

Memo

To: NSGC Liaison Organizations
From: Jennifer Hoskovec, 2014 President
Date: August 12, 2014
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 July 2014. If you have questions about information not included in this report, please do not hesitate to contact me at 713-486-2296 or jennifer.e.malone@uth.tmc.edu.

NSGC Membership

- As of July 25, 2014, NSGC had 3,033 members.

Board of Directors

- The NSGC Board of Directors meets monthly by phone and met in-person on March 16-17, 2014 in Chicago, IL.
- The next in-person Board meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2014 in New Orleans, LA.

Education

- NSGC is approved as a provider of CEUs for genetic counselors. Please contact [Kate Maude](#), NSGC Continuing Education Coordinator, with any questions.
- The 2014 Annual Education Conference (AEC) is scheduled for September 17-20 in New Orleans, LA. The 2014 AEC preliminary program is available on the [NSGC website](#).
- 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, [Incorporating Technology Into Genetic Counseling Practice](#), in June 2014. This course is focused on professional development for genetic counselors and genetics professionals.
 - NSGC has a new 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 2013 AEC and Preconference Symposia are available [online](#).

Liaison Activities

- NSGC President Jennifer Hoskovec is representing NSGC as liaison to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) Committee on Genetics.
- NSGC President Jennifer Hoskovec and President-Elect Joy Larsen Haidle represented NSGC at the American College of Medical Genetics (ACMG) Annual Meeting in Nashville, TN in March 2014.
- 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 has been given an Organizational Representative seat on the HRSA Discretionary Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children Subcommittee (DACHDNC). Cate Walsh Vockley is representing NSGC in this role.
- 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.
- Heather MacLeod, NSGC Education Committee Vice-Chair, is representing NSGC as liaison to the ACMG Program 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’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 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 and Primary Care Institute, an initiative of the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- Heather Hampel has been appointed as a member of the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable (NCCRT), officially representing NSGC on this roundtable.
- NSGC Past President Kelly Ormond has been appointed as NSGC representative to the ACMG Incidental Findings Working Group.
- Katie Stoll is representing NSGC on a Perinatal Quality Foundation task force to develop an expanded carrier screening practice guideline.
- Amy Gaviglio is serving on the March of Dimes Newborn Screening Quality Improvement Work Group on behalf of NSGC.

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, DE, IL, IN, MA, NE, NM, OH, OK, PA, SD, TN, UT, WA
 - Passed bills/in rulemaking: HI, NH, NJ, ND, VA
 - Bill introduced or preparing to introduce bills: CO, CT, FL, ID, KS, MD, MI, MN, MS, NY, OR, RI, TX, WI