



January 2010

Greetings!

This is the inaugural "issue" of a brief monthly message that I will be sending to members of the Mountain States Genetics Regional Collaborative Center. The goal of these messages is to keep you updated on recent and upcoming events related to genetics and newborn screening in our region, and to let you know how our various projects and activities are going. Today I'd like to focus on upcoming events. In future messages, I'll update you on the activities of our workgroups and the projects that we are funding in the region.

This week, the Advisory Committee on Hereditary Disorders in Newborns and Children (ACHDNC) will be meeting in Washington, DC. This is the group that reviews candidate conditions to be added to the newborn screening panel and addresses policy issues related to newborn screening. I will be attending the meeting along with **Joyce Hooker**, our MSGRCC project manager, and **Liza Creel**, our MSGRCC project coordinator. In February, our MSGRCC workgroups will be meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. In addition to our Advisory Council, the MSGRCC workgroups are Newborn Screening, Telemedicine, Emergency Preparedness, and Consumer Advocacy.

In March, the American College of Medical Genetics will be holding its annual meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico. There will be a session on the community conversation which MSGRCC helped to organize with the Navajo Nation at Dine' College in 2009. Additionally, a group of Navajo Nation leaders will hold a more informal session at the meeting to discuss issues related to genetic services and community needs.

Finally, we are planning the MSGRCC annual meeting in Denver. This meeting will be held July 13-15 and will feature updates on national activities, progress reports from our various regional projects, workgroup meetings, and opportunities for networking and conversation. If you have questions or comments related to any of these upcoming activities, please feel free to contact me, **Joyce Hooker** or **Liza Creel**. We want to represent you, and the best way to do this is through hearing from you.

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Also, we would like your input on how we can improve our communication with our regional partners and stakeholders. Please take a moment to complete the survey (found at the link below) to give us your feedback:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/mountainstatescommunication>

I wish you good health and good fortune in 2010, and I'm looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Warm regards,



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