

Memo

To: NSGC Liaison Organizations
From: Jennifer Hoskovec, 2014 President
Date: May 2, 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 April 2014. If you have questions about information not included in this report, please do not hesitate to contact me at 713-500-6383 or jennifer.e.malone@uth.tmc.edu.

NSGC Membership

- As of April 25, 2014 NSGC had 2,829 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. Information about the 2014 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 launched the online course, [Career Advancement and Professional Development: Finding, Creating, and Cultivating Opportunities](#), in June 2013. This course is focused on professional development for genetic counselors and genetics professionals.
 - NSGC has another online course in development addressing the use of technology in genetic counseling practice. This course is scheduled to launch in June 2014.
 - 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 2013 AEC and Preconference Symposia are available [online](#).
- NSGC recently launched the Business Foundations for Genetic Counselors series of online courses. Currently comprised of two courses, [Insurance and Credentialing 101](#) and [Billing and Coding](#), this series offers didactic online modules, update webinars throughout the year, interactive course discussion forums, resource guides and more.

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 a December 2013 NHGRI panel on incidental findings.
- 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.

Government Relations and Advocacy

- NSGC recently approved a position statement on human cloning by somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT) for reproductive or therapeutic purposes. 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, 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