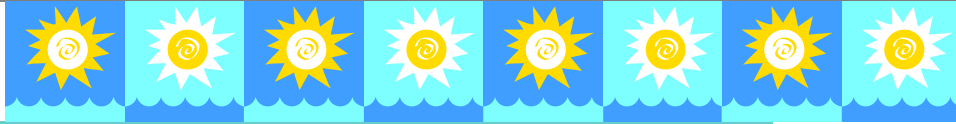


Genetic Counseling Connection



Update from Melanie

The past few months have been busy for the Cincinnati Genetic Counseling Program (GCP).

In March, Katie Wusik, MS, CGC, joined the GCP as Clinical Coordinator. Katie graduated from the Cincinnati Genetic Counseling Program and has been actively involved with the program since her graduation. In addition to her teaching and clinical coordination responsibilities with the program, Katie is also a practicing genetic counselor. She is involved with pediatric and adult genetics clinics, as well as several specialty clinics, at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC).

We had a very successful interview season in April and I am excited to welcome the class of 2012. Students will be moving to Cincinnati to join the GCP from Alabama, Canada, Florida, Maryland, Central and Northern Ohio, and Tennessee. Three students were born in other countries. You can meet and learn more about the class of 2012 at

www.geneticcounseling4u.org/about/students.html

First year genetic counseling students are working on their re-



search proposals and IRB submissions before leaving for their summer internships. This summer GC students will be completing clinical rotations in Boston, MA, Brisbane, Australia, Cincinnati, OH, Cleveland, OH, Colorado Springs, CO, LaCrosse, WI, Lexington, KY, Portland, OR, Rochester, NY, Scottsdale, AZ, Toledo, OH, and Washington, DC. Wow, we are all over the place!

Last week we celebrated the graduation of nine genetic counseling students: Elise Bendik, Kayla Czape, Erin Kagnetzke, Shar Kumaravel, Andrea Paal, Ashley Parrott, Carolyn Prochniak, Darbey Raible, and Emily Sites. They now join the ranks of Cincinnati Alumni as they travel far and wide

to do great things. Please keep reading the newsletter to learn where they will be working and living.

As you can see, our students and graduates are well-represented nationally and internationally. I continue to be excited by the impressive students attracted to the GCP and the excellent genetic counselors who graduate from our program. I hope you will continue to direct prospective students to our website: www.geneticcounseling4u.org and to meet with interested students. I look forward to maintaining strong relationships with our alumni and friends as we move forward together in our field.

Cheers,

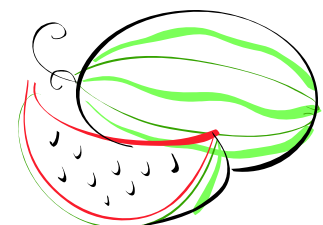
Melanie

University of Cincinnati Genetic Counseling Graduate Program

Spring/Summer 2010

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Class of 2011 Summer Internships

Students in the class of 2011 will be spending their upcoming summer at clinical rotation sites all over the world! With a lot of networking and creativity the students were able to find opportunities that will enhance their clinical and professional skills in the settings of their choice. Hear straight from the students why they are excited about their upcoming experience:

Kyla Patek: I am spending the summer in Washington D.C. I will be at Washington Hospital Center, and will be working in a prenatal setting. I am very excited to spend the summer in D.C. because all of the museums and interesting things to do in the area.

Emily King: I will be in Brisbane, Australia with Betsy Peach and Madelyn Peterson. My rotation is split between prenatal genetic counseling at Specialised Obstetric and Gynaecological Imaging and prenatal, pediatric, and adult genetic counseling at Genetics Health Queensland. I will also have the opportunity to attend some lectures with genetic counseling students at Griffith University. I chose this rotation because I wanted to experience genetic counseling in a different country and culture. Of course, I am also excited to travel around Australia!

Jessica Pack: I am going to Portland, OR to do a prenatal rotation at the Legacy Medical Group for Maternal-Fetal Medicine. I'm going to Portland because I love the northwest and am excited about being within driving distance of the ocean.

Jennifer Lemons: I'm going to the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, AZ. I'll be rotating between preconception, prenatal, neuro-developmental, hereditary cancer and adult onset clinics. I chose this location because it was basically a perfect fit. I have family in Scottsdale AND it seems like it will provide an amazing experience. I'm excited to experience how genetic counseling is done in another location, so hopefully I'll learn a lot!



Justine Snyder: I am going to University of Kentucky this summer. I will be seeing mostly cancer and adult patients. I will be attending a couple tumor boards a week, too. I chose this location because it was close to home and had a strong focus on hereditary cancer, what my career focus is. Plus, I've never been to UK, exciting!

Alana Cecchi: I'm rotating this summer at Boston University Medical Center. I will be seeing a combination of pediatrics, cancer and prenatal patients during my seven weeks and am very excited to go to Boston this summer!

Jessica Connor: I will be with two prenatal counselors at CCHMC. I will be participating in clinic at the Fetal Care Center and doing prenatal cases. I chose this because I want to do prenatal genetic counseling. Fetal Care Center is a unique clinic where I will learn a lot about fetal development and improve my psychosocial counseling skills.

Elizabeth Reilly: I am staying at CCHMC to do my internship with Erin Mundt and Sarah Knapke in the Cancer clinic. I really enjoyed my cancer rotation during winter quarter and look forward to more cancer counseling and improving my skills.

Heidi Malkuch: I'm going to Memorial Hospital in Colorado Springs, CO for my internship this summer, seeing both prenatal and cancer cases. My brother lives in the Denver area and I will be staying with him. I'm looking forward to hiking and camping in the mountains!

Jacqueline Kara: I will be doing my summer internship at the Cleveland Clinic, and will be rotating in the pediatric and prenatal clinics. I am excited to expand upon my roles in the genetic counseling session, and to familiarize myself with the day to day roles of a genetic counselor.

Kelly Berger: I'll be doing my summer internship in Toledo at the NW Ohio Regional Genetics Center. I'll mainly working in pediatrics. I chose Toledo because it's close to home and is somewhere I would love to work after I graduate.

Becky Bettin: I will be at Gunderson Lutheran Hospital in La Crosse, WI. I'll have the opportunity for prenatal, pediatrics and cancer. I will be working with two male genetic counselors and a geneticist. I wanted to be closer to my family for the summer. This facility has never had a student and was very willing to take me in and teach me for seven weeks.

Katie Wusik on Her New Position as Clinical Coordinator...

Hello! I wanted to introduce myself and my new position in the Genetic Counseling Program to everyone. I am a relatively recent graduate of the UC Genetic Counseling Program (2007). After graduating, I took a position as a pediatric counselor at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. In the past 3 years, I have been involved with the GCP in a variety of ways including co-teaching AGC (advanced genetic counseling), serving as a clinical supervisor, and overseeing the 1st year students' clinical rotations. In March, I was excited to accept the newly created

position, "Clinical Coordinator." As clinical coordinator, 40% of my time is devoted to the GCP. The other 60% of my job remains clinical and I continue to work in General Genetics, Adult Genetics, and Tuberous Sclerosis clinics. In the upcoming year, my major responsibilities for the program will be teaching IGC (introduction to genetic counseling), overseeing the 1st year students' clinical rotations, conducting clinical orientation, and coordinating rotations for all 24 students! I will also continue to act as a clinical supervisor and I am working on creating a "trainee clinic." In this clinic, one

supervisor and one attending will staff the clinic with multiple genetic counseling students and genetics' residents. We hope this clinic will foster independence and allow the students to develop working relationships with the residents. I'm excited to be able to dedicate more time to the GCP and I'm looking forward to the upcoming academic year!

Katie Wusik, MS CGC

Congratulations to the Class of 2010!!

This has been a busy Spring quarter for the second year class, but in the end it all paid off! The UC Genetic Counseling Program recently graduated 9 new GCs! Congratulations to the new graduates!

**Andrea Paal
Erin Kanetzke
Emily Sites
Ashley Parrott
Elise Bendik
Carrie Prochniak
Kayla Czape
Darbey Raible
Sharanya Kumaravel**

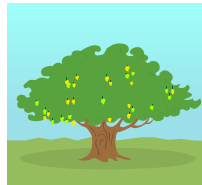
P.S. We recently learned that all nine graduating students had abstracts accepted for a presentation or poster at the 2010 NSGC Conference.



Community Education Projects

The GCP has been spreading Genetic Counseling education all over Cincinnati/Tri-State area! Each second year GC student took on two Community Education Projects during their second year. The projects are aimed at improving education in the community about genetics and genetic counseling, as well as improving the GC students' presentation and teaching skills.

Students spoke at a variety of schools and community centers from large universities to small learning centers.



The second year students found the projects to be an invaluable experience and a great way to better learn about the educational needs in our community. Emily Sites and Darbey Raible visited a sixth grade

class at Darbey's old middle school, St. Peter in Chains, in Hamilton, Ohio:

"The kids were actually really interested in learning about genetics. We made a "Trait Tree" where they could fill out a leaf and attach it to the branch of the tree that described their own traits. They really liked it!" - Darbey

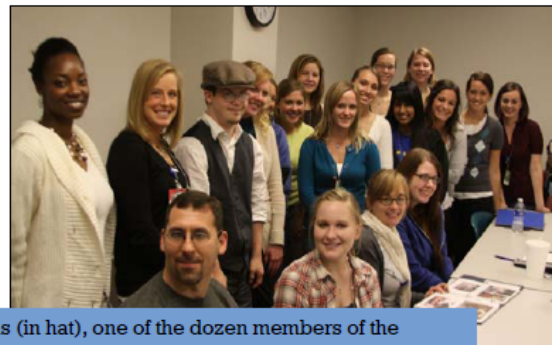
Mack visits the GCP!

The GCP was highlighted in the dsPress, the newsletter for the Down Syndrome Associate of Greater Cincinnati (DSAGC).

ter 2009. His visit allowed the GCP students to learn and ask questions about Mack's accomplishments and challenges related to Down syndrome.

Mack Mattheis (pictured to the right with a hat on) is a member of the DSAGC Speaker's Bureau and visited Topics in Clinical Genomics during Winter quar-

Mack's visit made for a very interactive class period. Hopefully he will come back to visit us next year!



Mac Mattheis (in hat), one of the dozen members of the DSAGC Speaker's Bureau, with students from the CCHMC Genetic Counseling program. The Speaker's Bureau has addressed over 500 educators, medical students, nurses and businesses.

Welcome Class of 2012!

Katherine Armstrong

I grew up in Greenwood, SC, home of the Greenwood Genetic Center. I graduated from Carson-Newman college in east Tennessee with a degree in Biology and Chemistry. During college, I had the opportunity to volunteer at the Life Outreach Center as a crisis pregnancy counselor, the Victory Junction Gang Camp for children with chronic medical conditions, and with Young Life. Also, I had numerous experiences shadowing genetic counselors in SC and TN. After graduation, I accepted a job with Young Life to work with high school and college students. During these two years, I have also become a volunteer member of the Jefferson County Foster Care Review Board where we advocate on behalf of every child placed in foster care in the county to ensure their overall safety and health.



volunteered with the youth group at Belmont United Methodist Church. In addition, I have shadowed genetic counselors at Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center and at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. In my spare time, I enjoy hanging out with my two cats, Bailey and Pippin, and my wonderful fiancé, Adam.

Ashley Collier

I have lived my whole life in Newfoundland, Canada. I recently completed my BSc (Honors) in Biology at Memorial University of Newfoundland. My honors project involved examining the mitochondrial DNA haplotype diversity of members of the Miawpukek First Nation, a Mi'kmaq band centered on the south coast of Newfoundland. For the past two years, I have been volunteering with the local Planned Parenthood branch and shadowing genetic counselors at the Health Sciences Centre in St. John's. Additionally, I worked as a research assistant in a genetics lab at Memorial. I love trying new restaurants and new recipes. I also really enjoy being outdoors and I will always have a soft spot in my heart for animals.



Meron Azage



I was born in Ethiopia and have lived in Baltimore Maryland since 2001. I finished my undergraduate studies at Towson University with a BS in Biology. After graduation, I worked at the DNA Diagnostic

Laboratory at Johns Hopkins Hospital as a Molecular Technician. I shadowed genetic counselors at the Hypotonia clinic at Hopkins as well as a prenatal clinic at Howard University Hospital in Washington DC. I volunteered at the House of Ruth, MD and Advocates for Survivors of Torture and Trauma.

Stephanie Byers

I was born and raised in Richmond VA. I graduated with a BS in Biology from the College of William and Mary. As an undergraduate I volunteered at a domestic violence shelter and completed an undergraduate honors thesis examining the role of the Notch signaling pathway in neurotransmitter phenotype development. After graduating, I moved to Nashville, TN to work at Vanderbilt University in a lab researching neural crest migration and differentiation in the enteric nervous system and the lower urogenital tract. While in Nashville, I



Laura Fairbrother



I grew up in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL which is just outside of Jacksonville. I received my Bachelor's of Science degree in Microbiology with minors in Education and Business Administration from the University of Florida. (Go Gators!) While at UF, I spent a lot of time volunteering at the Alachua County Crisis Center as both a phone and emergency face-to-face counselor. As an undergraduate, I was very active in my sorority serving as both the service and philanthropy chair during my junior and senior years. I also shadowed a cancer genetic counselor at Shands Hospital in Gainesville. In my spare time I enjoy the outdoors and line-dancing to country music.

Leslie Gress

I grew up in Parma OH, just south of Cleveland. I received my BS in Psychology with a minor in Biology from the University of Dayton. In my time at UC, I'm inter-



ested in studying cardiomyopathy or neurodegenerative disorders. During my undergraduate career, I volunteered as a Victim Advocate through a Rape Crisis Program, was very active in service organizations, and staffed leadership camps each summer. I also shadowed genetic counselors at the Cleveland Clinic and Dayton Children's Hospital. Even though I'm relocating to Cincinnati, I will always be a die-hard Cleveland fan - Go Browns!

Lauren Grote

I was born in Cincinnati Ohio and graduated from The University of Dayton with a



B.S. in Biology and a minor in Psychology. During my undergraduate career I volunteered as a consultant for two years at Elizabeth New Life, a pregnancy resource center in Dayton. I

also volunteered at United Rehabilitation Services, where I interacted with adults who have disabilities. Most of my shadowing experience was gained last summer during an internship at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC) in the Division of Human Genetics. As an intern, I worked on a genetic counseling cultural competence toolkit. I was able to learn about a wide range of cultures and am excited to apply this knowledge to the genetic counseling field.

Chandni Khudai

Hey y'all! My name is Chandni and I am from the great state of Alabama. I was born in London, England and moved to Huntsville, AL when I was six years old. I attended the University of Alabama in Birmingham where I received my B.S. in Psychology with mi-



Biology and try. I gained experience by answering calls at the Center in Birmingham. I feel that the crisis and suicide line has helped me become a better listener and caretaker. At UAB, I had the opportunity to shadow genetic counselors in pediatrics, prenatal, and cancer clinics. During the last two years of my undergraduate studies, I volunteered as a research assistant in a lab conducting fMRI research on the relationship between obesity and impulsivity. In my free time I enjoy being outdoors, playing sports (even though I am not very good), and spending time with family and

friends. I love to travel to new places and manage to go overseas almost every year. I recently took a trip to Thailand, where I volunteered in the small coastal village of Khlong Khian. I am now a big fan of volunteerism; it has changed the way I perceive new cultures and environments. I also love animals of all sorts and hope to have my own farm one day.

Kim Lewis

I am from Hamilton, OH and attended Miami University in Oxford, OH and received my Bachelor degree in Exercise Science. After graduation in 2008, I accepted a position to work as a Clinical Research Coordinator at CCHMC in the Division of General and Community Pediatrics. I worked on a nationwide Bone Mineral Density in Childhood Study and I am currently working on a Bone Mineral Density in Childhood GWAS Study until the end of August. While working at CCHMC, I attended night classes at Xavier University for my Masters in Secondary Education with a concentration in Life Science and Chemistry. While taking a Special Education course in this program, I learned about and fell in love with the career of Genetic Counseling. I then had the oppor-



tunity to complete several classes in the genetics program and shadow Genetic Counselors at CCHMC. In my spare time I enjoy playing both indoor and outdoor soccer.

Sarah Polly

I grew up in the township of Chatham, Ohio, about an hour southwest of Cleveland and about ten minutes away from the closest small town. I graduated from Hiram College in May of 2010, and received a B.A. in Biomedical Humanities with a concentration in Theatre Arts. I have shadowed an assortment of healthcare professionals, including genetic counselors, and I volunteer on a crisis hotline. My job is in Visitor Experience at the Great Lakes Science Center in Cleveland, which means I get to talk to people and perform fun science demonstrations like exploding watermelons.



Rebecca Sisson



I was born and raised in Cincinnati. I received my Bachelor's Degree in microbiology with a chemistry minor from Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio. As a student at Ohio

Wesleyan I participated in a research project in a microbiology lab and worked as a campus tour guide. During the past two summers I was fortunate to have been a part of the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. My project involved the role of microRNA in prostate cancer metastasis. I also shadowed genetic counselors at Columbus Nationwide Children's Hospital and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

Nicki Smith

I grew up in Williamsburg, Ohio and attended Otterbein College, near Columbus, OH. I graduated with a B.S. in Molecular Biology in 2007. After graduation I began working at Nationwide Children's Hospital in a group specializing in the development and production of recombinant adeno-associated virus (rAAV) as a method of gene therapy delivery. While at Children's I was able to gain experience shadowing several different genetic counselors. I've also worked as an advocate for sexual assault victims. In my free time I love to read, run and play with Rosco, my 2 year old Rat Terrier.



Online Courses and CEUs

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.

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.

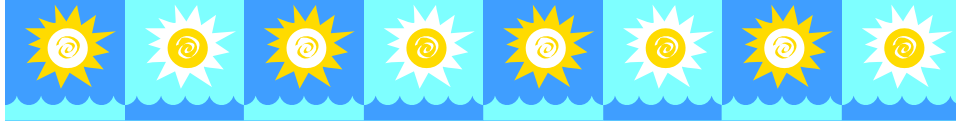


Topics in Personalized Medicine

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.

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

To register for online courses, contact the Genetic Counseling Program at: gcprog@cchmc.org



The Genetic Counseling Program (GCP) at the University of Cincinnati is a Genetic Counseling program fully accredited by the ABGC.

The program was founded in 1982. The GCP is a dual institution program that has affiliations with Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center as well as the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. The GCP trains students to be professional, patient-centered, and empathetic counselors who can fulfill the ever expanding roles of our field.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about genetic counseling or our program, please visit www.geneticcounseling4u.org

**University of Cincinnati
Genetic Counseling
Graduate Program**

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