

**The Master Genetic Counselor Series includes digital recordings of simulated genetic counseling sessions. The series, which includes scenarios from three different specialty areas (prenatal, cancer and pediatric), are intended to be a resource for prospective genetic counseling students and students in other health professions.**

**Genetic counseling sessions address both the educational and psychosocial needs of the patient. The balance of these components, in any given session, is variable. We hope that viewing the Master Genetic Counseling Series provides you with further insight regarding the exciting profession of Genetic Counseling.**

**Below you will find resources for additional information.**

### **Professional Organizations**

#### **National Society of Genetic Counselors (<http://www.nsgc.org>)**

The National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC) is the professional genetic counseling society in the United States. The mission of the NSGC is to advance the various roles of genetic counselors in health care by fostering education, research, and public policy to ensure the availability of quality genetic services. Their website provides several helpful links including:

- A definition of genetic counseling and answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ's) related to the profession.
- A searchable directory of NSGC members, including information about availability to speak with prospective genetic counseling students and current genetic counselors members.
- A Professional Status Survey (PSS) that summarizes information about the profession, including salary ranges, benefits, work environments, faculty status and job satisfaction. Non-Members of NSGC can view the Executive Summary of the 2010 PSS and purchase a complete copy of the survey results.

#### **American Board of Genetic Counseling (<http://www.abgc.net>)**

The American Board of Genetic Counseling (ABGC) is the professional organization that credentials genetic counseling training programs and certifies genetic counselors in the United States and Canada. Their website provides a list of accredited training programs in the United States and Canada, as well as additional information about careers in genetic counseling.

#### **American Society of Human Genetics (<http://www.ashg.org>)**

The American Society of Human Genetics is an organization for specialists in the field of human genetics. The website provides a definition of genetic counseling as a career, as well as providing information about other genetics related fields, both traditional and

non-traditional. The Career Link at this website includes interviews with a variety of genetics professionals.

American College of Medical Genetics (<http://www.acmg.net>)

The American College of Medical Genetics provides education, resources and a voice for the medical genetics profession.

### **Textbooks**

LeRoy, B.S., McCarthy Veach, P., Bartels, D.M. (2010). Genetic Counseling Practice: Advanced Concepts and Skills. Hoboken, New Jersey: Wiley-Blackwell.

McCarthy Veach, P., LeRoy, B.S., Bartels, D.M. (2003). Facilitating the Genetic Counseling Process: A Practice Manual. New York: Springer-Verlag.

Uhlmann, W.R., Schuette, J.L., Yashar, B.M. (Eds). (2009). A Guide to Genetic Counseling (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). New Jersey: Wiley-Blackwell.

### **Other Resources: Publications and Websites**

*Genetic Testing Stories, Genetic Alliance*. This publication includes a collection of personal stories of individuals who have undergone genetic testing for a wide range of conditions. [http://www.geneticalliance.org/ksc\\_assets/publications/genetic\\_testing\\_stories\\_march09.pdf](http://www.geneticalliance.org/ksc_assets/publications/genetic_testing_stories_march09.pdf)

*Telling Our Stories: Understanding real life genetics*. This resource has been developed to promote understanding among all health professionals of the impact genetics has on real life, and its relevance to healthcare practice. <http://www.tellingstories.nhs.uk/>

*Information for Genetic Professionals*. This website offers information about different careers in genetics and a list of helpful references for both those interested in genetic counseling and those who are already in the genetic counseling field. <http://www.kumc.edu/gec/geneinfo.html>

The following resources can help you learn more about the conditions discussed in the genetic counseling sessions.

**Cancer Genetics Session (Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer syndrome)**

National Cancer Institute

The National Cancer Institute provides resources to the lay public, patients, researchers, and healthcare providers. Of particular interest is a BRCA Fact Sheet. <http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/Risk/BRCA>

Facing Our Risk for Cancer Empowered (FORCE).

FORCE is a national nonprofit organization devoted to hereditary breast and ovarian cancer. Their mission includes support, education, advocacy, awareness, and research specific to hereditary breast and ovarian cancer. Their website provides a variety of items relevant to patients and families dealing with hereditary cancer risk. <http://www.facingourrisk.org/>

**Pediatric Session (Long QT Syndrome)**

The Mayo Clinic Health Information Directory

The Mayo Clinic provides clinical care, research opportunities, and educational materials to patients with a wide range of medical conditions. Their website provides an overview of Long QT syndrome, including symptoms, testing, inheritance and risk factors. <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/long-qt-syndrome/DS00434>

The American Heart Association

The American Heart Association is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to build healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke. Their website includes concise reviews of many cardiovascular conditions, including Long QT syndrome. <http://www.americanheart.org/>

**Prenatal Session (Abnormal Maternal Serum Screening)**

American Pregnancy Association

The American Pregnancy Association is a national health organization committed to promoting reproductive and pregnancy wellness through education, research, advocacy, and community awareness. Their website provides an overview of various prenatal screening and testing options. <http://www.americanpregnancy.org/prenataltesting/>

National Down Syndrome Society

The mission of the National Down Syndrome Society is to be the national advocate for the value, acceptance, and inclusion of individuals with Down syndrome. The website provides multiple fact sheets related to Down syndrome. <http://www.ndss.org/>