

# Memo

**To:** NSGC Liaison Organizations  
**From:** Gillian Hooker, PhD, MS, CGC, 2020 President  
**Date:** September 2, 2020  
**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 August 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;
- As of August 31, 2020, NSGC had 4,092 members; members are still renewing and joining for the 2020 membership year.

## **Board of Directors**

- The NSGC Board of Directors held a virtual board meeting July 28-29, 2020.
- The Board will be holding virtual meetings for the remainder of the year, with meetings scheduled in October, November and December.
- 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 [Jennifer Aron](#), NSGC Continuing Education Coordinator, with any questions.
- The 2020 NSGC Annual Conference will be held November 18-22, 2020. Due to the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference will be held in a virtual format. Information is available on the [NSGC website](#).
- NSGC has shifted our [2020 member Webinar Series](#) to address topics related to genetic counseling practice during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as other professional issues impacting genetic counseling service delivery.
- 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:
  - *Pathways to Parenthood: and Overview for Genetic Counselors*
  - *Credentialing: How and Why?*
  - *Polygenic Risk Scores in Clinical Practice*

- *Genetic Counseling and Huntington Disease*
  - *The Formation of Implicit Biases and Practical Strategies to Address Them*
  - *Integrating Pharmacogenomic Testing in to Clinical Practice*
- Recordings of all sessions from the [2018](#) and [2019](#) Annual Conferences 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 on 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 LUNgevity and involving other patient advocacy groups, societies and industry.
- Karen Wain is serving as NSGC representative to the Association for Molecular Pathology Clinical Whole Exome Sequencing for Inherited Conditions as a First-Line Test: Spectrum of Applications and Standards

## **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. H.R. 3235 has been introduced in the House of Representatives
  - Organizations interested in supporting this legislation can learn more [here](#).
- NSGC is providing ongoing guidance to states pursuing licensure and writing licensure rules and regulations:
  - [Issuing licenses](#): AK, CA, CT, DE, GA, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, MA, MN, NE, NH, NJ, NM, ND, OH, OK, PA, SD, TN, UT, VA, WA
  - [Passed bills/in rulemaking](#): AL, HI, MI
  - ~20 additional states have bills introduced or in preparation