



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

May 2020

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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is hard to believe that we are in the final week of the MSRGN grant cycle. And while the world around us has been filled with not so good news as the COVID-19 pandemic continues, we are excited to bring you some **good news** that brought a smile to our faces, and hopefully yours too.

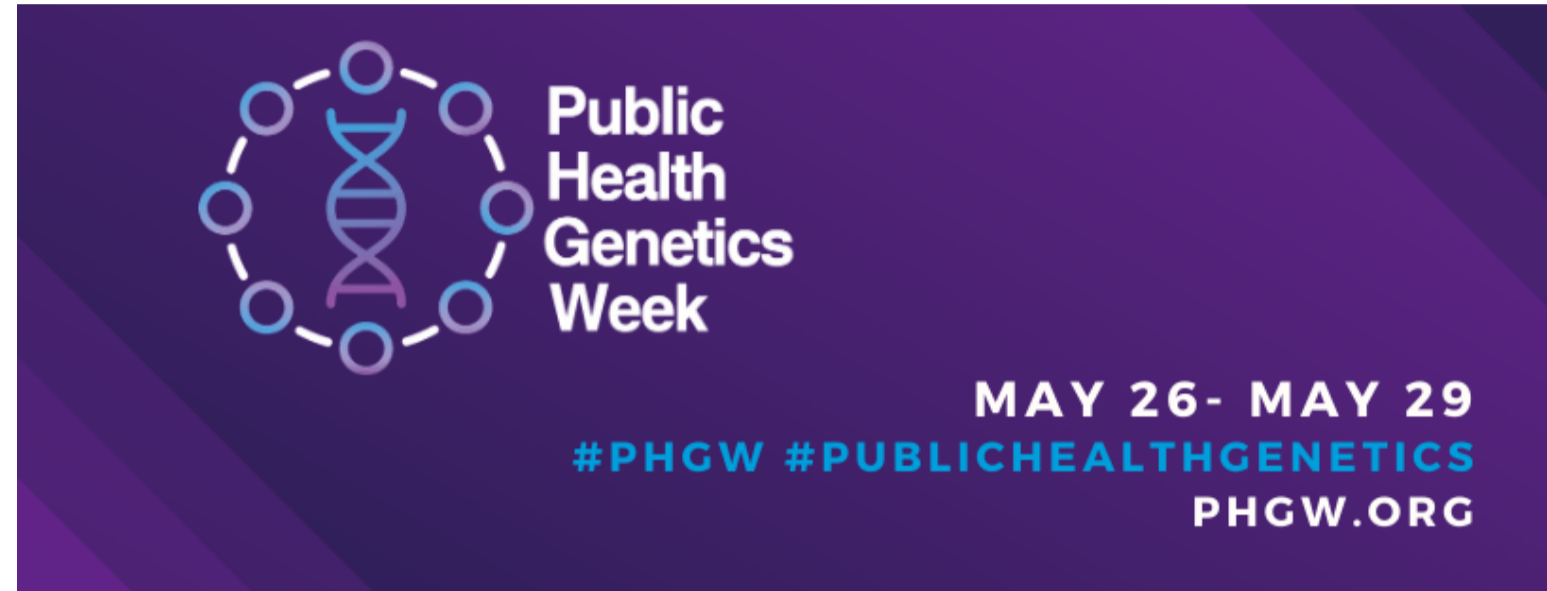
Texas Health Institute (the fiduciary agent of MSRGN) has received the Notice of Award (NOA) for the coming grant cycle (2020-2024).

Some of you will recall that back in January we submitted an application as part of the competitive renewal process for a 4-year grant cycle beginning on June 1, 2020. This NOA ensures funding for the next year (2020-2021), with non-competitive renewals, dependent on funding available, for the 3 years after that (2021-2024).

We are excited to continue on this genetics journey with all of you and we can't thank you enough for all of your contributions during the last 3 years. We appreciate each and every one of you. We would like to say a special thank you to the members of our state teams, steering committee, management team, and genetic ambassadors for their continued dedication to MSRGN's mission.

Please Stay Safe and [contact us](#) if you would like to be more involved, continue to be involved, or if you know someone in our region who would like to get involved in the coming grant cycle.

Public Health Genetics Week- THIS WEEK!



This is the week for the inaugural launch of #publichealthgenetics week!

The [National Coordinating Center for the Regional Genetics Network](#) (NCC) is sponsoring the first-ever Public Health Genetics Week from May 26-29, 2020. The goal of Public Health Genetics Week is to both increase awareness about, and to celebrate the efforts of professionals in, public health genetics.

In addition to building awareness around #publichealthgenetics, each day of Public Health Genetics Week will have a different theme:

- "What is Public Health Genetics?" May 26
- "Who is Involved in Public Health Genetics" May 27
- "Public Health Screening" May 28
- "Public Health Genetics Resources" May 29

Individuals and organizations are encouraged to participate in the week by using the hashtags #PHGW and #PublicHealthGenetics across their social media platforms.

For all the details:
www.PHGW.org

Webinar: Resources for Families: Enhancing the Genetic/Telegenetic Experience

THIS Thursday, May 28th at Noon PDT/3pm EDT

Join Kristi Wees, from MSRGN and Sylvia Mann, with WSRGN along with Janet Major from the Southwest Telehealth Resource Center to learn about genetic and telegenetic resources for families [in a webinar](#) this Thursday, May 28th at Noon PDT/3pm EDT.

Learning Objectives:

1. A brief overview of PUBLIC HEALTH Genetics week and what the difference is between Public Health Genetics and Clinical Genetics
2. Review Resources/Tools currently available to make families aware of Telegenetics/Telehealth
3. Learn about specific genetic (and telegenetic) resources offered to the western/mountain states for families
4. Learn about specific genetic (and telegenetic) resources offered nationally for families

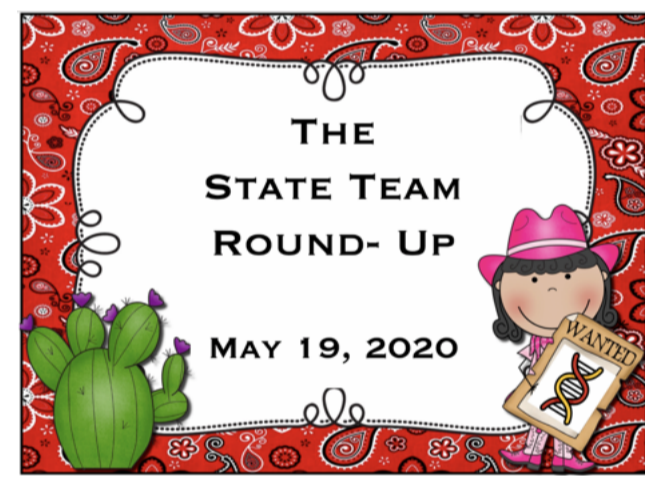
Register [here](#) to attend this Webinar.

Careers in Public Health Genetics Brochure

Created by the Nevada State Team

As part of the [Public Health Genetics Week](#) awareness campaign mentioned above, our Nevada State Team has developed the brochure: [Q&A: Careers in Public Health Genetics](#). Please feel free to share this brochure with your networks to help spread awareness about Careers in Public Health Genetics, in an effort to decrease the shortage of genetic professionals, nationwide.

State Team Spotlight: All of the 8 States in our Region!



On May 19th, MSRGN held a State Team Round-Up zoom call with the co-leads from each of our 8 state teams. Each state team shared an accomplishment, a lesson learned, and a suggestion on moving into the next grant cycle. Since we have all been on so many zoom calls these days, we added a 'wear your western gear' option for the call and gave out some western-themed state team awards. To see [which award your state team received](#) and to listen to the recording of the call, click [here](#) to visit the 2020 MSRGN State Team Round-Up page.

We would like to say a big: "Thank Y'all" and "Yee-Haw" for all the great projects and collaborations you have achieved over the last 3 years! We can't wait to see what the next 4 years bring to our region with your leadership in improving access to genetic care for individuals and families in our region.

Our Last: Your Genetics Questions Answered Facebook Live: This Wednesday!

Join us... THIS WEDNESDAY
2 pm ET, 1 pm CT, noon MT, 11 am PT

on the Mountain States Genetics Facebook Page for a Facebook Live exploring the topic: The **PSYCHOSOCIAL** Aspects of Genetic Conditions



Chaya Murali, MD
Pediatric Geneticist
Texas Children's Hospital
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, Texas

Join us on Wednesday May 27th at 11am PT/noon MT/1pm CT/ 2pm ET for our FINAL Facebook Live of this Grant Cycle! Dr. Chaya Murali will be joining us to answer questions about the psychosocial aspects of genetic conditions.

Warm regards,

Kathryn Hassell, MD
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