

Winter 2009

The Genetic Counseling Connection

The Official Newsletter of the University of Cincinnati and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center Genetic Counseling Program

Edited by Kayla Czape



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News from Nancy

Dear Graduates, Students, and Interested Others:

As usual, the Genetic Counseling Program has lots going on and we'd like to share some highlights. We're excited to be on the implementation side of our revised curriculum and the Class of 2010 is giving us regular feedback. We profile several research changes and goals below. Distance learning continues to be a major focus of activity. Our three online courses are approved for Category 1 CEUs by the NSGC. If you haven't taken our classes, you should, and please encourage your co-workers to enroll. These classes are an important to our national presence and they generate income for the program. See www.geneticcounseling4u.org (our newly revised website). I will keep my comments brief since there is much to read in the newsletter. My primary new focus at work is the JEMF grant award. While I am working on the grant, my classes are in the capable hands of Shelly Rudnick and Jody Wallace (IGC) and Erin Acra (Topics). It is a true gift to be able to focus on cultural and linguistic competence this year. I look forward to reporting my activities in a future newsletter.

I'll give you a brief update on my family so you can feel old. I am passed that. My baby Jacob is a Freshman in college (University of Maryland). He is in the honors program and interested in economics—maybe game theory. Ariel is a Junior at the University of Michigan School of Nursing. She loves everything clinical but is especially interested in pediatrics. Her long term goal is to become a pediatric nurse practitioner. She hopes to land a nursing internship in NYC this summer, with CCHMC being a back up location. My oldest Sarah has been working for the Allocations and Planning Dept of the Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati since she graduated from McGill in 2007. She writes grants and does lot of other things in her job that I don't know about. She hopes to go to graduate school in public health in the fall in NYC, Chicago, Boston or DC. She reads lots of books about the sociology of vulnerable populations, so I hope the programs she is applying to realize what a great candidate she is. In the next few months, I hope to plan renovations to my kitchen. I also plan to be a good aunt to the next generation of Warrens being born on the east coast by knitting baby blankets.

Goals for Independent Research Projects for Current Students

The Genetic Counseling Program prepares future genetic counselors to conduct independent research in the field. Designing and conducting a research project can be a daunting venture, but it is also very rewarding. Publication of research results provides the academic and professional recognition students and Research Advisory Committee members deserve for all their hard work!

We are proud to list the journal publications reporting results of Genetic Counseling Program master's thesis projects in the last ten years. (If we inadvertently missed yours, please let us know.) Overall, about 20% of student research projects have been published in the literature. That's, good, but we'd like to improve that outcome. We have been modifying the timelines and expectations for student research projects over the last few years. The following lists several ways we plan to help students initiate, implement and publish their research in a timely manner.

1. Identify feasible and important research project ideas and assign each student to a Research Mentor. The Research Mentor is an expert in the research area and he/she oversees the student throughout the entire process. We thank the many faculty and counselors who volunteered ideas and are serving as Mentors.
2. Start the research process early. Students begin working on their projects by the Winter of the first year. During this quarter, Nancy and Melanie convene weekly Research Orientation meetings to contribute early-stage information and advice and to launch the students into the research process.
3. Students meet regularly with their Research Mentor, Nancy and Melanie to improve accountability, problem solving and support.
4. Students make major progress on the design of the project in Melanie's Spring Research Design course.
5. Students are expected to prepare and submit their IRB proposals in June of the first year, before leaving for summer internships.
6. Implementation of the research projects should begin as soon as IRB approval is received, and ideally by early Fall of the second year.
7. Whenever possible, students will write up the project results in a manuscript formatted for a specific peer-reviewed journal. The ideal timing of manuscript submission to the journal is before the student graduates. With this timing, the student still has easy access to the Research Mentor and RAC who will assist in the manuscript writing and editing process.

We wish the class of 2010 successful research beginnings and endings!

Nancy and Melanie

Thesis project publications of UC Genetic Counseling Program in past 10 years

Shelley Kennedy, Class of 1997, "An assessment of two training interventions designed to increase the knowledge of obstetrical nurses and nurse-midwives about the maternal serum triple screen" *Prenatal Diagnosis*, 1998

Jennifer King, Class of 2000, "Antenatal Steroids and Newborn Screening Tests for Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia," *Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine*, 2001

Colleen Swank, Class of 2000, "Effectiveness of a Genetics Self-Instructional Module for Nurses Involved in Egg Donor Screening," *Journal of Gynecologic and Neonatal Nursing*, 2001

Kerry Howell (Shooner), Class of 2001, "Breast Cancer Genetics Education for College Women: An Evaluation of Approaches," *Journal of Cancer Education*, 2002

Lisa Holmgren Paglierani, "The Impact of Test Outcome Certainty on Interest in Genetic Testing Among College Women," *Journal of Genetic Counseling*, 2003

Christy Krekel Koil, Class of 2000, "Differences in physician referral practices and attitudes regarding hereditary breast cancer by clinical practice location," *Genetics in Medicine*, 2003

Liz Hellmann (Varga), Class of 2002, "Knowledge and educational needs of individuals with the factor V Leiden mutation," *Journal of Thrombosis and Haemostasis*, 2003

Deborah Cragun, Class of 2003, "Success of a Genetics Educational Intervention for Nursing and Dietetic Students: A Model for Incorporating Genetics into Nursing and Allied Health Curricula," *Journal of Allied Health*, 2005

Courtney Drake Sebold, Class of 2002, "Perception of Disease Severity in Adolescents Diagnosed with Neurofibromatosis type 1," *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 2004

Bobbi McGivern, Class of 2003, "Family communication about positive BRCA1 and BRCA2 genetic test results," *Genetics in Medicine*, 2004

Heather Clark, Class of 2003, "Genetic Counselors and Research: Current Practices and Future Directions," *American Journal of Medical Genetics*, 2006

Natalie Jansen Street, Class of 2004, "Comparison of health-related quality of life between heterozygous women with Fabry disease, a healthy control population, and patients with other chronic disease," *Genetics in Medicine*, 2006

Linda Lardinois Reis, Class of 2004, "Spiritual Assessment in Genetic Counseling," *Journal of Genetic Counseling*, 2007

Tricia Mulhaupt-Buell, Class of 2004, "Genetic service providers' practices and attitudes regarding adolescent genetic testing for carrier status," *Genetics in Medicine*, 2007

Angela Bedard, Class of 2004, "Career Research Interests and Training of Genetic Counseling Students," *Journal of Genetic Counseling*, 2007

Carrie Atzinger, Class of 2003, "Characterization of the Practice and Attitudes of Genetic Counselors with Doctoral Degrees," *Journal of Genetic Counseling*, 2007

Jody Wallace, Class of 2007, "Employability of Genetic Counselors with a PhD in Genetic Counseling," *Journal of Genetic Counseling*, 2008

Manuscripts in press:

Kami Wolfe Schneider, Class of 2005, "A Cross Sectional Study Exploring Barriers to Recruitment of African American College Students into the Genetic Counseling Profession," *Journal of Genetic Counseling*, 2009

Amy Woltanski, Class of 2007, "Views on Abortion: A Comparison of Female Genetic Counselors and Women from the General Population," *Journal of Genetic Counseling*, 2009

Thea Owens, Class of 2008, "A Cross Sectional Survey of High School Biology/Life Science Teachers' Presentation of Genetic Counseling and Health Care Career Options in their Classrooms," *Journal of Genetic Counseling*, 2009

Manuscripts in review:

Melissa Fuller, Class of 2008, "Primary Care Providers Believe Patient-Generated Family History Will Increase Ability to Assess Patient Risk," *Journal of Genetic Counseling*

Margaret Au, Class of 2008, "Family health history: Risks and intent to share with a healthcare provider in an urban Appalachian population," *Preventing Chronic Disease*

Christine Spaeth, Class of 2008, "Evidence for and Barriers to a Team-Based Approach for Genetic Services in Pediatric Healthcare Specialty Settings," *Genetics in Medicine*

Meet the current students!

Andrea Paal



I am from Greenfield, Indiana, a small town near Indianapolis. I completed my undergrad at IUPUI in May 2006 and received my B.S. in Biology. I had originally planned a career in medicine, but my desire to pursue medical school began to change as I learned about genetic counseling. My interest in this field grew out of my love for genetics in general and from several years spent counseling young women at a Pregnancy Care Center in my home town. What I love about genetic counseling is that I will have the opportunity to help people on an emotional level in addition to tending to their medical needs. I just completed my first rotation in the Lysosomal Storage Disease clinic and enjoyed observing the different aspects of patient care including counseling and ongoing medical management. For my research thesis, I will be working with Dr. Sonya Oppenheimer to study the impact of prenatal intervention in fetuses diagnosed with spina bifida. I am excited to return home for my summer rotation in a pediatric clinic at IU.

Ashley Parrott



I am originally from Independence, Kentucky and attended college at the University of Kentucky. While there, I volunteered with the Alzheimer's Association, shadowed a GC working in a cancer clinic, and worked with a pediatric genetics team. I enjoyed my first quarter here very much, and have already come to appreciate the individualized attention the program offers. Last quarter I had my first experience in the prenatal field while I was at Saint Elizabeth Medical Center. This rotation I will be working with Kathleen Collins here at Children's Hospital. For my thesis project, I will be working with Dr. John Lynch in the Communications Department at UC and doing a media analysis of direct to consumer genetic testing, and its impact on perception of genetic counseling.

Carrie Prochniak



I am originally from Minneapolis, MN and did my undergraduate at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin. Before coming to UC, I had the pleasure of working as an intern with UC Alum Bobbi McGivern as well as two other genetic counselors in the Green Bay area. First quarter was great for me and I am continually excited about the opportunities we have to be in clinic here at UC. This quarter my rotation is the prenatal clinic at Good Samaritan Hospital and I'm excited to gain experience in this area. I will also be working on my thesis with Sara Knapke and Erin Miller about barriers and motivations for gastroenterologists' referral of patients with colon cancer to cancer genetic counseling services. When not busy with school, I enjoy exploring this new part of the country and am also working on building my classic movie literacy.

Darbey Maheu



Hello all! I grew up just north of the city in Hamilton, Ohio, so I'm very happy to be back in the Cincinnati area. I attended the University of Notre Dame, where I majored in biology. During my time at ND, I worked with a genetic counselor at a cancer center, volunteered as a sexual assault crisis advocate, and served as a teaching assistant for an introductory genetics course. Fall quarter was challenging and very busy, but getting to know my wonderful classmates made my first quarter at UC an especially rewarding experience. Classes were great, and I'm very excited about my thesis project. I'll be working with Dr. Huether and Dr. Bethany Vice Bowling on a project that will build on their work looking the impact of undergraduate courses on students' genetic literacy. My previous work as a TA will definitely come in handy, and I'm looking forward to getting started. Next summer I plan on staying pretty close to home, and I'll likely spend my internship at Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton. It's going to be a hectic spring and summer for me since I'll be getting married this coming August, but I'm definitely ready for the challenge!

Emily Sites



I grew up in Columbus, Ohio and attended college at The Ohio State University. My major was biology with a focus in molecular genetics. During college I volunteered at Columbus Children's Hospital and in the office of Maternal & Fetal Medicine at OSU Medical Center. I also completed two years of cancer genetics research at OSU's Comprehensive Cancer Center. Last year I became a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for children in the Hamilton county foster care system. As a CASA it is my job to speak on the child's behalf in court hearings, as well as to make sure their physical, mental and emotional needs are being met while they are in foster care. This has been a very rewarding and eye-opening experience, which I hope to continue after graduate school. I have been in Cincinnati for three years now completing a master's degree in Molecular and Developmental Biology here at UC. I just defended my thesis this summer; it was focused on tumorigenesis in Neurofibromatosis Type 1. My first quarter in the genetic counseling program has been wonderful, even better than I imagined! I have already learned so much, and I can't wait to take on more roles in clinic next quarter. I will be doing my thesis research with Dr. Schorry; we will be looking at whole-genome copy number variants in monozygotic twins with NF1, and whether this correlates to disparate clinical findings within twin pairs.

Elise Bendik



I am from Dayton, OH. I attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, where I received my B.S. in Botany, and the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, where I received my M.S. in Natural Research and Environmental Sciences. My research focused on genetically engineering plants to produce subunit vaccines, and then evaluating these putative vaccines in mouse models. I completed an internship at Carle Hospital with the genetic counselor Jennifer Burton and volunteered at the Mental Health Crisis Line in Illinois. My first quarter in the UC Genetic Counseling program has kept me busy, but I am really enjoying it! I very much enjoy working at Cincinnati Children's Hospital, especially because of the cafeteria breakfast bar, and I love the other 10 girls in the program with me. My first rotation was in the Genetics Clinic at CCHMC with Katie Wusik. For my summer rotation, I hope to work in Pittsburgh and live with my sister. My thesis advisor is Dr. Tinkle and I will be researching the connection between EDS and headaches. In my free time, I like to travel with friends and see my favorite bands in concert.

Kristen Lipscomb Sund



I am originally from Northern Kentucky but I moved to sunny St. Petersburg, Florida to complete my undergraduate degree in Biology/Chemistry at Eckerd College. After that I spent a year in Umea, Sweden on a Fulbright Scholarship. I returned to Cincinnati and worked for the Environmental Protection Agency for one year prior to applying as a dual degree student in Genetic Counseling and Molecular and Developmental Biology. My research focuses on the developmental causes of atrioventricular septal defects in Ellis van Creveld syndrome. In my time here, I have also began volunteering as the Research Chairperson for a non-profit organization, the International Mosaic Down Syndrome Association, a group that provides support, education and research for those affected with mosaic Down syndrome. I have been in class with many program graduates over the last four years. I hope to complete my PhD in Molecular and Developmental Biology and my MS in Medical Genetics from the Genetic Counseling Program in 2009.

Kim Cubit



I am from a suburb of Nashville, TN where my family has lived for about 11 years now. I earned my undergraduate degree in Biology and Psychology from Middle Tennessee State University in August 2007. My internship experience consists of working with research genetic counselors at the Center for Human Genetics Research at Vanderbilt Medical Center in Nashville, TN. I helped recruit research participants for genetic studies of Autism, Alzheimer's disease, macular degeneration, and others. I kept track of families who were enrolled in the studies and updated their family histories periodically. I am very excited to have been accepted to UC's program in genetic counseling. My first quarter was great in that it reassured me that genetic counseling was exactly what I wanted to do in life. However, I know that it will definitely not be easy! In this program I am constantly being challenged, but I am still thankful for my struggles because facing and overcoming them is how I will become better. My thesis project will be on assessing families' needs for patients with VCF. I look forward to working with Dr. Hopkin who is my advisor on this project.

Kayla Czape



I am from Jeffersonville, Indiana and graduate from Indiana University in 2007 with degrees in Biology and Spanish. During my time at IU I worked as a research assistant in a cognitive psychology lab doing research on child language development. Also I did an internship at Reilly Children's Hospital in Indianapolis where I observed a genetic counselor in several pediatric clinic settings including metabolic disease, newborn screening, mitochondrial disease and prenatal counseling. During my first quarter here at UC and CCHMC, I have gained a lot of experience in clinic and have enjoyed working with my fellow students, physicians and counselors. This quarter I am gaining clinical experience taking prenatal counseling roles at Bethesda North Perinatal Center. I am looking forward to working on my upcoming thesis work with Dr. Greinwald on counseling of results from hearing loss genetic testing panels. For my six week summer internship I would like to spend my time doing hereditary cancer counseling in New York City.

Sharanya Kumaraval



I am from the Bay Area in California. I went to the University of California San Diego for my undergraduate and got my bachelors degree in biochemistry and cell biology with a minor in religion. During my undergrad I interned with prenatal genetic counselors at the Thorton Hospital as well as worked as a counselor in Planned Parenthood. I also worked in a lab conducting research on rats for a potential cure for Alzheimer disease. Having made the move from sunny California to the Midwest, I have to say that the Midwest is definitely not what I thought it would be. This past quarter I have enjoyed getting to know my classmates, learning that a developing baby is a lot more complicated than high school biology made it seem, and gaining a sense of all the potential biology has in the future. During this quarter I also enjoyed my first clinical rotation in Pediatrics and Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy with Martha Walker. One of the things I love about this program is that you are able to observe in a clinical setting from the very beginning, giving you more practice than many other places. I am now looking forward to the rest of the year with more classes, more rotations (my next one is Cancer)and starting my thesis project with Nancy Warren. We'll be surveying high school guidance counselors to assess what they know about genetic counseling and what information they give to their students.

Erin Kanetzke



I really enjoyed my first quarter as a member of the UC/CCHMC GCP class of 2010. The past three months flew by and I am amazed at how much I learned in just this short time. One of the things that I most enjoy about being at CCHMC is the countless opportunities to immerse myself in the field. I am thankful for my wonderful classmates and teachers and look forward to getting to know and learning from many more department members and alumni in the future. As a Cincinnati native, I am thrilled to be back in town for graduate school. Though I had an awesome undergraduate experience at Colgate University in central New York, I will certainly not miss the consistently single-digit temperatures and frequent blizzards. It is nice to be here with family, friends, and of course, Skyline. An additional benefit of coming home was coaching volleyball at my high school, Ursuline Academy, which is fun and extremely rewarding. I graduated from Colgate in 2008 with a Sociology major and Biology minor. Though a high school biology teacher originally sparked my interest in genetic counseling, my draw to the field was solidified during a summer observational experience at CCHMC. At this point in my training, I am especially interested in public health and pediatrics. I was excited to recently learn that I will be doing research with Melanie Myers on the use of family history in pediatric settings. I am also pursuing these interests as a LEND Trainee, along with my classmate, Emily Sites.

Class of 2008 Updates

Brian Strike

After graduation I got engaged to my girlfriend Jessie and we are planning an October 2009 wedding. I moved to Salt Lake City and started working at Myriad in late July. I have a variety of responsibilities at Myriad including talking to doctors, genetic counselors, and patients about the testing the lab offers. I also review charts prior to testing, follow-up with doctor's regarding unusual results, review the recent hereditary cancer literature, give educational presentations to other Myriad employees, and work on a variety of other special projects within the company. I have been most surprised by the frequent interactions that I have with patients and how often I have to use psychosocial counseling skills. So far I am enjoying post-graduation life, but I am not looking forward to studying for the board exam!

Erin Acra

Since graduating from UC's Genetic Counseling Program, I have been busy with my new position as a general Genetic Counselor at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. I am currently the clinical coordinator for the Skeletal Dysplasia Center as well as the Connective Tissue Clinic. I was excited to have the opportunity to stay in Cincinnati, especially at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. I am enjoying my job and looking forward to an exciting career in Genetic Counseling. I am also getting married in June 2009, so I have been busy planning my wedding.

Courtney Doughty

After graduation, I accepted a prenatal genetic counseling position with Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola, Florida. We are the largest perinatal center in the Florida panhandle and also serve a portion of southern Alabama. I stay busy with daily clinics, outreach clinics 4-6 times a month, and the occasional call from the neonatal intensive care nursery at our hospital. While my position is mostly prenatal counseling, I am welcoming the opportunity to be involved in more cancer risk assessment counseling as our hospital expands our cancer services. This summer I also married my husband Mark. Together we survived hurricane season and are now enjoying the mild winters of the South!

Kim Edge

After graduating in June I moved a very short distance to live slightly closer to Cincinnati Children's Hospital, where in July I began my full-time employment as a prenatal genetic counselor. It was nice to have some familiar faces and the support of our excellent Genetics division. It's great to be a graduate, and I continue to learn through counseling a variety of prenatal and preconception patients. I see general prenatal/preconception patients in Genetics clinic at CCHMC and at Christ Hospital, and I am also involved with the Fetal Care Center of Cincinnati one day each week. In the New Year, I am looking forward to counseling patients with the Fetal Heart Team and also to being a clinical supervisor for the new class of students in the UC program.

Jessica Hoffman

I am a genetic counselor with Hayward Genetics Center at Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans, LA. My focus is mainly in pediatrics, but I also do some adult and cancer counseling. We hold clinics here in New Orleans, but also do weekly outreach clinics at other locations throughout the state of Louisiana. In addition to my clinical role, I also occasionally teach students enrolled in a Masters in Genetics program sponsored by Hayward, as well as guest-lecture in a genetics course for the Tulane medical students. Additionally, I am

responsible for creating a newsletter for the program to increase awareness among statewide pediatricians, oncologists, and other physicians, and I am working on writing up a few case studies on some of our more unusual patients. Beyond working, I am enjoying the jazz, food, and climate New Orleans provides.

Christine Spaeth

I stayed in Cincinnati after graduation and am currently working 4 days a week at the Fetal Care Center. I am really enjoying my position and have learned so much in a short time! On Fridays I currently see babies who have a positive screen for CF on the newborn screen and have been referred for a sweat chloride test. Otherwise, life is good and busy!

Genetic Counseling in Saudi Arabia

The Genetic Counseling Program had a special guest this past fall quarter. Shelley Kennedy, MS, CGC is an alumna of the University of Cincinnati, CCHMC Genetic Counseling Program who spoke to the Genetic Counseling students about her exciting experience as a genetic counselor and training program supervisor in Saudi Arabia.

When Shelley graduated from the UC program in 1997 she had no intentions of moving to the Middle East to pursue her counseling career. But the persuasion of a geneticist colleague at The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto and her own sense of adventure finally won her over in 2003. After studying up on Arabic and as much information about Saudi Arabia as she could, Shelley moved to Riyadh and began working at King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center. She began developing a genetic counseling training program designed to meet the full standards of an ABGC accredited program. In order to have an effective training program, Shelley needed to develop a genetic counseling clinic to complete the genetics services offered at King Faisal. She was told that the Saudi people would not be interested in such counseling and that a genetic counseling clinic would not attract any patients. They were wrong of course, and over the course of four years, Shelley and her colleagues developed the first genetic counseling clinic and training program in Saudi Arabia and in the Middle East.

At her lecture at CCHMC Shelley spoke about the adventures and challenges of working in such a different environment from the United States and Canada. Not only was there a language barrier, but social and religious barriers as well. Female modesty was at times not compromised even when it was a barrier to care. Acceptance of marriage between non-immediate family members made the pedigrees complex and was often the cause of the prevalence of rare metabolic and autosomal recessive conditions. Despite all of these differences however, Shelley found that the families that she counseled had many of the same concerns about genetic conditions and testing options available that families here on the other side of the world have.

Shelley is now back in North America working at Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario. The program she created in Riyadh graduated three genetic counselors who are currently practicing in Saudi Arabia. The country has a total of seven counselors now, as some students have trained in other countries and returned to Saudi Arabia to work. Genetics and genetic counseling are very hot topics in the Middle East and countries such as Qatar and Jordan are hoping to develop genetic counseling programs.

Shelley's experience in Saudi Arabia is truly a unique and once in a lifetime opportunity. As the world of genetic counseling continues to expand internationally, opportunities for counselors and students to take advantage of this globalization open up as well. Shelley offers some words of advice for genetic counseling students who have an opportunity or desire to work outside of their native country: Have a good foundation in your career and parameters as a counselor before switching to a different national and cultural environment, check with NSGC and ABGC for reciprocity and licensing issues, and of course learn all you can about the culture and traditions of the land you plan on working in. For more information about international genetic counseling visit the Transnational Alliance for Genetic Counseling website at <http://tagc.med.sc.edu/>.

Jane Engelberg Memorial Fellowship

Congratulations to Nancy Steinberg Warren on being awarded the 2009 Jane Engelberg Memorial Fellowship! JEMF was established in 1991 and is a fellowship awarded to certified genetic counselors who have showed leadership and advancement of the field. Nancy was awarded the JEMF for her project “Enhancing Cultural and Linguistic Competence in the Genetic Counseling Profession.” The goal of the project is to create and implement an online Genetic Counseling Cultural Competence Toolkit (GCCCT) for use in the genetic counseling training programs and by practicing professionals. The GCCCT will be hosted on the NSGC website and will be approved for Category 1 CEUs. Through implementation of the the JEMF grant, Nancy hopes the toolkit will promote self-awareness of bias and increase the linguistic competence and cultural capacity of the professionals and trainees in the field. The ultimate goal of the GCCCT is to prepare genetic counselors to work more effectively with individuals from diverse populations and to promote recruitment of underrepresented minorities into genetic counseling training programs.

Introduction to Public Health Genomics Course

Melanie Myers, PhD, CGC is developing an Introduction to Public Health Genomics course to be launched Fall quarter 2009. Introduction to Public Health Genomics will be an online course that will explore the growing impact of the genomic revolution in relation to health and disease in populations. In addition to providing an overview of basic genetic and public health concepts, the course will focus on current and future applications of genomics in medicine and public health practice. Currently two GC graduate students, Ashley Parrott and Kayla Czape, are working with Melanie to create an exciting online course with narrated lectures, case example videos and interactive quizzes.

The target audience for this course includes graduate students in the genetic counseling program, students in the College of Allied Health Sciences, the new Masters in Public Health program, and the Department of Biology. Also, the course will be appropriate for practicing genetic counselors seeking continuing education credits and students interested in applying to genetic counseling programs.

Genetic Counseling Program Open Houses

The Genetic Counseling Program hosted two open houses this academic year to increase awareness of the program and the career. The Open House nights were November 25th and January 6th. Both open house nights were extremely successful with approximately 15 attendees at each. Nancy Steinberg Warren and several current students gave a presentation describing what a genetic counselor does, opportunities available at our UC program and how to apply to our program. After the presentation, interested students and their family members were invited to take a tour of the department and ask questions to the GC students about the program and life in Cincinnati. The attendees expressed a lot of interest in the program and gave positive feedback on the evaluations they filled out. One attendee says, “I thought the open house was fantastic, well organized and very informative. Thank you!” “Keep up the good work throughout the interview and recruitment season!”

Online Courses for CEU's

The UC Genetic Counseling Program is offering the following online courses for Category 1 CEU's. We have been getting a lot of positive feedback about our CEU online courses. Here are some comments made by recent online course participants:

“This online course [Clinical Embryology] was a great experience and I plan to take the teratology course in the near future. Thank you!”

“I loved that it was online and easy to take from home. I appreciate the ability to earn CEU's without attending a conference. I enjoyed learning about this topic!”

“Dr. Lowrie is an exceptional instructor. The pace, content, flow of his lectures were well suited for Genetics professionals.”

For more information on each course, visit the GC Program website:
http://www.geneticcounseling4u.org/online_courses/online_courses.html
Or email gcprog@cchmc.org

Clinical Embryology

This extensive course is divided into basic developmental lectures and clinical application presentations. Each lecture is presented using a combined audio/video format using Microsoft Producer and detailed PowerPoint slides. Based on the graduate level Clinical Embryology course for genetic counseling students taught by Professor DJ Lowrie Jr, PhD, the online version of this course can be taken for 2.55 Genetic Counseling Category 1 CEU's.

Teratology

This course is divided into basic developmental lectures and clinical application presentations. The online version of this course features video and PowerPoint presentations and can be taken for 2.37 Genetic Counseling Category 1 CEU's.

Topics in Personalized Medicine

This 8 hour course is directed at discussing personalized medicine and its different applications in health care. Each lecture is presented using a combined audio/video format using Microsoft Producer and synchronized PowerPoint slides. The online version of this course can be taken for 0.8 Genetic Counseling Category 1 CEU's.



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