Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As the clocks spring forward in most of our region (except states like Arizona!), we are looking forward to the warmer spring weather and the wildflowers that will soon bloom. Almost three years ago (April 2017), our region met in Salt Lake City, UT for our final annual meeting of the regional collaborative grant cycle with a theme of 'Seeds of Sustainability: Cultivating Genetics Across the Region' and a tag line: 'Bloom Where You Are Planted'. As we prepare to wrap up the last 3 months of this current regional genetics network grant cycle, we want to thank all of you for all the seeds you have planted and for truly blooming where you are planted! Our members, our state teams, our genetic ambassadors and colleagues have shared the wealth of their genetics information/resources and expanded access to care right in our own communities and in our Mountain States Region. We are still awaiting word from HRSA on the plans for the continuation of this work!

We hope this newsletter finds you staying safe and healthy during this time of COVID19 concerns and precautions. Our thoughts are with you all for safety and health for you and your families.

Genetic Awareness Weeks

Mark your calendar!

**March 17-21** is [Medical Genetics Awareness](https://www.nahg.org/medical-genetics-awareness-week) week.

and

**April 25th** is [National DNA Day](https://www.nationaldnday.org)
May 26-29 is Public Health Genetics Week (more info coming soon!)

**Genetics Pop-Ups 2020**
MSRGN honored RARE Disease Day by holding Genetic Pop-ups in all eight states of our region. Check out some of the photos from pop-ups that have already taken place! For more information on the Genetic Pop-Ups click [here](#). A HUGE thank you to all our Genetic Ambassadors who spearheaded these events:

**Arizona:**
Melinda Burnworth  
Becki Coleman  
Kathy Levandowski

**Colorado:**
Heather Schichtel  
Brittany Parke  
Jamie Stefanski  
Maria Castillo

**Montana:**
Jenn Banna

**Nevada:**
Amy Holly  
Mary Meeker

**New Mexico:**
Elvira Dennison/Josey Foo

**Texas:**
Alysian Thomas

**Utah:**
Gina Money

**Wyoming:**
Kenneth Allen  
Melody Rupple

**COVID19: Emergency Preparedness Resource**

[The National Coordinating Center](#) (NCC) has just released this [clickable infographic](#) with links to resources for genetic providers and patients during this COVID19 emergency response. Here is as link to our [facebook post](#) that can be shared. Please let others know about this helpful resource.
State Team Spotlight: Wyoming

The Wyoming team has been busy preparing for their Genetics Pop-Ups this month, with two held near rare disease day (Sheridan and Riverton). The genetic pop-up in Riverton was coordinated with genetic ambassador and recent genetic summit scholarship recipient, Melody Rupple, with the support of state team lead, Carleigh Soule (pictured below). Recently, the Wyoming Department of Health has expanded their telegenetics outreach and services to the Riverton area, so the pop-up offered an opportunity to bring genetic resources to that community.
Newborn Screening Education for Families

From Expecting Health: Navigate Newborn Screening is a free learning opportunity that provides families with timely newborn screening information. Navigate Newborn Screening builds the capacity of families, new and expecting parents for storytelling, advocacy, and information seeking in the newborn screening system. The module provides information and tools to understand and act on newborn screening results.

Some key facts:

- It's a free module.
- It takes 40-45 minutes to complete.
- Watch on your computer or phone - wherever you are.
- Play and pause the modules to learn on your own schedule.

Warm regards,

Kathryn Hassell, MD                   Janet Thomas, MD
Co-Project Director                     Co-Project Director

MSGRC staff contact information:

Kathryn Hassell, MD, Co-Project Director
Kathryn.Hassell@cuanschutz.edu
Janet Thomas, MD, Co-Project Director
Janet.Thomas@childrenscolorado.org
Joyce Hooker, Community and Public Health Outreach Coordinator
dnjhooker@msn.com
Kristi Wees, Consumer Engagement Director & Social Media Coordinator
kwees@mountainstatesgenetics.org
Liza Creel, PhD, Evaluator
Liza.Creel@louisville.edu

THI staff contact information:
Ankit Sanghavi, Project Administrator
asanghavi@texashealthinstitute.org
Sherry Wilkie-Conway, Project Oversight
swilkie@texashealthinstitute.org
Stephanie Ondrias, Director of Convenings & Education
sondrias@texashealthinstitute.org

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