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## *Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling Appoints New Leadership*

**McLean, Virginia. – July 25, 2023** – The Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling is pleased to announce the results of its organizational leadership elections. **Erin Carmany, MS, CGC**, Wayne State University School of Medicine, was elected to serve as President. The Board welcomes the new officers and new board members and looks forward to continuing to improve accreditation processes for ACGC and grow the number of accredited programs in the field.

"We warmly welcome our four new board members, whose diverse perspectives and expertise will invigorate our discussions and shape our future endeavors," said **Erin Carmany**, President, ACGC. "Together, we will navigate the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead, guided by an unwavering commitment to our shared vision and mission."

ACGC's new board members are:

**Eric Belt, EdD**, is a senior academic innovation specialist in the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning (FCTL) at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB). With a background in educational technology and extensive experience in instructional design, he conducts research and provides support to faculty, staff, and students helping them enhance their skills in online teaching and learning. Dr. Belt holds a doctorate in educational technology, a master's in distance education & e-learning, and a bachelor's in marketing. He has a proven track record as director of learning technology and assistant director of e-learning, managing teams and implementing strategic initiatives. Dr. Belt's research focuses on instructional design, teaching with technology, and teacher-student relationships. He is also an adjunct assistant professor in the Health Professions Education graduate programs, combining teaching experience with a diverse course portfolio. Actively engaged in service and leadership positions, he contributes to academic organizations and is adept in data analytics, learning management systems, and media production. Dr. Belt combines his expertise with his passion for advancing educational experiences to make a significant impact in the UMB community.

**Maria Gyure, MS, CGC** serves as the Program Director for the University of Connecticut's Genetic Counseling Professional Science Master's Degree Program. Her passion for education in clinical genetics led her to design and lead two online graduate certificate programs for UConn. Her expertise in online learning has been recognized nationally and she continues to champion for the benefits of quality and accessible learning. An alumna, she attended UConn

on a 4-year Academic Leadership Scholarship where earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Diagnostic Genetic Sciences and a minor in Molecular and Cell Biology. Maria subsequently matriculated into the Genetic Counseling Program at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA, where she earned a Master's of Science in Genetic Counseling and completed the VA Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (Va-LEND) program. Maria served as a clinical genetic counselor and later combined genetic counseling with research and served as the research coordinator for multiple federally funded research grants on both family communication about cancer and interventions for young children at risk for emotional and behavioral disorders. Maria has several publications in her specialty in addition to invited presentations and service on graduate advisory committees. She maintains her clinical skills by counseling pediatric genetics patients at UConn Health and is a true voice for underserved populations.

**Hillary Rieger, MA, MS, LCGC**, is a pediatric and adult genetic counselor at the University of Kentucky. Hillary began working in the field of genetics at the Seaver Autism Center for Research and Treatment at Mount Sinai, where she developed a passion for helping families through the diagnostic odyssey. She then pursued concurrent masters degrees in Genetic Counseling and Medical Humanities and Bioethics at Northwestern University. In addition to her clinical work, Hillary serves on an ethics committee, established and manages a multi-specialty internship program for individuals interested in pursuing careers in genetics, supervises genetic counseling students, and has served as a thesis committee member. Additionally, Hillary serves on the Beyond Barnard board, working to ensure that Barnard students and alumnae have the resources and access they need to discover and pursue their professional goals. She has worked closely with Facing History and Ourselves, a global education nonprofit that works to ingrain social justice in childhood and adolescent education, and the Basser Center, a comprehensive center for the research, treatment, and prevention of BRCA-related cancers. She considers herself a lifelong student with a passion for mentorship and fostering the growth and success of others.

**Brad Rolf, MS, CGC** (he/him) is the Associate Program Director for the University of Washington Genetic Counseling Graduate Program (UW GCGP). He completed his genetic counseling training at the University of Texas Health Science Center and has been a practicing genetic counselor at the University of Washington since 2013. Clinically, Brad works with adults affected by genetic conditions with a special focus on hereditary forms of dementia. In his work with the UW GCGP, Brad provides instruction for several courses and oversees student capstone projects. His research interests include polygenic risk, genetic counseling education, and LGBTQ+ inclusivity in genetic counseling.

**Dawn Allain, MS, CGC**, and **Heather Creswick, MS, LCGC**, have completed their board terms after making significant contributions to ACGC. Allain is an ACGC Past President, and Creswick served as Nominating Committee Board Liaison.

"We are incredibly grateful for the extraordinary commitment and contributions of our departing board members. Their tireless efforts have advanced our organization to new levels and left an indelible mark on all aspects of ACGC's work," added Carmany.

The Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling (ACGC) is a specialized accrediting body formed in January 2013 out of its predecessor organization the American Board of Genetic Counseling. The ACGC's mission is to:

- Establish standards for graduate level genetic counseling education
- Evaluate educational programs to ensure compliance with those standards
- Protect the interest of the students, public and the integrity of the genetic counseling profession.

The full 2023 ACGC Board of Directors can be viewed on the [ACGC website](#). For more information about the Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling please visit [www.gceducation.org](http://www.gceducation.org).

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