

# Memo

To: ACMG, ASHG, ABGC, AGCPD, NACHGR, CAGC, Genetic Alliance, FORCE, ISONG  
From: Brenda Finucane, 2012 President  
Date: January 26, 2012  
Re: NSGC Activity Update

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*Following are key highlights of NSGC strategic initiatives and other key activities through January 2012. If you have questions about information not included in this report, please do not hesitate to contact me at 610-891-2313 or [brenda\\_finucane@elwyn.org](mailto:brenda_finucane@elwyn.org).*

## NSGC Membership

- As of December 31, 2011 NSGC had 2,714 members.

## Board of Directors

- The NSGC Board of Directors meets monthly by phone and met in person October 26, 2011 in San Diego, CA.
- The next in person meeting is scheduled for February 17-18, 2012 in Chicago. This meeting will include a session to update NSGC's rolling 2012 – 2014 strategic plan.

## Education

- NSGC is approved as a provider of CEUs for genetic counselors. Application information is available at <http://www.nsgc.org/CEU/index.cfm>. Please contact Kathryn Schafer at [kschafer@nsgc.org](mailto:kschafer@nsgc.org) with any questions.
- The 2011 Annual Education Conference (AEC) was held October 27-30, 2011 in San Diego, California. The conference had record attendance with just under 1,700 attendees. Information about the conference is available on the NSGC website: <http://www.nsgc.org/Education/2011AnnualEducationConference/tabid/356/Default.aspx>
- The 2012 AEC is scheduled for October 25-27, 2012 in Boston, MA. In 2012 the conference schedule shifts to a Wednesday through Saturday pattern to allow attendees one weekend day after returning home.
- NSGC has many online educational opportunities available for additional continuing education. These cover a variety of topics such as family history, coding and billing and cultural competency. Additional information on these and other course is available to the public on the NSGC website: <http://www.nsgc.org/Education/YearroundEducationalOpportunities/tabid/103/Default.aspx>
- Recent courses of interest include:
  - NSGC's 2011 online course, *Genomics*, launched in July 2011.

- The NSGC Access and Service Delivery Committee launched an online Coding Course in September 2009 and a Credentialing Course in May 2011. These courses have been specifically designed as educational tools to help genetic counselors and other providers navigate the complexities of billing and coding of genetic services.
- Recordings of all sessions from the 2010 AEC and Preconference Symposia are available online. The 2011 AEC and Preconference Symposia recordings will be available in early February 2012.

## Liaison Activities

- Barbara Bernhardt is serving as the NSGC liaison to the “value of genetic diagnosis” committee led by Marc Williams from ACMG. The committee will focus on evidence-based medicine and contribute overall to the promotion of genetics professions and genetic services.
- NSGC Past President Angela Trepanier has represented NSGC on the NCHPEG Board of Directors from 2009 through 2011. Angela is running for a second three-year term.
- Jill Stopfer is representing the interests of NSGC and genetic counselors on the ACOG Committee on Genetics.
- NSGC President Brenda Finucane and Executive Director Meghan Carey will represent NSGC at the upcoming American College of Medical Genetics Meeting in Charlotte, NC in March 2012.
- Michelle Fox is representing NSGC on the HRSA Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children Subcommittee on Follow up and Treatment. Cate Walsh Vockley continues to represent NSGC on the Education and Training Subcommittee. Both Michelle and Cate participated in the subcommittee meetings held during 2011.
- NSGC was represented on the Institute of Medicine Roundtable on Translating Genomic-Based Research for Health by past President, Cathy Wicklund.
- Stephanie Brewster is representing NSGC as liaison to the ACMG Practice Guidelines Committee.
- Scott Weissman is serving as NSGC representative to both the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer and the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC).
- Rhonda Schonberg is NSGC representative to the National Advisory Council for Human Genome Research.

## Collaborative Genetic Services Summit

- NSGC held the Collaborative Genetic Services Summit in November 2011 in Washington, DC. Representatives from key genetics, primary care, nursing, physician assistant and organizations were present to contribute to development of a collaborative triage model(s) for delivery of genetic services.
- Past President Angela Trepanier is serving as the Principal Investigator on the Collaborative Genomic Services Summit which was funded by the Genetic Counseling Foundation.
- The purpose of the Summit was to bring together primary care providers, genetics specialists, and other key stakeholders, including industry and advocacy organizations, to develop a competency (skills and knowledge)-based, and (if available) evidence-based, collaborative model for integrating genetics and genomics into healthcare.

## Government Relations and Advocacy

- NSGC has released position statements on disabilities and genetic counselors in healthcare reform, and has an updated position statement on direct to consumer genetic testing. These and all NSGC position statements are available at:  
<http://www.nsgc.org/Advocacy/PositionStatements/tabid/107/Default.aspx>
- NSGC has been on Capitol Hill and is close to announcing a bill sponsor for legislation that will recognize genetic counselors as Medicare providers.
- NSGC has provided ongoing guidance to states pursuing licensure and writing licensure rules and regulations:
  - Issuing licenses: CA, DE, IL, IN, MA, NM, OK, SD, TN, UT, WA
  - Passed bills/in rulemaking: HI, NJ, PA
  - Bill introduced or preparing to introduce bills: CT, FL, ID, KS, MD, MI, MN, MS, NE, NH, NY, OH, OR, RI, TX, WI, VA