

# Memo

**To:** NACHGR  
**From:** Gillian Hooker, PhD, MS, CGC, 2020 President  
**Date:** February 3, 2020  
**Re:** National Society of Genetic Counselors Activity Update

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*Following are key highlights of National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC) strategic initiatives and other key activities through January 2020. If you have questions about information not included in this report, please do not hesitate to contact me at [gillian.hooker@gmail.com](mailto:gillian.hooker@gmail.com).*

## **NSGC Membership**

- As of December 31, 2019 NSGC had 4,072 members; members are still renewing and joining for the 2020 membership year.

## **Board of Directors**

- The NSGC Board of Directors had an in-person board meeting November 4, 2019 in Salt Lake City.
- The next in-person meeting is scheduled for February 6-7, 2020 in Washington DC.
- The NSGC 2019 – 2021 strategic plan is available on the [NSGC website](#).

## **Education and Publications**

- NSGC is approved as a provider of Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for genetic counselors. Please contact [Tamara White](#), NSGC Continuing Education Coordinator, with any questions.
- The 2020 NSGC Annual Conference will be held November 18-22, 2020. Preliminary program information will be posted on the NSGC website in early March 2020.
- 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 competence. Additional information on these and other courses is available to the public on the [NSGC Online Education Center](#).
- Recently released online courses include:
  - *The Formation of Implicit Biases and Practical Strategies to Address Them*
  - *Update on Common Conditions: Epilepsy, Diabetes, Autism and Alzheimer's Disease*
  - *Ethical, Legal and Social Challenges with Genetic Testing*
  - *Evidence-based Practice: What It Is and Why It Matters*
  - *This course aims to outline the importance of EBP in clinical practice, guideline development, payer decisions, and policy outcomes as well as provide implementation tools and resources for genetic counselors.*
  - *Exome 101*
  - *Rare Disease: Patient and Genetic Counselor Experiences*

- *Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing 201: Technology, Complex Cases and Resources*
- *Evidence-based Practice: What it is and Why it Matters*
- Recordings of all sessions from the 2019 Annual Conference and Preconference Symposia will be available in mid-February 2020. Recordings from 2018 are available [online](#).

## **Liaison Activities**

- NSGC Past President Joy Larsen Haidle is serving as NSGC's representative on the American Society of Clinical Oncology's (ASCO) CancerLinQ Oncology Leadership Council.
- Leigha Senter is representing NSGC on an Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient Navigator (AONN+) task force to explore cancer genetic risk assessment education for patient navigators.
- Stephanie Cohen and NSGC Past President Mary Freivogel are representing NSGC on an exploratory task force coordinated by the National Coalition of Breast Centers (NCBC) focused on developing a certificate program for breast cancer risk assessment.
- Jennifer Hoskovec represents NSGC as liaison to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) Committee on Genetics.
- Rachel Mills is representing NSGC on the Inter-Society Coordinating Committee for Practitioner Education in Genomics (ISCC).
- Barbara Bernhardt is serving as the NSGC liaison to the "value of genetic diagnosis" committee led by Marc Williams from ACMG.
- Cate Walsh Vockley represents NSGC as our organizational representative to the HRSA Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children Subcommittee (ACHDNC).
- Past President Cathy Wicklund represents NSGC on the National Academies of Medicine Roundtable on Genomics and Precision Health.
- Ashley Parrot is representing NSGC as liaison to the ACMG Practice Guidelines Committee.
- Maria Baker is serving as liaison to the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer (CoC).
- Megan Frone is representing NSGC to the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC).
- Karen Lewis represents NSGC on the AMA CPT/Health Care Professional Advisory Committee Council.
- Rhonda Schonberg is NSGC's representative to the National Advisory Council for Human Genome Research (NACHGR).
- Alix D'Angelo 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 Postula is representing NSGC as a member of the American Association of Oncology Nurse Navigators (AONN+) Advisory Committee.
- NSGC Past President Karin Dent is representing NSGC as a member of the Genetics in Primary Care Institute, an initiative of the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- Heather Hampel is representing NSGC as a member of the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable (NCCRT).

- Sarah Kalia is serving as NSGC's representative to the ACMG Incidental Findings Working Group.
- Allison Cirino is representing NSGC as liaison to the Functional Genomics and Translational Biology (FGTB) Council of the American Heart Association.
- NSGC Past President Angie Trepanier and Meg Doerr represent NSGC on the G2C2 Committee.
- Anna Dennis is representing NSGC on the Northwest Regional Newborn Screening Advisory Board.
- Christie Jett and Rachel Shapira are representing NSGC on the Consistent Testing Terminology Working Group coordinated by LUNGevery and involving other patient advocacy groups, societies and industry.

### **Government Relations and Advocacy**

- Several NSGC position 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, CT, DE, ID, IL, IN, KY, MA, MN, NE, NH, NJ, NM, ND, OH, OK, PA, SD, TN, UT, VA, WA
  - Passed bills/in rulemaking: HI, IA, LA, MI
  - ~20 additional states have bills introduced or in preparation