

Memo

To: NSGC Liaison Organizations
From: Jehannine Austin, PhD, CGC, CCGC, 2016 President
Date: January 25, 2016
Re: National Society of Genetic Counselors Activity Update

Following are key highlights of National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC) strategic initiatives and other key activities through early November 2015. If you have questions about information not included in this report, please do not hesitate to contact me at 604 875 2000 x5943 or jehannine.austin@ubc.ca.

NSGC Membership

- As of September 30, 2015, the end of the 2015 dues reporting period, NSGC had 3,174 members.
- Dues renewal is ongoing for the 2016 membership year.

Board of Directors

- The NSGC Board of Directors meets monthly by phone
- The next in-person Board meeting is scheduled for February 5-6, 2016 in Chicago, IL.

Education

- NSGC is approved as a provider of CEUs for genetic counselors. Please contact [Molly McGinnis](#), NSGC Continuing Education Coordinator, with any questions.
- The 2015 Annual Education Conference (AEC) was held October 21-24, 2015 in Pittsburgh, PA. The program has been finalized. Conference information is available on the [NSGC website](#).
- The 2016 AEC will be held September 28 – October 1, 2016 in Seattle, Washington
- 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](#).
- Recent courses of interest include:
 - NSGC launched the online course, [Personalized and Precision Medicine](#), in June 2015. This course is focused on professional development for genetic counselors and genetics professionals.
 - In 2014 NSGC launched the educational series, [Business Foundations for Genetic Counselors](#). This series currently includes two courses, [Insurance and Credentialing 101](#) and [Billing and Coding](#). Each course includes an online didactic module, ongoing webinars, resource materials and a course participant discussion forum. Courses were developed for genetic counselors, but contain information of interest for billing and medical staff offices at institutions employing genetic counselors. Additional information is available on the [NSGC website](#).

- Recordings of all sessions from the 2014 AEC and Preconference Symposia are available [online](#). The 2015 AEC recordings will be released in late January 2016.

Liaison Activities

- NSGC President Jehannine Austin and President-Elect Mary Freivogel will represent NSGC at the American College of Medical Genetics (ACMG) Annual Meeting in Tampa, FL in March 2016.
- NSGC Past President Jennifer Hoskovec is representing NSGC as liaison to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) Committee on Genetics.
- Amy Cronister is representing NSGC on the Inter-Society Coordinating Committee for Practitioner Education in Genomics (ISCC), a committee formed by the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) to improve genomic literacy of physicians and other practitioners and to enhance the practice of genomic medicine through sharing of educational approaches and joint identification of educational needs.
- NSGC Immediate Past President Joy Larsen Haidle represented NSGC at the 2015 American Society of Breast Surgeons annual meeting and delivered a presentation on “Contemporary Challenges in Genetic Testing for Breast Cancer” in collaboration with Dr. Pat Whitworth.
- 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.
- Cate Walsh Vockley represents NSGC as our Organizational Representative on the HRSA Discretionary Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children Subcommittee (DACHDNC).
- NSGC is 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.
- Colleen Caeshu, NSGC Education Committee Vice-Chair, is representing NSGC as liaison to the ACMG Program Committee.
- Jessica Everett is serving as NSGC representative to both the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer.
- Scott Weissman represents NSGC on the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC).
- Leslie Cohen represents NSGC on the AMA CPT/Health Care Professional Advisory Committee Council. Leslie will be transitioning this role to Karen Lewis over the course of 2016.
- Rhonda Schonberg is NSGC’s representative to the National Advisory Council for Human Genome Research (NACHGR).
- NSGC Past President Steven Keiles represents NSGC on the National Task Force for Early Identification of Childhood Neuromuscular Disorders.
- Liz Varga is representing NSGC as a member of the Training Residents in Genetics (TRIG) Committee. The TRIG committee is comprised of representatives from pathology and genetics organizations and is focused on ensuring genetics is included in future training of pathology residents.
- Kristin Vogel Postula is representing NSGC as a member of the American Association of Oncology Nurse Navigators Advisory Committee.

- NSGC Past President Karin Dent is representing NSGC as a member of the Genetics in Primary Care Institute, an initiative of the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- Heather Hampel is representing NSGC as a member of the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable (NCCRT).
- Sarah Kalia is serving as NSGC's representative to the ACMG Incidental Findings Working Group.
- Katie Stoll represented NSGC on a Perinatal Quality Foundation task force that released a guidance document around expanded carrier screening in 2014 and is now developing a NIPT calculator.
- Amy Gaviglio is serving on the March of Dimes Newborn Screening Quality Improvement Work Group on behalf of NSGC.
- Blair Stevens served as the NSGC lead on a successful collaboration with ACOG to deliver a webinar to ACOG and NSGC members regarding cell-free DNA. The joint webinar was NSGC's highest attendance on a webinar to date.
- Andy Faucett and Laura Hercher are representing NSGC on an ASHG working group to develop and inter-organizational position statement on CRISPR technology.
- Allison Cirino is representing NSGC as liaison to the Functional Genomics and Translational Biology (FGTB) Council of the American Heart Association.

Government Relations and Advocacy

- Several NSGC position statements are in development or revision. All NSGC position statements are available on the [NSGC website](#).
- NSGC is pursuing 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, CT, DE, IL, IN, MA, ND, NE, NJ, NH, NM, OH, OK, PA, SD, TN, UT, WA
 - Passed bills/in rulemaking: HI, ID, VA
 - 20 additional states have bills introduced or in preparation