

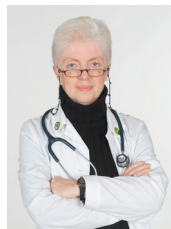
Nurturing Relationships:

Updates from the JHU/NHGRI Genetic Counseling Training Program

Welcome to the Spring 2012 edition of the Johns Hopkins University/National Human Genome Research Institute Genetic Counseling Training Program Newsletter. This newsletter is intended to highlight exciting achievements and events in the Hopkins/NHGRI community. In this issue we welcome a new executive committee member, celebrate the GCTP class of 2012 and acknowledge the personal and professional accomplishments of our students and alumni!

Program Updates

We are fortunate to welcome Joann Bodurtha, as the newest member of the Executive Committee. Dr. Bodurtha recently moved to Baltimore to join the Institute of Genetic Medicine and the Department of Pediatrics at Johns Hopkins. Prior to her move, she held a professorship in Human and Molecular Genetics at Virginia Commonwealth University with joint



faculty appointments in the Departments of Pediatrics, Obstetrics-Gynecology and Epidemiology and Public Health.

Among her many leadership, outreach and educational activities during her time at VCU was her extensive involvement with the genetic counseling training program there. We are delighted to have Dr. Bodurtha's expertise on our executive committee.

Congratulations to the Class of 2012

On January 27th, 2012 in the Natcher Building at NIH we celebrated the graduation of Yue Guan, Leila Jamal, Tamandra Morgan and Belen Pappa from the GCTP. It was, as always, a bittersweet ceremony celebrating their



(Photo: Maggie Bartlett, NHGRI) GCTP Class of 2012 (left to right Yue Guan, Leila Jamal, Tamandra Morgan, Belen Pappa)

accomplishments and having to say good-bye to our daily interactions with these wonderful women. We are thrilled to have these new colleagues in the field! The students began a full day of celebration by presenting their thesis research in a symposium that faculty, friends and family attended.

Titles were:

Yue Guan

Parental disclosure of G6PD and its relationship to child health

Leila Jamal

Participating in whole genome research: Insights from participants from across the health spectrum

Tamandra Morgan

Family Communication of Hereditary Cancer Risk Among African Americans

Belen Pappa

The Role of Family Functioning in Promoting Adaptation in Siblings of Individuals with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD)



(Photo: Maggie Bartlett, NHGRI) Dr. Daniel Kastner, scientific director of the NHGRI, presented the graduates with graduation certificates.



(Photo: Maggie Bartlett, NHGRI) Per tradition, the graduating students were royally roasted by the first and second year classes.

Where are they now?

Our 2012 graduates have already embarked upon some very exciting endeavors:

Yue Guan is a doctoral student of Debra Roter in the Department of Health, Behavior and Society, also in the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. She is also funded as a research assistant to help organize the Johns Hopkins Center for Genetic Literacy and Communication.

Leila Jamal has begun her doctoral studies in the Department of Bioethics in the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. In addition to that, she is working as a genetic counselor, seeing families at the Kennedy Krieger Institute. She continues to live in Baltimore, MD.

Tamandra Morgan accepted a position as an information specialist at the Genetic and Rare Diseases (GARD) Information Center in Rockville, Maryland. Tamandra works with the GARD project team to respond to inquiries about genetic and rare diseases from patients and their families, health



(Photo: Maggie Bartlett, NHGRI) Rachel Shapira in the chatroom on DNA Day answering a question from students in Peru, Indiana.

care providers, and the general public. In addition, she is helping with a joint research endeavor between GARD and the SBRB to study the inquiries received by GARD. She currently resides in Silver Spring.

Belen Pappa recently started working in the Neurogenetics clinic at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC. Prior to that, she assisted on an intramural project at the National Institute for Neurological Disease and Stroke, applying her thesis experience in working to coordinate research with families impacted by Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.



(Photo: Maggie Bartlett, NHGRI) GCTP students at work in the DNA Day Chatroom.

Save The Date!

- Last day to schedule the American Board of Genetic Counseling (ABGC) 2012 board certification exam is July 2nd, 2012.
- ABGC 2011 board certification examination will be offered August 12th - September 15th, 2011.
- GCTP fall classes start September 4th, 2012.
- NSGC Annual Education Conference is October 24th-27th, 2012, in Boston, MA
- American Society of Human Genetics Annual Meeting is November 6th-12th, 2012 in San Francisco, CA.
- January 18, 2013 is the next GCTP NIH graduation symposium and celebration. Please plan to attend!

DNA DAY!!

GCTP student continued the time-honored tradition of celebrating DNA Day on April 20th. DNA Day is a day of outreach, when students, teachers and the public can learn more about genetics and genomics. It is held every year in April to commemorate the completion of the Human Genome Project in 2003. This year students and faculty participated in the DNA Day Chatroom, fielding questions from students across the country.

ALUMNAE PUBLICATIONS

Singleton, A, Erby, LH, Foisie, KV and Kaphingst, KA. Informed Choice in Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing (DTCGT) Websites: A Content Analysis of Benefits, Risks, and Limitations. *J Genet Couns*. 2012 Jun;21(3):433-9.

ALUMNAE NEWS

Congratulations to the newest set of alumni CGC's: **Amy Turriff ('10)**, **Morgan Butrick ('10)**, **Amanda Rowe ('10)** and **Sarah Kalia ('11)**.

Melissa Barber Butson ('00) successfully defended her doctoral dissertation in Bioethics on March 20th and will graduate from Case Western Reserve University on May 20th. Congratulations Dr. Butson!

Tricia See ('06) has taken a new position as a senior genetic counselor and Neurogenetics Team Leader at Informed Medical Decisions (<http://informeddna.com/>). We congratulate her on this new and exciting opportunity!



Jessica Adcock ('08) and her husband, Dan, announce the arrival of their son, Liam Vaughan Adcock, born April 19th, weighing 8 lb 14 oz and was 22 inches long.

Katie Lewis ('08) has recently returned to the NHGRI to serve as the genetic counselor and protocol coordinator for the ClinSeq Study, a large scale medical sequencing study directed by Dr. Les Biesecker. In this role, she coordinates the implementation of the project and provides genetic counseling to study participants. She will also serve as a supervisor for GCTP students. Welcome back to the NIH, Katie!

In February 2012, **Christy Haakonsen ('11)** accepted a clinical genetic counseling position at the Greater Baltimore Medical Center. She sees patients for hereditary cancer risk assessment and works closely with Dr. Clair Francomano in the adult clinical genetics program, mostly seeing patients with hereditary disorders of connective tissue.



We invite you to continue sharing your personal and professional news with us so that we can update the JHU/ NHGRI GCTP community. Gillian can be reached at hookerg@nih.gov and Barb can be reached at barbarab@mail.nih.gov.