

# Memo

To: National Advisory Council for Human Genome Research  
From: Rebecca Nagy, 2013 President  
Date: May 14, 2013  
Re: National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC) Activity Update

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*Following are key highlights of NSGC strategic initiatives and other key activities through March 2013. If you have questions about information not included in this report, please do not hesitate to contact me at 614-293-6694 or [Rebecca.nagy@osumc.edu](mailto:Rebecca.nagy@osumc.edu).*

## NSGC Membership

- As of December 31, 2012 NSGC had 2,850 members.
- Dues renewal for 2013 is ongoing with 2,623 members renewed as of April 25, 2013.

## Board of Directors

- The NSGC Board of Directors meets monthly by phone and met in-person March 8-9, 2013 in Chicago, IL.
- The next in-person Board meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2013 in Anaheim, CA, immediately prior to the NSGC Annual Education Conference.

## Education

- NSGC is approved as a provider of CEUs for genetic counselors. Application information is available on the [NSGC website](#). Please contact [Elizabeth Allen](#), NSGC Continuing Education Coordinator, with any questions.
- The 2013 AEC is scheduled for October 9-12, 2013 in Anaheim, California. Information about the 2013 AEC 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 is preparing a new online course focused on professional development for launch in late May 2013.
  - The NSGC Access and Service Delivery Committee has produced online courses focused on coding and credentialing. These courses have been specifically designed as educational tools to help genetic counselors and other providers navigate the complexities of billing and coding for genetic services. Additional information is available on the [NSGC website](#).
  - Recordings of all sessions from the 2012 AEC and Preconference Symposia are available [online](#).

## Liaison Activities

- NSGC President Elect Jennifer Hoskovec has been appointed to represent NSGC and genetic counselors as NSGC liaison to the ACOG Committee on Genetics.
- NSGC President Rebecca Nagy represented NSGC at the American College of Medical Genetics Meeting in Phoenix, AZ in March 2013.
- 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 is representing NSGC on the NCHPEG Board of Directors for a second three-year term ending in 2013.
- 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 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.
- Renee Chard, 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.
- Leigha Senter 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.
- Amy Sturm represented NSGC at a roundtable discussion on familial hypercholesterolemia hosted by the Foundation of the National Lipid Association at the CDC in February 2013.
- Heather Hampel has been appointed as a member of the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable (NCCRT), officially representing NSGC on this roundtable.

## Government Relations and Advocacy

- NSGC recently released position statements on stem cell research and genetic testing in minors. Several additional 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, OK, SD, TN, UT, WA
  - Passed bills/in rulemaking: HI, NJ, OH, PA
  - Bill introduced or preparing to introduce bills: CO, CT, FL, ID, KS, MD, MI, MN, MS, NH, NY, OR, RI, TX, WI, VA