

Abstract: 2020 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Showcase

Genetic Counseling Trainee Platform for Racial Justice

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The genetic counseling community presently lacks diversity. Approximately 90% of genetic counselors identify as a white female according to the National Society of Genetic Counselors 2020 Professional Status Survey. After the death of George Floyd and the ongoing lack of diversity within the genetic counseling community, the Genetic Counseling Trainee Platform for Racial Justice (GCRJ) was created to facilitate self-reflection, self-education, and community learning about anti-racism within the genetic counseling trainee community. Given that genetic counselors provide care to patients of all races, backgrounds, and identities, it is important that all genetic counseling trainees have access to education, resources, and a community focused on dismantling systemic racism. In addition to promoting anti-racism within the current genetic counseling trainee community, this organization aims to diversify the prospective student community through minority focused outreach to promote greater diversity in the future generations of genetic counselors. In 2018, Baylor College of Medicine initiated the inaugural class of the Genetic Counseling Program. While GCRJ includes genetic counseling trainees across the globe, several BCM genetic counseling students are members of this organization. BCM genetic counseling students have utilized this organization as a space to collaborate on a global scale and learn more about the history and current implications of racism on the field of genetics.