

# Memo

**To:** ACMG, ASHG, ABGC, AGCPD, NACHGR, CAGC, Genetic Alliance, FORCE, ISONG  
**From:** Karin Dent, 2011 President  
**Date:** September 3, 2011  
**Re:** NSGC Activity Update

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*Following are key highlights of NSGC strategic initiatives and other key activities through April 30, 2011. If you have questions about information not included in this report, please do not hesitate to contact me at 801-581-8943 or [karin.dent@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:karin.dent@hsc.utah.edu).*

## **NSGC Membership**

- As of August 31, 2011 NSGC had 2,289 members in all categories that had renewed for 2011.

## **Board of Directors**

- The NSGC Board of Directors meets monthly by phone and met in person February 25-26 in Chicago, IL. This meeting included a strategic planning session for 2012 – 2014.
- The next in-person Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26, 2011 in San Diego, CA immediately prior to the NSGC Annual Education Conference (AEC).

## **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](mailto:kschafer@nsgc.org) with any questions.
- The 2011 AEC is scheduled for October 27-30 in San Diego, California. The preliminary program and additional information about the conference is available on the NSGC website: <http://www.nsgc.org/Education/2011AnnualEducationConference/tabid/356/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 2011 online course, *Genomics*, launched in July 2011.
  - The NSGC Access and Service Delivery Committee launched an online Coding Course in September 2009 and a Credentialing Course in May 2011. These courses have been specifically designed to be an educational tool to help genetic counselors and other providers navigate the complexities of compliant billing and coding of genetic services.
  - Recordings of all sessions from the 2010 AEC and Preconference Symposia

## ***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.
- Lori Williamson has been nominated to represent NSGC on the HRSA Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children Health Information Technology Workgroup.
- NSGC President Angela Trepanier was elected to the NCHPEG Board of Directors for a three-year term beginning in 2009. She is representing NSGC at all NCHPEG Board meetings through 2011.
- Jill Stopfer has been appointed as liaison to the ACOG Committee on Genetics and will be representing the interests of NSGC and genetic counselors in this capacity.
- NSGC President Karin Dent, Past President Liz Kearney and Executive Director Meghan Carey represented NSGC at the recent American College of Medical Genetics Meeting in Vancouver, BC in March 2011.
- Michelle Fox has been appointed to represent 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 at the Education and Training Subcommittee. Both Michelle and Cate participated in the subcommittee meetings held in May, 2011.
- NSGC President Karin Dent represented NSGC at the 2011 Genetic Alliance Day on the Hill and Conference. Karin participated in the panel “Policy Outcomes: Incentivizing Communication and Support” as part of the Genetic Alliance Services Day: Collaborating Across Conditions and Communities.
- NSGC was represented on the Institute of Medicine Roundtable on Translating Genomic-Based Research for Health by past President, Cathy Wicklund. NSGC President Karin Dent accompanied Cathy at the July 2011 roundtable meeting.

## ***Collaborative Genomic Services Summit***

- NSGC Past President Angela Trepanier is serving as the Principal Investigator on the Genetic Counseling Foundation funded Collaborative Genomic Services Summit.
- The purpose of the Summit is to bring together primary care providers, genetics specialists, and other key stakeholders, including industry and advocacy organizations, to develop a competency (skills and knowledge)-based, and (if available) evidence-based, collaborative model for integrating genetics and genomics into healthcare.
- The summit is planned for November 13-14, 2011 in Washington, DC.

## ***Government Relations and Advocacy***

- NSGC has released position statements on disabilities and genetic counselors in health care reform. These statements and all NSGC position statements are available at: <http://www.nsgc.org/Advocacy/PositionStatements/tabid/107/Default.aspx>
- NSGC has been on Capitol Hill and is close to announcing a bill sponsor. The legislation 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, NJ
  - Bill introduced or preparing to introduce bills: CT, FL, ID, KS, MD, MI, MN, MS, NE, NH, NY, OH, OR, PA, RI, TX, WI, VA