

Memo

To: ACMG, ASHG, ABGC, AGCPD, NACHGR, CAGC, Genetic Alliance, FORCE, ISONG
From: Brenda Finucane, 2012 President
Date: September 4, 2012
Re: NSGC Activity Update

Following are key highlights of NSGC strategic initiatives and other key activities through August 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.

NSGC Membership

- As of August 25, 2012 NSGC had 2,726 members.
- Dues renewal for 2012 is still ongoing.

Board of Directors

- The NSGC Board of Directors meets monthly by phone and will meet in-person October 23 in Boston, MA.

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 with any questions.
- 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. Information about the 2012 AEC program is available on the NSGC website: <http://www.nsgc.org/Education/2012AEC/tabid/405/Default.aspx>
- 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 2012 online course launched in late May.
 - The NSGC Access and Service Delivery Committee has produced two 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.
 - Recordings of all sessions from the 2011 AEC and Preconference Symposia are available online.

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 is representing NSGC on the NCHPEG Board of Directors for a second three-year term ending in 2013.
- 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 represented NSGC at the 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 have participated in the 2012 subcommittee meetings.
- 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.
- NSGC Past President Steven Keiles represents NSGC on the National Task Force for Early Identification of Childhood Neuromuscular Disorders and attended the meeting held April 13-15 in Atlanta, GA.
- NSGC President Brenda Finucane presented on "Genetic Counselors: Navigating the Interface between Molecular Diagnostics and Patient Care" at the G2 Intelligence Molecular Diagnostics Conference held April 17-19 in Boston, MA.
- NSGC President Elect Rebecca Nagy represented NSGC at the 2012 Genomes Environments Traits (GET) Conference, held April 24-25 in Boston, MA.

Collaborative Genetic Services Summit

- NSGC held the Collaborative Genetic Services Summit in November 2011 in Washington, DC.
- 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 representatives from key genetics, primary care, nursing, physician assistant and other healthcare provider organizations to contribute to development of a collaborative triage model(s) for delivery of genetic services.
- Proceedings from the Summit will be published in the *Journal of Genetic Counseling* once finalized.

Government Relations and Advocacy

- NSGC released position statements on newborn screening, blood spot storage and use and noninvasive prenatal testing/noninvasive prenatal diagnosis (NIPT/NIPD). Several additional statements are in development or revision. All NSGC position statements are available on the NSGC website: <http://www.nsgc.org/Advocacy/PositionStatements/tabid/107/Default.aspx>
- 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, NM, OK, SD, TN, UT, WA
 - Passed bills/in rulemaking: HI, NE, 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