics Reception:

2960 Taubman Library
Thursday, April 28, 3-5 pm

Reception at Bev's:

Thursday April 28, 7 pm

Rackham Graduation: Hill Auditorium

Friday April 29, 2016, 10 am

University of Michigan Graduation:

Michigan Stadium
Saturday April 30, 10 am

Tuesday May 24, 2016, 3:00 pm

**16th Annual James V. Neel Lecture in
Human Genetics**

"Heritability and Genomic Prediction"

Andrew G. Clark, Ph.D.

Cornell University
BSRB Kahn Auditorium

Friday June 3, 2016

**Joint UM/Wayne State Genetic Counselors
Supervisors Workshop**

Detroit, MI

Wednesday, August 31, 2016

Fall Orientation for incoming students begins

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Fall classes start

September 28-October 1, 2016

NSGC Annual Education Conference

Seattle, WA

October 7-9, 2016

Department of Human Genetics Retreat

MacMullan Center
Roscommon, MI

Friday October 14, 2016

**An Introduction to the UM Genetic Counseling
Program**

Intended Audience: Prospective Applicants
More details coming this summer.

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

M The Team, the Team, the Team!

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

Shenin Dettwyler has accepted a newly created position in the UM Cancer Genetics Clinic and will begin working in mid-May. Shenin earned her B.S. in Biochemistry from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and will earn her MS in Genetic Counseling from our own UM Genetic Counseling Program in late April 2016. Shenin will provide clinical services in the Cancer Genetics Clinic and will also contribute to community outreach activities including the Lynch Syndrome and Familial Adenomatous Polyposis Support Group.

Megan Glassford, a 2013 graduate of Northern Kentucky University and 2016 graduate of the Emory Genetic Counseling Program, has accepted a position with the University of Michigan Pediatric Genetics group where she will begin working in June 2016. Megan brings with her a passion for helping families facing a diagnosis of pediatric genetic disorder, strengthened by her thesis work examining the psychosocial impact of the diagnosis on caregivers of children with 3q29 deletion syndrome.



Jacqueline Isaac will join the team of 3 Genetic Counselors and 6 Maternal Fetal Medicine Specialists at the UM Fetal Diagnostic Center in June 2016. Jacqueline received her undergraduate degree from the University of Waterloo, Ontario and will be a 2016 graduate of the University of Arkansas Genetic Counseling Program. Jacqueline has a well-established interest in reproductive genetics, including her thesis work focused on patient decision-making in preimplantation genetic diagnosis. Jacqueline is also interested in building the pipeline of genetic counseling students and serves on the NSGC Prospective Student Task Force.

Online Discussions: Genetic Counseling

The University of Michigan Genetic Counseling Program will be conducting our third annual **Genetic Counseling Interest Group** this summer for individuals considering entering the profession. During the months of June, July, and August, we **will be meeting virtually one evening per month through group video calls using Google Hangouts**. The goal of the discussions will be 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 Google Hangouts will be informed by the interests of the participants and

are expected to cover multiple areas of clinical genetic practice.

If you are interested in participating in the Google Hangouts over the summer, please sign up at <http://goo.gl/forms/KyP7Y5g483> by May 20, 2016. Participation will be limited and preference will be given to those who can attend all three sessions and those who have not participated in this program in 2014 or 2015.

