

ACGC MESSENGER



A Newsletter from the Accreditation Council
for Genetic Counseling

WELCOME TO THE ACGC MESSENGER

Welcome to the First Quarter ACGC Messenger newsletter. We look forward to keeping you updated with important information and announcements with this quarterly newsletter.

ACGC BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPOTLIGHT



Hillary Rieger, MA, MS, LCGC

DEIJ Committee Board Liaison

Pediatric and Adult Genetic Counselor, University of Kentucky

Introduction

I have been a genetic counselor for about four years but have been working in clinical genetics for a decade now. While getting my masters in genetic counseling, I was concurrently pursuing a Master's in Medical Humanities and Bioethics. I consider that training to be central to my professional values and practice. I currently work at the University of Kentucky in the genetics and metabolism division. I work in the hospital and ambulatory settings as well as serve on the clinical ethics committee in addition to running a prospective student GC shadowing program across specialties.

What got you interested in the ACGC Board?

My interest in ACGC stems from a few places: I am deeply committed to education and consider myself a lifelong learner. As such, I am dedicated to the continued improvement of training within our field. I also love mentoring students and find great joy in watching someone develop both the passion and skills needed to succeed as a genetic counselor.

I know that our prospective and current students (as well as their future patients/clients) deserve the highest standards of learning from their academic institutions, professors, instructors, and supervisors. I want upcoming generations of genetic counselors to be better than we are now, and that starts with ensuring that each program provides a rigorous, conscientious, inclusive, and supportive environment for students. There has been a rapid expansion of the genetic counseling field and an ever-increasing number of programs, which require reflection and adaptation to the needs of students and the field. In joining ACGC, I hope to be able to contribute to the improvement of our field and hold all folks accountable so that our students can thrive.

What is the most interesting thing you've learned since joining the Board?

I have learned just how meticulous and thoughtful accreditation standards need to be! We have lengthy,

philosophical discussions about the true meaning of a word or spirit of a standard in an effort to truly seek a just and equitable approach to education. I have also been blown away by the brilliance and thoughtfulness of my co-board members. We all know that genetic counselors are smart, but I continue to be impressed by the critical thinking and problem solving that goes on in our meetings.

What is your favorite seasonal tradition?

When it gets cold and starts to smell like winter, I really enjoy nestling by a fire with a warm drink. In the last few years, I have been mulling wine which has definitely added to the coziness.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

ACGC is the specialized program accreditation board for educational training programs granting master's degrees. Accreditation is a voluntary, non-governmental process that serves as a mark of quality and demonstrates compliance with established Standards. Programs seeking accreditation from ACGC are required to undergo a process of reaccreditation at specific intervals by completing a self-study and hosting a site visit. This process helps programs to maintain and improve the quality of their educational offerings and ensures that they are compliant with the Standards. Below is a list of programs.

2024 Application Status

Ongoing Candidacy Applications

Southern California University Health Sciences
University at Buffalo

Ongoing New Program Applications

Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine (January 15, 2024, Review Cycle)
Loma Linda University School of Medicine (January 15, 2024, Review Cycle)
Xavier University of Louisiana (January 15, 2024, Review Cycle)
Charles Drew University (May 15, 2024, Review Cycle)

Accredited, New Program Status

Weill Cornell Medical College (Granted December 15, 2023)

2024 Programs Undergoing Reaccreditation

Augustana University
Medical College of Wisconsin
Sarah Lawrence College
Stanford University
University of Arizona Health Sciences
University of British Columbia
University of California – San Francisco
University of Washington
Wake Forest University
Washington University in St. Louis

ACGC OFFICE HOURS



Save the Date

March 13, 2024 from 1-2 pm ET – Open Discussion

ANNOUNCEMENTS



American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics Annual Clinical

Genetics Meeting – *Toronto, Canada*: **March 12-16, 2024**

National Society of Genetic Counselors 43rd Annual Conference –*New Orleans, LA*: **September 17-21, 2024**

Accreditation Fees: **June 15, 2024**

Report of Current Status Application: **June 15, 2024**

Self-study Application: **August 1, 2024**

Compliance with 2023 Revised Standards: **August 1, 2024**

2024 Site Visits: **September 2024 through February 1, 2025**

We encourage you to forward and share this newsletter on your social media platforms or with colleagues and associates.