



1/30/2020

APHA Genomics Forum

JANUARY Newsletter



APHA Genomics Forum

WELCOME TO OUR JANUARY NEWSLETTER!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR.....	2
HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED	3
LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT.....	4
CALL FOR ABSTRACT FOR GENOMICS FORUM APHA 2020 MEETING	9
CALL FOR ABSTRACT REVIEWERS FOR GENOMICS FORUM APHA 2020 MEETING	10
GENOMICS FORUM POLICY COMMITTEE NEWS AND UPDATES.....	11
INVITATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE NHGRI ISSC.....	12

APHA Genomics Forum January Newsletter

A Letter from the Chair

Happy New Year! It is such an honor for me to be the new Chair of the APHA Genomics Forum (GF) this year. I am glad to see this GF is continuously growing under the leadership of Dr. Lei-shih (Lace) Chen and Dr. Tung-Sung Tseng during the past two years. I want to express my appreciation for the hard work from our previous leadership team and members to establish many new systems and milestones. For the APHA annual meeting, more opportunities have been added to the annual APHA meeting so more members can present their valuable projects to public health researchers. The GF newsletters and a new GF website have been conducted to provide updated information and a better connection for GF members. In order to promote and honor outstanding research, teaching, practice, or services in the public health genomics field, three new awards (GF Distinguished Services Award, GF Outstanding Research Award, and GF Public Health Genomics Award) have been initiated.

As an emerging concept of precision medicine and precision public health, genomics is getting more public attention. The goal of our GF is to engage the public health community to promote workforce competency in genomics, including an improved understanding of the relevance and impact of genomics on public health. I want to encourage GF members to actively participate in the growth of this Forum to achieve these goals. I look forward to working with the team and all members to promote genomic related research, education, and practice.

Best,

Hui-Yi Lin, PhD

Associate Professor
Biostatistics Program, School of Public Health
Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

Reach out to our committee members to engage in section activities!

Chair:

Hui-Yi Lin

hlin1@lsuhsc.edu

Co-Chair:

Yu-Lyu Yeh

yyeh@tamu.edu

Secretary:

Victoria Clements

vclements@coriell.com

Program Committee Chair:

Shixi Zhao

shixizhao@unm.edu

Program Committee Co-Chair:

Ming Li

mli@towson.edu

Membership Communication Chair:

Yu-Hsiang Kao

ykao1@lsuhsc.edu

Membership Communication Co-Chair:

Wei-Ju Chen

chen_w@utpb.edu

Policy Committee Chair:

Anastasia Jacko

anastasiajacko@gmail.com

Policy Committee Co-Chair:

Karen Niemchick

niemchik@gvsu.edu



<https://aphagenomicsforum.wixsite.com/apha>



https://twitter.com/Genomics_Forum

LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: Hui-Yi Lin, Chair

BACKGROUND

Dr. Hui-Yi Lin is an Associate Professor in Biostatistics at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC). Dr. Lin's primary research interest is in developing novel statistical methods used for genetic studies, especially single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) data analyses. She has proposed several novel statistical methods and software for analyzing SNP-SNP interactions associated with complex diseases. She has 10-year working experience at two NCI designated comprehensive cancer centers: Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute and Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). Dr. Lin has participated in several genetic association studies and genome-wide association (GWA) studies and has actively participated in projects in the Prostate Cancer Consortium.



LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: Yu-Lyu Yeh, Co-Chair

BACKGROUND

Dr. Yulyu Yeh received her PhD from the department of Nutrition and Food Science at Wayne State University in Michigan. She is a post-doctoral research associate in the Health Promotion and Genomics lab at Texas A&M University and the project manager for the Family Health History (FHH) based Colorectal Cancer prevention Project. Her research interest has been in health education, nutrition and cancer genomics. She worked with multi ethnicities groups included African American adolescents during her PhD studies and Chinese Americans in the current project. She was invited to present at the American Cancer Society Asian Council meeting to present the FHH based colorectal cancer prevention project in fall 2017.



LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: Victoria Clements, Secretary

BACKGROUND

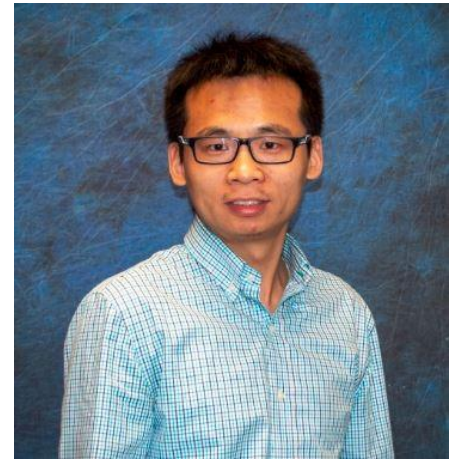
Ms. Victoria Clements is the Director of Operations at Coriell Life Sciences. In this role, Victoria oversees the execution of products that translate genetic information for use across clinical settings in a responsible, ethical, and efficient manner. At Coriell Life Sciences, Victoria combines her passion for public health and genomics through the company's medication safety program, which integrates pharmacogenomics information with traditional medication therapy management to optimize safe and effective drug regimens that improve patient quality of life, decrease healthcare spend, reduce health incidents, and strengthen the clinician experience. Prior to this position, Victoria worked at the Coriell Institute for Medical Research, a biomedical institution dedicated to the study of the human genome. Victoria worked on the Coriell Personalized Medicine Collaborative's \$10 million-dollar genomic utility research contract with the United States Air Force where she led participant engagement and joined the scientific team to develop disease- and medication-specific genetic risk reports. In addition to personalized medicine research she conducted at the Coriell Institute, Victoria oversaw the institute's research development initiatives to expand research capacity by pinpointing funding opportunities aligned with the organization's priorities, coordinating proposal development, and identifying prospective collaborators. Victoria has dedicated her career and academic interests to public health genomics by leveraging advances in science and technology that make genetic information accessible to clinicians and patients as part of everyday care. Victoria earned her Master of Public Health degree from Drexel University where her scholarship focused on public health genomics. She received her undergraduate degree in biology from Rowan University.



LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: Shixi Zhao, Program Committee Chair

BACKGROUND

Dr. Shixi Zhao is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health, Exercise and Sports Sciences at University of New Mexico (UNM). He received his Ph.D. from Texas A&M University in 2018. Before entering the field of health education, Shixi studied biology. He has a B.S. in Bioscience from Hebei University and one-year master study in cell biology at the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences. Dr. Zhao is a health behavior social scientist, with specific training and expertise in health behavioral assessment and measurement. His research interest focuses on health behavior, social determinates of health, public health genomics, community-participatory research, children with Autism Spectrum Disorders, cancer prevention and control and chronic diseases prevention. Dr. Zhao teaches community health, race ethnicity & health, grant writing and measurement and evaluation for health promotion.



LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: Ming Li, Program Committee Co-Chair

BACKGROUND

Dr. Ming Li is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Health and Kinesiology at Texas A&M University. Prior to this, Ming received her B.S. in Biological Science and earned a M.S. in Health Education. Her research interest includes cancer prevention, family health history (FHH) communication, as well as ethics, legal, and social implications (ELSI) of advances in genomic science and technology. She has published seven scholarly articles in genomics-related journals (e.g., Clinical Genetics, PloS ONE, and Patient Education and Counseling). So far, she has received multiple internal research grants from Texas A&M University to support her research in the field of public health genomics. She is also actively engaged in APHA genomics forum by giving seven poster/oral presentations from 2013 to 2018 as an author/co-author.



LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: Yu-Hsiang Kao, Membership Communication Chair

BACKGROUND

Dr. Yu-Hsiang Kao is a postdoc fellow of behavior and community health sciences at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC) New Orleans. He earned a PhD in Health Care and Policy from the National Yang Ming University in 2016 and was founded by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Taiwan to join LSU Health Sciences Center. His research interests include aging population health, evaluation of healthcare services, health services and outcomes research, tobacco use and health, cancer survival and outcome research as well as genetics in population health science.



LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: Wei-Ju Chen, Membership Communication Co-Chair

BACKGROUND

Dr. Wei-Ju Chen is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Texas Permian Basin. After obtaining her Ph.D. in Psychology with focuses in Health Psychology and Quantitative Methods at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Dr. Chen worked as a postdoctoral research associate and a certified community health worker instructor in the Health Promotion and Genomics Lab at Texas A&M University where she conducted multidisciplinary research and managed a cancer genomics training program for community health workers. Dr. Chen is experienced in interdisciplinary research with an emphasis on genomics, minority health disparities, cancer prevention, stress and coping, emotion, autism spectrum disorders, and statistical methods.



LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: Anastasia Jacko, Policy Committee Chair:

BACKGROUND

Dr. Anastasia Jacko has been interested in public health genomics for over 25 years. Her background has primarily been in clinical laboratory medicine including the establishment, development, and management of two genetic screening programs [biochemical for prenatal birth defects (1991) and molecular for alpha-one deficiency (2013)]. After creation of the first lab, Ms. Jacko chose to stay home and raise her kids and pursued an MPH at UCONN focusing on the connection of genetics and health. This culminated in a genetic educational needs assessment pilot study of primary care physicians and creation of a medical genetics training program for practicing physicians. Her survey would go on to be used as a template for a statewide survey and she worked as a technical consultant with the CT DPH as they developed their genomics branch. Dr. Jacko have recently completed her PhD in Health Services Administration (August 2017) with an interest in the translation and implementation of genomics into clinical medicine and public health. Dr. Jacko's dissertation was based on a Genomics Forum Policy Committee subcommittee survey of state and territorial chronic disease directors to establish opportunities and barriers to Tier 1 chronic disease genomics applications. This data is currently being submitted for publication



LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: Karen Niemchick, Policy Committee Co-Chair

BACKGROUND

Dr. Karen Niemchick is an Assistant Professor, and serves as Practicum Coordinator for the MPH program at Grand Valley State University. She received her PhD in epidemiology from Walden University. She also holds a Master's in Health Science from GVSU and a Bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry from the University of Toledo. Her dissertation evaluated cognition in elderly individuals based on concentrations of antioxidants in the blood serum. Karen has worked in higher education for over 20 years teaching classes and laboratories in cell biology, human anatomy and physiology, pathophysiology, and in clinical programs. Additionally, she has developed classroom curriculum, and supervised a biological tutorial laboratory. She has been involved in service learning partnerships for the last six years. Dr. Karen's current interests lie in public health genomics and genomic education, and in several areas of human health including neurology and antimicrobial resistance. She serves as co-chair of the policy committee within the American Public Health Association's Genomics Forum. Current projects include a national study on genomic education, the evaluation of consanguinity on educability and intelligence, neighborhood level associations with influenza transmission, and seasonality of adolescent suicide.



CALL FOR ABSTRACT FOR THE GENOMICS FORUM OF THE APHA 2020 ANNUAL MEETING:

It is our auspicious time to formally notify you that the call for abstract for the Genomics Forum of the APHA 2020 Annual Meeting is now open. The APHA 2020 Annual Meeting and Expo is during October 24 - 28, 2020 in San Francisco, CA, USA.

Submit your abstract today! Each year, more than 5,000 abstracts are accepted to be presented at the Annual Meeting. This is the perfect opportunity to showcase your research, gain useful presentation experience and connect with other passionate public health professionals. **Submission Deadline: Thursday, February 20, 2020.**

To submit an abstract for the APHA Genomics Forum and for instructions, please use the following link:

<https://apha.confex.com/apha/2020/genf.htm>

Please note that abstracts **MUST** be submitted online through the APHA Meeting Website, and **NO** late submissions can be accepted.

Questions? Contact Shixi Zhao at shixizhao@unm.edu or
Ming Li at mli@towson.edu.

CALL FOR ABSTRACT REVIEWERS FOR THE GENOMICS FORUM OF THE APHA 2020 ANNUAL MEETING:

The call for abstract reviewers is now open!

We would like to invite you to be a part of the 2020 APHA Annual Meeting Abstract Submission process as a reviewer. Peer review is a critical component of the evaluation process in creating a quality program. Reviewing abstracts is also a great way to gain experience and insight into the development of conference programs and approaches to abstract writing.

Here is the link to sign up: <https://apha.confex.com/apha/2020/genf/cfr.cgi>

The **deadline to sign up** is **Monday, February 10, 2020 at 11:59 PM**. Emails to reviewers will be sent in late February along with the reviewing instructions.

Questions? Contact Shixi Zhao at shixizhao@unm.edu or

Ming Li at mli@towson.edu.

GENOMICS FORUM POLICY COMMITTEE NEWS AND UPDATES

Exciting things are happening in the Genomics Forum Policy Committee! Members are busy with new projects for 2020. The policy committee recognizes the importance of genomics education in public health and has two new projects related to the topic. As a continuation of our current project involving Genomics Education in U.S. MPH programs, we are looking to survey MPH program administrators qualitatively on current genomic offerings, or lack thereof. Our previous project headed up by Anastasia Jacko and Amy Ponte gathered information on the specific classes and departments with genomics courses for public health students.

Additionally, we are beginning a new Genomics Education Working group. Our goal is to expand genomics education. We would like to come together to collaborate on ideas and practices, research, and ways to increase genomics knowledge. The best part is, **we would love your input!** Please consider joining and participating in this new endeavor.

The Policy Committee meets the second Tuesday of each month from 12:00 pm--1:00 pm EST. Our next meeting is February 11. To join the conference call, please follow the instructions below.

Phone number to call [1-515-603-3116](tel:1-515-603-3116)

Conference Code: 171649#

Thank you for considering and hope to have you in the meeting,

Anastasia Jacko and Karen Niemchick, Co-chairs



By [Wes Breazell](#), US
In the [In The Round Collection](#)

INVITATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE NHGRI ISSC

Dear APHA Genomics Forum Members,

We are pleased to invite you all to become members of the NHGRI Inter-Society Coordinating Committee for Practitioner Education in Genomics (ISSC) (<https://www.genome.gov/For-Health-Professionals/Inter-Society-Coordinating-Committee-for-Practitioner-Education-in-Genomics>). We accept individual, industry, and organizational members who are interested in genomics education for healthcare providers. We have calls four times a year in which we share progress on genomics educational products and share best practices and ideas. We have one In-Person Meeting each year, which will be on **Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2020** on the NIH Main Campus in Bethesda, MD. After you become an ISSC-PEG member, I can send detailed information about the upcoming In-Person Meeting.

All participants are volunteers and work together to meet needs that they see in their communities. We are recently expanding the ISSC-PEG to include public health genomics, so your participation and contributions will be much appreciated. Our members create and/or join Project Groups. Several active groups are pharmacogenomics, direct-to-consumer testing, and rare diseases. The Project Groups, depending on which one you join, have calls once per month for an hour. If someone volunteers to participate more fully in a resource development, then more time is required. Membership is free. I've attached the ISSC-PEG description with additional information.

TO APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP: Please send an email to Dr. Donna Messersmith at donna.messersmith@nih.gov stating your interest and previous experience in genomics education for healthcare providers. Because the In-Person Meeting is less than one month from now, if you are interested in participating in the ISSC-PEG, I encourage you to apply for membership as soon as possible.