



Message from the Project Directors Celia I. Kaye, MD, PhD & Kathryn Hassell, MD

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February 2013

Greetings!

Valentine's Day is behind us, and St. Patrick's Day is just ahead. In the midst of what has been a hard winter for much of the country, it's nice to have these small holidays to take our minds off snow and ice. At MSGRC, we've been working on our evaluation plan (more about that below) and getting started on some new projects that we'll share with many of you next month at the Annual Meeting.

MSGRC 2012-2013 Annual Meeting

The MSGRC 2012-2013 Annual Meeting is right around the corner! We are looking forward to presentations from our national partners and an exciting panel discussion on Critical Congenital Heart Disease (CCHD) on Sunday, March 17th. The rest of our meeting is dedicated to our workgroups and project teams - eight meetings in total! You can view the most recent agenda [here](#). See you all soon!

MSGRC Program Evaluation

As many of you are aware, program evaluation is becoming increasingly important in public health programs. HRSA has tasked all the Regional Collaboratives with developing a robust program evaluation plan that helps us demonstrate our successes and ultimate impact. In the Fall of 2012, MSGRC hired a new Program Evaluator, Dr. Sharon Homan at the University of North Texas Health Science Center, to lead this process. In her role as the evaluator for the Mountain States Genetics Regional Collaborative, Sharon will develop and implement a five-year evaluation plan for MSGRC that coincides with the

National Coordinating Center (NCC) evaluation plan, and will collaborate with the Evaluation Workgroup of the NCC. She is an experienced biostatistician, research methodologist and evaluator. Previously, she has been the evaluator on projects with public health organizations, community-based organizations, municipalities, health foundations, CDC, NIH, HRSA, HUD, and state health departments.

At the Annual Meeting in March, Debbie Maiese, Program Evaluator for the NCC, will present to us on their activities to develop a national evaluation in support of common Regional Collaborative activities and linked to national measures of health outcomes. MSGRC participation in this national evaluation is important, and Sharon has been closely involved with activities of the NCC Evaluation Workgroup.

You will have a chance to meet Sharon and a team of her students in March as she meets with each workgroup to design a logic model for their activities. Our workgroups are critical to our success, and Sharon will help us tie workgroup activities into the evaluation plan. Workgroup members will receive questions and discussion items ahead of time to help facilitate the in-person conversation.

Although challenging, the evaluation design process and associated measurement activities will help MSGRC and the NCC/RC system document and communicate our successes to others. Many thanks to each of you for your support of this work.

MSGRC Launches Facebook Page

We are excited to announce that MSGRC now has a [FACEBOOK PAGE!](#)

If you have a Facebook account, we would greatly appreciate if you would click [here](#) and "Like" us; then share it with a friend, colleague, or a family impacted by a genetic condition.

Many more details will be announced at the March meeting, including information about how social media will help to broaden MSGRC's impact and reach. So stay tuned! If you have a regional or state event, an article about genetics, or other tidbit of useful genetic information you think we should highlight on our Facebook page, please email our Social Media Coordinator, Kristi Wees, at kwees@mountainstatesgenetics.org.

Closing Thoughts

All of us at MSGRC are looking forward to seeing you in beautiful Phoenix in just a few weeks. Until then, stay warm, and don't forget to send a photo of you doing something enjoyable (the response to this request has been very slow!)

Warm regards,

Celia I. Kaye *Kathryn Hassell*

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