



University of Michigan Genetic Counseling Program

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Spring 2017

UM Genetic Counseling Students: On the Road

Although UMGCP students love Ann Arbor, their training and career preparation are complemented by varied experiences across the United States.

The Carole McTague Genetic Counseling Enrichment Fund allows senior students to travel to national conferences such as the NSGC and ACMG meetings. In October 2016, students attended the NSGC Conference in Seattle and met UM alumni, built relationships with the genetic counseling community, explored timely topics in the field and attended presentations geared toward new counselors entering the workforce. Last month, many students traveled to Phoenix to attend the ACMG National Meeting. They particularly enjoyed attending the Undiagnosed Case Conference and supporting their classmate, Sarah Drewes,



UMGCP Students, Faculty, and Alumni in Seattle, WA

as she presented part of her thesis work "An Interdisciplinary Approach to Patient Education: Developing a Multimedia Patient Resource for Parents of Children with Hearing Loss."

First year students are also gearing up for travel. Each student will participate in two seven-week full-time clinical rotations, including one at a site outside of Michigan. This year, UMGCP students will be part of prenatal, pediatric and cancer genetic counseling teams at Maine Medical Center, University of Miami, Huntsman Cancer Institute (Salt Lake City), University of Iowa, Cincinnati Children's, University of Virginia, Tulane University, and Washington University (St. Louis). We are looking forward to learning from their diverse experiences when they arrive back in Ann Arbor this fall.

University of Michigan Genetic Counseling Program by the Numbers

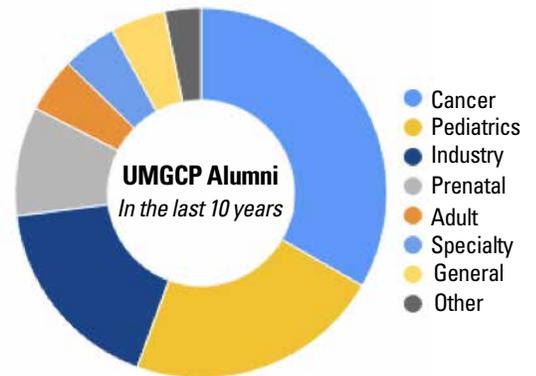
The Community of UMGCP Alumni is over 125 counselors strong! You can find us in **31 states** across the country. (noted in yellow on map)



Top States for GC Alumni

- Michigan
- California
- Illinois
- Texas
- Utah
- Ohio

Our alumni are making important contributions as their careers take them to diverse work settings.



Measuring Research Success

- 100% of our graduates present their research thesis at a national meeting
- UMGCP graduates were recipients of NSGC's highest student research award (best abstract) in 2014 and 2015
- Prestigious national research awards were awarded to our students in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016 (Jane Engelberg Memorial Fellowships)
- Thesis work is regularly published in high impact journals such as Genetics in Medicine, the American Journal of Medical Genetics, and the Journal of Genetic Counseling

ABGC Board Examination: Continued Success!



Congratulations to our 2016 alumni Shenin Dettwyler, Samantha Greenberg, Carol Ko, Diane Koeller, Mary Oliver, Parker Read, and Linford Williams, who recently joined the ranks of ABGC Certified Genetic Counselors. Once again, 100% of our graduates passed the board examination on their first attempt (compared to the typical national first time candidate pass rate of approximately 85%). We are proud of this accomplishment, which is a testament to their hard work, intellect and training.

NIH Director Francis Collins to Provide Medical School Commencement Speech



Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D. will address graduates at the 2017 Medical School Commencement Ceremony on May 12. Dr. Collins was a faculty member at the University of Michigan from 1984-1993. During this time, he was instrumental in identifying the genes responsible for cystic fibrosis, Huntington's disease, and neurofibromatosis, while also providing clinical services in the UM Medical Genetics Clinic and teaching learners in the medical school. Although he began serving as the Director of the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) at the NIH in 1993, he continued to serve as a professor of internal medicine and human genetics until 2003. During his time as director of the NHGRI, he also led the international Human Genome Project which was completed in 2003. Dr. Collins currently serves as the director of the National Institute of Health (NIH), a position he assumed in 2009. It is an honor to have a Wolverine and world-renowned pioneer in the field of genetics sending the next generation of doctors into the field.

Online Discussions: Genetic Counseling

The University of Michigan Genetic Counseling Program will be conducting our fourth 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 <https://goo.gl/forms/RZOq60vozU5jbQ2J2> by May 19, 2017. 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 previous years.

CARDIOLOGY GCs: A CRITICAL MICHIGAN DIFFERENCE

Over the past decade, improvements in the understanding of inherited cardiac conditions have led to the recognition of genetic counseling as a critical component of state-of-the-art cardiology care. Here at the University of Michigan, there has been consistent expansion of related services within the Frankel Cardiovascular Center. Genetic counselors Patricia Arscott and Rajani Aatre have been playing critical roles in adult the cardiology clinics across our health system including the Inherited Cardiomyopathy Clinic, the Inherited Arrhythmia Clinic and the Aorta Program. They also contribute to the multidisciplinary care of children within the Congenital Heart Center and the Pediatric Cardiovascular Genetic Clinic at UM's C.S. Mott Children's Hospital. In these settings, Patty and Rajani contribute to multidisciplinary teams, ensuring that patients and families receive appropriate genetic testing, education, and support as they navigate a variety of conditions. In addition to patient care, our cardiovascular GCs make important contributions to the training of our graduate students, serving as clinical supervisors, research mentors, and classroom instructors. We look forward to the continued growth of this clinical discipline both here at UM and nationally. We are thrilled at the opportunities afforded to our students in this growing specialty.



SAVE THE DATES!!!

Monday, April 24, 2017
Genetic Counseling Program
Universal Admissions Offer Date

UMGCP Graduation Events
Reception at Bev's:
Thursday April 27, 2017, 7pm

Rackham Graduation: Hill Auditorium
Friday April 28, 2017, 10am

Dept of Human Genetics Reception:
4909 Buhl Friday April 28, 2017, 3pm

University of Michigan Graduation
Michigan Stadium
Saturday April 29, 2017, 10am

Monday May 22, 2017, 2pm
17th Annual James V Neel Lecture in Human Genetics
"Genetic Epidemiology Research in Electronic Health Records"
Neil Risch, PhD
Director of the Institute for Human Genetics
University of California, San Francisco
BRSB Khan Auditorium

Friday June 2, 2017
Joint UM/Wayne State Genetic Counselors Supervisors Workshop
5915 Buhl Building

Wednesday August 30, 2017
Fall Orientation for Incoming Students

Tuesday September 5, 2017
Fall Classes Start

September 13-16, 2017
NSGC Annual Education Conference
Columbus, OH

September 22-23, 2017
Department of Human Genetics Retreat
MacMullan Center, Roscommon MI

Friday October 13, 2017
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