



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

December 2018

Join Our List.

Join Our Mailing List!

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The MSRGN team would like to send our greetings of happiness and joy for the holiday season and best wishes in the New Year! We could not be more thankful for all of you, our friends, colleagues, consumers, practitioners, public health professionals, and family leaders.

### Recorded IHS Webinar: Working with Families Obtain Genetic Testing

If you were unable to attend Dr. Celia Kaye and Trish Thomas's webinar: Working with Families to Obtain Genetic Testing, held originally on December 5, 2018, the archived webinar, presented as part of the Indian Health Services Clinical Rounds, can be accessed [here](#).

The webinar discussed and reviewed new resources available for pediatric providers on how to initiate a genetic evaluation of common pediatric conditions, such as developmental delay. Resources include a genetic testing algorithm and information on informed consent and privacy laws. Resources for families include information on basic genetics in English and Spanish and an explanation of variants of uncertain significance

### Educational Activities

Dr. Scott Mclean, Clinical Geneticist at The Children's Hospital of San Antonio, provided an educational webinar on Chromosomal Microarray (CMA) for primary care physicians and pediatricians. This webinar provided information on how to use chromosomal microarray for genetic testing. To view and share the archive of this webinar click [here](#).

Rebecca Okashah Littlejohn, MS, CGC, Certified Genetic Counselor at The Children's Hospital of San Antonio, provided an informational webinar on the Process of and Issues Related to Ordering Chromosome Microarray (CMA) using the Electronic Medical Record (EMR). This webinar provided information on: how to order a CMA through EMR (Athena), elements of consent, insurance authorization, sample collection, and results in disclosure. To view and share the archive of this webinar click [here](#).

## State Team Spotlight: Utah

The Utah State Team is adapting and customizing MSGRN's developmental delay algorithm to what is needed in Utah and planning to collaborate with two Utah pediatric offices to pilot its implementation. As in many clinics in our region, children with developmental delays in Utah experience long wait times to see genetic specialists. The Team hopes that the algorithm will enable and support primary care clinicians in obtaining appropriate genetic testing while the family they are caring for is waiting for their visit with genetics.

## Facebook Post of the Month

Spotlight on [#GeneticCounseling](#) from [Baylor College of Medicine](#)  
<https://blogs.bcm.edu/2018/11/08/what-is-genetic-counseling/>



## Save the Date February 14-15, 2019 State Team Meeting

MSRGN will have an in-person State Team meeting in Austin, TX on Feb 14-15, 2019 at the Renaissance Austin Hotel, located at 9721 Arboretum Blvd, Austin, TX 78759. The meeting will provide each State Team the opportunity to network with other State Teams within MSRGN, and the opportunity to work on current projects face to face with their team members as well as get feedback/suggestions on their current projects from others.

## Genetic Ambassador

The Genetic Ambassador program is up and running, and a private facebook group has been established for genetic ambassadors from across our region to connect and share ideas. If you are a consumer in our region and would like to become a genetic ambassador and become a member of our Facebook group, please email [Kristi Wees](mailto:kristi.wees@mountainstatesgenetics.org) for more information.

## FOLLOW MSRGN ON TWITTER

MSRGN is now on Twitter. Please follow us [@GeneticMtnState](https://twitter.com/GeneticMtnState)

## Email Communications from MSRGN

MSRGN is in the process of updating our contact list. If you would like to update your email preference or do not wish to receive communications from MSRGN, please email [Annette Lara](mailto:annette.lara@mountainstatesgenetics.org).

Warm regards,



Kathryn Hassell, MD  
Co-Project Director



Janet Thomas, MD  
Co-Project Director

### **MSGRC staff contact information:**

Kathryn Hassell, MD, Co-Project Director

[Kathryn.Hassell@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Kathryn.Hassell@ucdenver.edu)

Janet Thomas, MD, Co-Project Director

[Janet.Thomas@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Janet.Thomas@ucdenver.edu)

Annette Lara, Project Manager

[alara@mountainstatesgenetics.org](mailto:alara@mountainstatesgenetics.org)

Joyce Hooker, Community and Public Health Outreach Coordinator

[dnjhooker@msn.com](mailto:dnjhooker@msn.com)

Kristi Wees, Consumer Engagement Director & Social Media Coordinator

[kwees@mountainstatesgenetics.org](mailto:kwees@mountainstatesgenetics.org)

Liza Creel, PhD, Evaluator

[Liza.Creel@louisville.edu](mailto:Liza.Creel@louisville.edu)

Celia Kaye, MD, PhD, Genetics Services & Systems Consultant

[Celia.Kaye@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Celia.Kaye@ucdenver.edu)

**THI staff contact information:**

Ankit Sanghavi, Project Administrator

[asanghavi@texashealthinstitute.org](mailto:asanghavi@texashealthinstitute.org)

Sherry Wilkie-Conway, Project Oversight

[swilkie@texashealthinstitute.org](mailto:swilkie@texashealthinstitute.org)

Stephanie Ondrias, Director of Convenings & Education

[sondrias@texashealthinstitute.org](mailto:sondrias@texashealthinstitute.org)

***HAVE YOU VISITED OUR  
Website:***

[www.MountainStatesGenetics.org](http://www.MountainStatesGenetics.org)

## **Acknowledgement**

This publication is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$600,000 with 0 percentage financed with non-governmental sources. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit [HRSA.gov](http://HRSA.gov).