



AGENDA for 2021 PAGC Annual Conference

(please contact Susan at susanwalther1203@gmail.com with questions)

We are excited to announce that at the 2021 Annual PAGC Conference we will host a panel of speakers to discuss questions related to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) in genetic counseling in Pennsylvania. The panel will take place on Friday, April 23rd from 1:35-3:05 (1.5 hours). Through this discussion we hope to: highlight recent work in the genetic counseling field and within genetics organizations to combat exclusivity and unjust treatment of minority groups; identify biases in our own practices and training, and formulate action-steps that we and the PAGC can pursue to address inequities. We are excited to announce that the panelists are as follows:

Aishwarya Arjunan, MS, MPH, CGC, CPH (Past Co-Chair of NSGC Diversity and Inclusion Task Force NSGC, Clinical Product Manager, Carrier Screening Myriad Women's Health)
Erica Price, MS, CGC (Department of Pediatrics, Inova Fairfax Hospital)
Jodie Vento, MGC, LCGC (Director, University of Pittsburgh Genetic Counseling Program; NSGC Board liaison to DEI advisory group)

The magnitude of diversity and inclusion content circulating can feel overwhelming. Here is a short list of high-quality resources curated by our team to help facilitate the discussion on April 23:

Podcasts:

[Black in Genetic Counseling Podcast](#)

[Beagle Has Landed: Racism and Genetic Counseling](#)

Books:

[Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates](#)

Poem:

[Still I Rise by Maya Angelou](#)

National Society of Genetic Counselor's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Resources

<https://www.nsgc.org/Policy-Research-and-Publications/Justice-Equity-Diversity-and-Inclusion-JEDI/DEI-Resources>

Journal Articles:

When Actions Speak Louder Than Words – Racism and Sickle Cell Disease

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32871062/>

Efforts of diversity and inclusion, cultural competency, and equity in the genetic counseling profession: A snapshot and reflection

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32227553/>

Genetic Counselor CEUs: The National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC) has authorized Pennsylvania Association of Genetic Counselors to offer up to 0.882 CEUs or 8.82 Category 1 contact hours for the activity PAGC 2021 Annual Meeting, Virtual. The American Board of Genetic Counseling (ABGC) will accept CEUs earned at this program for the purposes of genetic counselor certification and recertification.

Thursday, April 22nd

12:00-12:10 Presidential Welcome

12:10-12:15 Housekeeping Notes

SESSION 1: GENETIC COUNSELING SPECIALTIES REVIEW: WHERE ARE WE IN 2021?

12:15

Neuromuscular Genetics

Tanya Bardakjian, MS, LCGC

University of Pennsylvania

12:35

Metabolic Disorders

Nicole Engelhardt, MS, LCGC

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

12:55

Precision Medicine

Natasha Berman, MS, MPH, LCGC

Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh

1:15

Pharmacogenomics

Sony Tuteja, PharmD, MS

University of Pennsylvania

1:40-1:50 **Break**

SESSION 2: SUBMITTED ABSTRACTS SESSION

1:50 – 2:05

Prenatal Genetic Counselors' Response to Recommendations on Fetal Exome Sequencing by the ACMG

Brooke Meader
Thomas Jefferson University

2:05 – 2:20
Experiences of Genetic Testing among Individuals with Retinitis Pigmentosa
Emily Krauss
Thomas Jefferson University

2:20 – 2:35
Exploring the impact of genetic testing for non-syndromic hearing loss on parental attitudes and beliefs
Jamie Atondo
University of Pennsylvania

2:35 – 2:50
Drivers of Quality-of-Life in Individuals with Developmental and Epileptic Encephalopathies
Stacey Cohen
University of Pennsylvania

2:50 – 3:05
Uptake and outcomes of small intestinal and urinary tract cancer surveillance in Lynch syndrome
Jeshua DeJesse
University of Pennsylvania

3:05 – 3:20
Investigation of Eosinophilic Esophagitis in Patients with Cornelia de Lange Syndrome
Jacqueline Cappadocia
University of Pennsylvania

3:20 – 3:35
Next-Generation Sequencing
Panels for Hereditary Hearing Loss Testing With Approaches for Difficult-to-Sequence Regions
Kimberly Gall, MSc, CGC
Blueprint Genetics

3:35 – 3:50
Characterizing Genetic Counseling Clinical Supervision during the COVID-19 pandemic
Michaela Mundt
University of Pennsylvania
**Selected for Best Student Abstract Award*

3:50 – 4:05

Diagnostic utility of next-generation sequencing panel tests in the diagnosis of skeletal dysplasias

Alicia Scocchia, MS, LCGC

Blueprint Genetics

**Selected for Best Member Abstract Award*

Friday, April 23rd

8:30 – 9:00 PAGC Business Meeting

9:00 – 9:10 Housekeeping notes

SESSION 3: PROFESSIONAL AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

9:10 – 10:10

Impact of COVID-19 on Genetic Counseling Practice

Colleen Muraresku, MS, LCGC and Elizabeth McCormick, MS, LCGC

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

10:10 – 10:40

Update on the Pennsylvania Cancer Coalition Cancer Genetics and Genomics Work Group

Julia Verbiar, MS, LCGC

UPMC Pinnacle

10:40 – 11:10

Committees to assist in professional evolution of GCs – The Genetic Counseling Professional Council at Geisinger as an example

Cassidi Kalejta, MS, CGC

Geisinger Health System

11:10 – 11:25

Beverly Tenenholz Memorial Scholarship Introduction

11:25 – 12:00

Break

SESSION 4: NEONATAL AND PRENATAL GENETIC COUNSELING

12:00 – 12:30

Description of PA Dept of Health Newborn Screening and Follow-up program

Jordan Shover

PA Dept of Health Division of Newborn Screening and Genetics

12:30 – 1:00

Use of whole exome sequencing in in NICU/Prenatal setting – the clinic perspective

Natalie Burrill, MS, LCGC

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

1:00 – 1:45 Use of Fetal Surgery in management of recognized birth defects
Julie Moldenhauer, MD, FACOG, FACMG
Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

1:45 – 2:00 **Break**

**PROFESSIONAL ISSUES PANEL: JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION (JEDI) WITHIN
GENETIC COUNSELING – BEGINNING THE CONVERSATION WITHIN PAGC**

(please see resources at top of agenda that can facilitate this discussion)

2:00 – 3:30

Aishwarya Arjunan, MS, MPH, CGC, CPH
Myriad Women’s Health

Erica Price, MS, CGC
Inova Fairfax Hospital

Jodie Vento, MGC, LCGC
University of Pittsburgh Genetic Counseling Program

3:30 – 3:40 Wrap-up and Closing Remarks