UTGCP Annual Research Newsletter
April 2023 | Issue No. 4

What's Inside

Classes of 2023 and 2024 thesis research
Alumni & faculty research & publications from calendar year 2022, hyperlinked when available

Want to learn more about UTGCP?

Phone: (713) 500-5599
Email: gsbs.gcpinfo@uth.tmc.edu
Celebrate with the class of 2023!

If you would like to support student research efforts of the UTGCP through our Research & Education Fund, please Click Here

M.S. Thesis Topics

Latonya Alexander
Pregnant Black/African Americans’ Experiences with Prenatal Genetic Counseling
Chair: Aranza Gonzalez

Emily Daykin
Investigation of Teratogenic Concerns in the COVID-19 Era
Chair: Myla Ashfaq

Madeline Alpar
Clinical Expectations & Psychosocial Concerns impact on the Diagnostic Odyssey of Hypermobile Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (hEDS) Patients
Chair: Kathryn Leal

Tessa Heller
The Impact of Treatment with Palynziq on Quality of Life for individuals with PKU
Chair: Kate Richardson

Erin Atkinson
Prenatal decision-making facilitated through an online patient education module
Chair: Aranza Gonzalez

Cindy Hernandez
Monolingual Spanish Speaking Patient Satisfaction and Comfort when Comparing Spanish Speaking Provider to an Interpreter
Chair: Kathryn Leal

Yusra Aziz
The Need for Racial and Ethnic Health Disparity Curriculum in Genetic Counseling Programs
Chair: Claire Singletary

Jasmine Tyson
Impact of Recent Abortion Legislation on Patient Trust in Healthcare Providers
Chairs: Aarti Ramdaney and Samantha Montgomery

Jack Colleran
Perceived Utility of Genetic Carrier Screening in Diverse Patient Populations
Chair: Blair Stevens

Jordan Zeiger
Saliva Kit Returns after Consenting for Genetic Cancer Testing in a Genetic Counseling Setting
Chair: Maureen Mork
Introducing the Research of the Class of 2024!

M.S. Thesis Topics

Emma Billings: Adoption education in GC training programs; Advisor: Jennifer Czerwinski

Carley Brueckner: Assessing the impact of diagnostic testing on patient empowerment in pregnancies with fetal anomalies; Advisor: Blair Stevens

Laura Gorecki: Factors associated with diagnosis disclosure with romantic partners among individuals with TSC; Advisor: Kate Richardson

Maria Hernandez: Comfort and perceived utility of the dysmorphology exam in medical genetics among students and genetic counselors; Advisor: Katie Shields

Mindy Kolodziejski: Patients' understanding of fetal sex vs. gender in the context of NIPT; Advisor: Shannon Mulligan

Nicolette Murphey: Pregnancy yields and screening methodologies for skeletal dysplasias and craniosynostosis syndromes; Advisor: Theresa Wittman

Rachel Notestine: Fraud, waste, and abuse in the genetic testing industry; Advisor: Claire Singletary

Disha Patel: Patient preferences for soft sign disclosure with prior negative NIPS; Advisor: Meagan Choates

Kiki Risgaard: The relationship between TSC and sleep disorders; Advisor: Kate Richardson

Jordan Steffen: Attitudes and motivations for anonymous predictive testing in the Huntington's Disease population; Advisor: Leslie Dunnington

UTGCP Alumni & Faculty: Authorship at National Meetings

Submitted presentations in 2022. only UT affiliated authors listed

American Academy of Pediatrics, October 2022
Taylor Beecroft, Yield of Systematic Inpatient Genetic Testing of Neonates with Conotruncal, Right-sided and Laterality Heart Defects. Accepted for Oral Presentation in the Young Investigator Award Competition.

Taylor Beecroft. Phenotypic Features Associated with Yield of Clinical Genetic Testing Among Patients with Bicuspid Aortic Valve Yield. Accepted for Oral Presentation in the Young Investigator Award Competition.

Taylor Beecroft. A Preliminary Guide for Clinicians. Accepted for Oral Presentation in the Young Investigator Award Competition.

American College of Medical Genetics, March 2022
Amanda Gerard and Haley Streff. Genetic Testing Uptake in a Large Metropolitan Pediatric Outpatient Genetics Clinic. Accepted Poster.

American Society of Human Genetics, October 2022
Sandra Darilek. A multiomics approach to resolving small supernumerary marker chromosomes. Accepted Poster.

Baylor College of Medicine Annual Cardiovascular Research Institute Symposium, April 2022
Taylor Beecroft. Yield of Systematic Inpatient Genetic Testing of Neonates with Conotruncal and Laterality Heart Defects. Accepted for presentation.

Taylor Beecroft. Evaluating Preterm Birth as A Biomarker Of Major Events In Children With Vascular Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome. Accepted for presentation.


Collaborative Group of the Americas- Inherited Gastrointestinal Cancer, November 2022
Amie Blanco. The case for germline testing in all patients with endometrial cancer: lessons learned from universal somatic tumor testing. Accepted for presentation.

Amie Blanco. A step towards patient centered care: Combined endometrial biopsy and colonoscopy for Lynch syndrome. Accepted for presentation.
Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia Cardiology Conference, September 2022

Digestive Disease Week®, May 2022
Amie Blanco. Increasing Referrals to Genetic Counseling in Patients at Elevated Risk for Lynch Syndrome. Accepted for presentation.

Ethical, Legal Social Implications Congress, June 2022

HADD Conference, July 2022

International Symposium on Marfan, Loeys-Dietz, and Related Conditions, August 2022
Taylor Beecroft. Cardiovascular Outcomes and Survival in Patients with Early Onset Marfan Syndrome. Accepted for Poster Presentation.
Taylor Beecroft. Case Report: Longest Reported Survival for Autosomal Recessive Cutis Laxa Type 1B in 31-year-old Patient with Large Ascending Aortic Aneurysm and Extensive Arterial Tortuosity. Accepted for Poster Presentation.
Taylor Beecroft. Gestational Age as a Proxy for Arterial Fragility in Vascular Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome. Accepted for Poster Presentation.
Taylor Beecroft. Arterial Tortuosity Syndrome: A Longitudinal Assessment of Cardiovascular Features. Accepted for Poster Presentation.

Kaiser Permanente, Regional Pediatric Aortopathy Grand Round Lecture Series, November 2022
Taylor Beecroft. Creating a Pediatric Aortopathy Program. Virtual Webinar

Mountain States Regional Genetics Network webinar, May 2022
UTGCP Alumni & Faculty: Authorship at National Meetings

Submitted presentations in 2022. Only UT affiliated authors listed.

### National Society of Genetic Counselors, November 2022


### San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium, October 2022

Amie Blanco. Hereditary vs Sporadic Invasive Lobular Carcinoma and Impact of Locoregional Therapy on Disease-Free Survival. Accepted for presentation.

Amie Blanco. The impact of streamlined processes and patient-directed messaging to improve enrollment in a remote, pragmatic clinical trial. Accepted for presentation.

Amie Blanco. The WISDOM study: Reducing sequential steps and implementing parallel workflows in pragmatic trials. Tomiyuri Lewis, Amie Blanco et al. Accepted for presentation.

### North American Neuroendocrine Tumor Society Multidisciplinary NET Medical Symposium, October 2022

Amie Blanco. Germline Pathogenic Variants in Patients with High-Grade (G3) Metastatic Gastroenteropancreatic (GEP). Accepted for presentation.

Amie Blanco. Variants of Uncertain Significance (VUS) are More Common in Non-Caucasian Patients with Neuroendocrine Neoplasms (NENs). Accepted for presentation.

### Society for Gynecologic Oncology 2022 Winter Meeting, January 2022

Amie Blanco. Germline testing for endometrial cancer in the age of next generation sequencing.
Texas Children’s Hospital, Events in 2022


Taylor Beecroft. Adult Congenital Heart Disease and Women’s Heart Health Conference, April 2022. Genetic Considerations for Mother and Baby.

Workshop on Malformations and Morphogenesis, August 2022

Jessica O’Shea. Something Old (Silver-Russell Syndrome), Something New (Unusual 11p15.5 Duplication), and Something Borrowed. Accepted Poster.
American Journal of Human Genetics


American Journal of Medical Genetics Part A


Birth Defects Research


Clinical Genetics


European Journal of Haematology


Familial Cancer


Frontiers in Genetics


Frontiers in Reproductive Health

Genetics in Medicine


Genome Medicine


Human Molecular Genetics


International Journal of Neonatal Screening


Salma Nassef. Lack of consensus among healthcare professionals at a large academic medical center on the use of exome sequencing for prenatal diagnosis. Journal of Genetic Counseling, 2022 Dec;31(6):1330-1340


UTGCP Alumni & Faculty: Scientific Publications

Accepted publications from 2022; Only UT affiliated authors listed

Molecular Genetics & Genomic Medicine


Obstetrics & Gynecology


Pancreas


Public Health Genomics

Congratulations to the UTGCP Research and Education Fund Awardees

The Research and Educational Fund was fully funded in 2021, which allows for the distribution of funds to begin! Below are the first three recipients from the fund. The leadership of UTGCP are key in identifying the needs of current students and helping them through the application process. Awardees can use the fund in support of their research and/or educational needs.

- **Katie Baudoin (Class of 2022)** Investigating the attitudes of the Deaf community towards genetic counseling and utilization of genetic counseling services for indications other than deafness
- **Emile Moura Coelho da Silva (Class of 2022)** Racial concordance between patient and genetic counselor and reported levels of trust and satisfaction
- **Gina Sanchez (Class of 2022)** Status of Termination Curriculum in Genetic Counseling Programs: Survey of Program Directors and Recent Graduates
- **Natalie Stoner (Class of 2022)** Invisible Diversity, Intersectionality, Academic Capital and Barriers to Being a Competitive Genetic Counseling Applicant

Please consider financially supporting our students' research efforts through the MD Anderson UT Health Graduate School by selecting "Genetic Counseling Research & Education Endowed Fund" as the designation.

If you didn't see your research in this issue, we hope to include you next year.
We look forward to seeing your accomplishments and photos!