

GENETIC COUNSELING PROGRAM

<https://tinyurl.com/UMGCPprogram>

Congratulations to the UMGCP Class of 2022

Congratulations to the Class of 2022 as they approach their final days of graduate school. We couldn't be more proud of their accomplishments. We will be welcoming them to the ranks of alumni of the UMGCP at the end of April and can't wait to see all they accomplish during their careers.

- Anna Burton- University of Michigan Division of Pediatric Genetics, Metabolism and Genomic Medicine
- Gabi Chen- MD Anderson Cancer Center
- Erika Chick - Children's Hospital of Michigan Division of Genetic, Genomic and Metabolic Disorders
- Gabrielle Ernst- Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- Samantha Glowacki - Children's Hospital of Michigan Division of Genetic, Genomic and Metabolic Disorders
- Hailey Nielsen- University of Iowa Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center
- Renata Thoeny- University of Iowa Prenatal Genetics Clinic
- Lindsay Willard- Flower Hospital Cancer Genetics Clinic



UMGCP Alumni: A Snapshot of Recent Accomplishments



With more than 180 UMGCP alumni working in over 35 states, you don't have to look far to find an alumnus making an impact in the field of genetic counseling and in the lives of patients and families. Here are just a few highlights of some of the innovative accomplishments of recent alumni.

Sarah Mazzola (Class of 2017) has been instrumental in the establishment of a protocol for the evaluation and care of patients with disorders of sex differentiation identified as inpatients in the newborn period at the Cleveland Clinic. Her interest in meeting the multifaceted needs of individuals with disorders of sex differentiation was greatly influenced by her time as a genetic counseling student in U of M's Disorders of Sex Development Clinic. Together with providers from pediatric urology, psychiatry, endocrinology, and primary care, Sarah is working to support families as they navigate treatment decisions and adaptation to new diagnoses. Sarah also contributes to Cleveland Clinic's eXtraordinary Kids clinic that was established with endocrinologists for individuals with

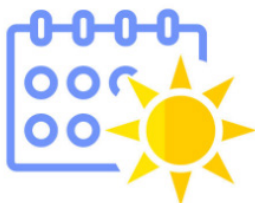
Klinefelter's syndrome. In addition to these contributions to clinical care, Sarah is paying it forward to the next generation of genetic counseling students. Our own rising second year student, Charlie DeLuca, will be spending time with Sarah and her team this summer in a combined general genetics and renal genetics rotations.

Carol Ko (Class of 2016) has been busy growing new programs and initiatives at Providence St. Joseph Hospital in Orange, CA. In 2019, she established a cardiovascular genetics program, achieving impressive year over year growth. She now provides cardiogenetic services to three Providence hospitals in Orange County: St. Joseph, St. Jude Medical Center and Mission Hospital and has also created specialty clinics including a Lipidemia Clinic. Furthermore, Carol was awarded a \$20,000 grant for cardiac amyloidosis education from Pfizer. Carol also shares her energy, leadership, and expertise with colleagues across the country as the 2022-2024 Chair of the NSGC Cardiovascular Genetics Special Interest Group (SIG).

Mackenzie Mosera and Amanda Schaefer, two 2019 graduates with a passion for providing comprehensive and tailored care for individuals with hearing loss and their families, developed a Pocket Guide for Referrals to Genetics for Hearing Loss for audiologists and otolaryngologists. (<https://qrco.de/bc0WWd>). This was made possible through funding from the Ophthalmology and Hearing Loss SIG of NSGC. Mackenzie and Amanda also attended the 8th International Pediatric Audiology Conference in March 2021 where they presented a poster, "Genetic Counseling & Genetic Testing for Hearing Loss and Deafness: A Foundation for Comprehensive and Tailored Care." Drawing on their experiences with patients seen at their respective institutions (Vanderbilt and University of Iowa), the poster highlighted concrete ways audiologists can understand the impact of genetic counseling and genetic testing for their deaf/Deaf/hard of hearing families and better facilitate their discussions of genetics with the families they serve.

Keep up to date with more news about our alumni on Instagram.

Summer GC Interest Group



The University of Michigan Genetic Counseling Program will be conducting our 9th 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 via Zoom. The goals of the discussions are to increase participants' vocabulary related to

related to genetic counseling and allow for interactions with practicing genetic counselors and genetic counseling students at the University of Michigan. Topics discussed during the Zoom calls are expected to cover multiple areas of clinical genetic/genomic practice. The sign up for the Summer GC Interest Group will be released on May 6 through our mailing list. We had an incredible response to our call last summer, so we encourage interested individuals to sign up early. If you haven't already joined our mailing list, you can do so at [this link](#).

Congratulations to Colby Chase on Recognition for DEIAJ Efforts

A big congratulations to Colby Chase on being awarded the Student Diversity Council (SDC) Dr. David Gooden Award for Quiet Influence in DEIAJ! Colby is a UMGCP alumna (Class of 2019) and a current genetic counselor in the UM Medical Genetics and Cancer Genetics clinics. This award is given to an individual who demonstrates empathy, humility, and a consistent dedication to the cause of the DEIAJ. The award is for those who perform feats of selflessness and leadership, either without a formal leadership title or without significant advertisement and awareness regarding their work.



Colby Chase
Class of 2019

Colby has helped organize monthly meetings among the genetic counselors at the University of Michigan to discuss different resources and topics related to DEIAJ and how they intersect with genetic counselor practice. Colby says, "The discussions have been fruitful and wouldn't have been possible without the engagement and dedication from everyone involved!" The genetic counseling community appreciates Colby's initiative, passion, and diligence!

Advocating for Inclusivity: The Disability Advocacy Coalition of Health Professions



A number of our students recently partnered with a national organization, the Disability Advocacy Coalition in Medicine, and established a local chapter at UM called the Disability Advocacy Coalition of Health Professions (DAC-HP). This interdisciplinary organization enables collaboration and shared growth among diverse trainees, faculty, and staff. Together, they work to advocate, discuss, educate, and collaborate on what it means for patients and providers to have disabilities.

The mission of DAC-HP is to create a culture of disability in medicine that is: 1. Inclusive in teaching how to be a culturally competent provider for patients with different types of disabilities, 2. Informative in communicating how trainees can be involved in combating ableism in medicine and medical education, and 3. Supportive of existing and future providers with disability in medicine. DAC-HP carries out its mission through educational events and partnerships with other campus organizations. DAC-HP recently hosted a workshop with Dr. Paige Terrien Church, a neonatologist and developmental-behavioral pediatrician at the University of Toronto. In this workshop, students learned about her experiences as a healthcare professional with a disability and how to incorporate disability inclusive language into their patient encounters. Many more similar events are currently in the works!

DAC-HP has also engaged with disability communities and other organizations on campus, including disability advocacy student groups, attending Disability in STEM workshops, and attending MDisability meetings. DAC-HP is fostering communications with champions of disability advocacy throughout Michigan Medicine, such as MDisability and the Center for Disability Health and Wellness. They have been fundraising through an app called Charity Miles, where they are able to convert physical activity to sponsor-driven donations made to various charities for populations with disabilities, such as the Muscular Dystrophy Association and Foundation Fighting Blindness.

Many UMGCP students are active members and hold leadership positions, alongside other students outside of the program. To remain updated on this student organization and the exciting things they are doing, follow the group on Instagram or feel free to send them an email!

Instagram: @dac_hp_at_um

Email: dachp-leadership@umich.edu

National Recognition for Eva Kahn's Graduate Thesis

With student research being an integral part of our program, we love seeing the research accomplishments made by our students and alumni. As students create research projects based on their interests and passions, it is unsurprising that the topic of the COVID-19 pandemic has emerged. Thinking about the pandemic and how it has impacted our lives, there are several opportunities to explore the effects it has had on student experiences in genetic counseling graduate training.

This was the focus of Eva Kahn's graduate thesis work entitled: **Graduate training during the COVID-19 pandemic: North American genetic counseling students' challenges, intolerance of uncertainty, and psychological well-being.**

Pulling together experts in developmental psychology, education, and statistics, Eva undertook a timely study on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the genetic counseling graduate training environment. The findings of her study demonstrate that genetic counseling students training during the COVID-19 pandemic in the US and Canada have experienced various personal, academic, and psychological disruptions. Her findings have highlighted a need to develop resources and implement interventions supporting students' academic development and psychological well-being.

Eva's work garnered much attention. In the fall of 2021, Eva presented her thesis work at the 2021 NSGC Annual Education Conference. Based on a vote by conference attendees, her poster was chosen as the People's Choice Poster. Her manuscript was also published in the Journal of Genetic Counseling and then selected by NSGC for a live national journal club discussion on Twitter.

The UMGCP is very proud of Eva and all of our alumni and current students for the great work they are doing through research!



Eva Kahn
Class of 2021

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SPECIAL ISSUE

Journal of Genetic Counseling WILEY

Graduate training during the COVID-19 pandemic: North American genetic counseling students' challenges, intolerance of uncertainty, and psychological well-being

Eva Kahn¹ | Jane P. Sheldon² | Alicia Carmichael³ | Beverly M. Yashar¹

Save the Date!

Friday, April 22, 2022

GC Admissions Match Results Release Day

Thursday, April 28, 2022, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

DHG Graduation Reception 2960 THSL

Thursday, April 28, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

UMGCP Graduation Reception (private event)

Friday, May 6, 2022

Sign up for Summer GC Interest Group

Friday, May 20, 2022

UM/WSU GC Supervisor Workshop

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

21st Annual James V. Neel Lectureship

"A tail of tales: genetics and development of evolutionary change (in wild mice)" Presented by: Hopi E. Hoekstra, Ph.D.

3:00PM Lecture - Forum Hall, Palmer Commons

5:00PM Poster Session & Reception - Great Lakes Room, Palmer Commons

Wednesday, August 24 through Friday, August 26, 2022

Fall Orientation for Incoming Students

Monday, August 29, 2022

Fall Classes Begin



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