

Coriell's Senior Genetic Counselor Awarded at National Conference

Erynn Gordon, MS, CGC, Director of Genetic Counseling for the Coriell Personalized Medicine Collaborative® (CPMC®), was presented with the Best Abstract Award at the 28th National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC) Annual Education Conference, held November 12-15, 2009, in Atlanta, GA.

Entitled "Motivations and Perceptions of Participants in a Personal Genomics Study," Ms. Gordon's award-winning abstract was selected from more than 100 submissions. As the winner, she was given the opportunity to present her work on the Coriell Personalized Medicine Collaborative® (CPMC®), a forward-looking research study aimed at understanding the utility of genome information in health management. Ms. Gordon's research focus is on the behavior of the CPMC® study participants – specifically, measuring what motivates early-adopters of personalized medicine to participate in the study. Preliminary results show that most participants' reasons for attending an informed consent session align closely with the potential benefits of the study; however, there are a number of participants with misconceptions regarding the potential benefits of genomic testing. In addition, the results show that the majority of CPMC® participants intend to share their results with their healthcare providers. Further investigation will clarify individuals' motives to participate in genomic testing and may help to advance the incorporation of genome information into routine medical care.



Erynn Gordon, MS, CGC, is Director of Genetic Counseling for the Coriell Personalized Medicine Collaborative (CPMC).

As the CPMC's Director of Genetic Counseling, Ms. Gordon conducts research on the impact of genetics on behavior, develops educational materials for study participants and health professionals, and provides free genetic counseling to study participants and their physicians by phone, email and/or in person. She is a board-certified genetic counselor who earned a Bachelor's degree in biology and psychology at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA, and a Master of Science degree in genetic counseling from the University of Pittsburgh in 2001. She was certified by the American Board of Genetic Counseling in 2002 and was recently elected to serve on the American Board of Genetic Counseling.