



Message from the Project Directors Kathryn Hassell, MD & Janet Thomas, MD

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January 2017

Dear friends and colleagues,

As we draw close to the new year, MSGRC is excited to have completed and submitted our proposal for the new Regional Genetics Network (RGN) for the region. In addition to our competitive application, the MSGRC staff has been busy with other activities as well!

Proposal for the new RGNs

The overall goal proposed for the new cycle is to increase access to genetic services for underserved populations including rural, American Indian, and Hispanic. We have been strategically planning the development of a network of clinics in our region (genetics and primary care) and partnerships with other programs such as HRSA-funded Telehealth Resource Centers (TRCs) and state Title V programs in our region. There will be a strong focus on the use of telemedicine and the development of quality improvement (QI) activities in the region that can increase connection to services.

MSGRC would like to give a special thank you to the many leaders in our region that attended an in-person writing session and all of the individuals and organizations that offered letters of support for our competitive application.

MSGRC Staff Activities

- MSGRC consultant and past director, **Celia Kaye, MD**, participated on the **Roundtable on Genomics and Precision Medicine for the National Academies of Sciences (NAS)** on November 9. Celia discussed MSGRC and The Evaluation of Genomic Applications in Practice and Prevention (EGAPP) describing examples of how these programs interface public health and the health care delivery system.
- On November 15, Project Director **Kathy Hassell, MD**, presented with the **CDC Public Health Grand Rounds** on "Improving the Lives of People with Sickle Cell Disease." Kathy specifically presented on "Improving Outcomes for Adults with Sickle Cell Disease." Her [presentation](#) and [interview](#) are linked.
- The MSGRC staff (Janet, Kathy, Celia, Liza, Marilyn, Joyce, and Camille) all traveled to DC for the **Annual NCC PD/PM meeting** November 9-10. We were pleased to be joined by MSGRC member **Trish Thomas** of Family Voices. Trish gave a special discussion on effectively engaging American Indian communities to provide better access to genetic services. Her discussion and presentation was much appreciated by the NCC, other RCs, and national partners and very timely given the future focus of the RGNs.

MSGRC Annual Meeting

We are quickly planning the content of the upcoming Annual Meeting, April 20-22, 2017. We hope to use this meeting to engage new partners and elicit input on our activities that have been proposed for the upcoming cycle of regional genetic networks (RGNs). Registration is anticipated to open by early February 2017.

Happy New Year!

The MSGRC team wishes a Happy New Year's to all of our region. While much of the mountain states will be covered in snow for the New Year, some of our region is experiencing a much more temperate end of the year. We end this month's message with a photo of the picturesque River Walk of San Antonio. San Antonians on the River Walk, decked with beautiful light displays, were enjoying a nice evening in the seventies days before Christmas!



Warm regards,

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Acknowledgement

This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under [Grant H46MC24095](#), The Mountain States Genetics Regional Collaborative for \$600,000. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.