



RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC PROGRESS IN GENETIC COUNSELLING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN



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RESEARCH PROJECTS

2011:

- **Zandre Bruwer (now Laing)** received her PhD for her study entitled: *“An investigation into the psychosocial factors which have an impact on access to and utilisation of the mobile endoscopic surveillance service offered to high-risk members of known Lynch families identified through predictive testing.”*

2010:

- **Nakita Verkijk (now Laing)** graduated **with distinction** with a MSc in Human Genetics following her research project entitled: *“ An investigation into the reasons for non-uptake of carrier testing in a family affected by alpha thalassaemia X-linked mental retardation (ATR-X) syndrome.”*
- **Chantelle Scott** received her MSc in Genetic Counselling with the research project entitled: *“An investigation into the experiences of parents with a preschool child with Down syndrome”*

2009:

- **Gabriele Solomon** graduated **with distinction** with a MSc in Human Genetics following her study on *“Develop strategies to explain genetic terminology to Xhosa speaking lay persons.”* This study was part of a national NRF funded study on linguistics (Health communication project) (PI: C Penn and J Greenberg listed as a collaborator).

2007:

- UCT awarded funding for 3 years by SANPAD for a project entitled *“Investigating communication and cultural practices in genetic counselling sessions in SA”*
- The MRC awarded UCT funding for a project around *“Transcending cross-cultural and cross-linguistic barriers: the challenges of communication practices in genetic counselling in SA.”*
- **Mardelle Schoeman** was awarded her MSc in genetic counselling for the project addressed *“An investigation into the level of genetic knowledge and family communication about genetic risk in parents of children with Cystic Fibrosis”*.
- **Zandre Bruwer/Laing** was awarded her MSc in genetic counselling with the project addressed: *“Hereditary Nonpolyposis Colorectal Cancer: Comprehension of a cancer risk in conjunction with a genetic risk.”*
- **Dr Shobana Kubendran** was a MSc student at the University of South Carolina, USA who undertook a qualitative research project entitled *“Genetic Counseling Professionals in Eleven Countries: Emergence, Practice & Current Issues.”* Together with **Professor Janice Edwards** from the University of South Carolina, USA and **Dr Shobana Kubendran, Jacque Greenberg** was involved with this qualitative research.

2006:

- Together with **Professor Claire Penn** from Wits, UCT was funded from the NRF for a genetic counselling project on *“language and communication at UCT”* (Haemophilia genetic communication

project).

- **Kelly Loggenberg** received her MSc in Genetic counselling with the project entitled: *“An investigation into the level of genetic knowledge of parents of sons with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and their satisfaction with the genetic counselling service at Red Cross War Memorial Children’s Hospital.”*

2005:

- **Brenda Kruger** received her MSc in Genetic counselling with the project entitled: *“Hereditary Nonpolyposis Colorectal Cancer: Factors Contributing to Adherence and Non-adherence to Surveillance for Mutation Carriers in Rural Areas of the Northern and Western Cape.”*
- **Frieda Basson/Loubser** received her MSc in Genetic counselling with the project entitled: *“How individuals and families with Inherited Retinal Degenerative Disorders perceive being part of a genetic research programme.”*

PRESENTATIONS

2011:

Oral Presentation at the Joint Conference of the South African and African Societies of Human Genetics: 6–9 March 2011, CAPE TOWN.

- **Regular colonoscopic surveillance reduces risk of colon cancer by fifty percent in Lynch Syndrome: Why patients do not heed this advice?** Z. Bruwer, M Futter, R Ramesar.

Posters presented at the Joint Conference of the South African and African Societies of Human Genetics 2011 and the Young Researchers Forum: 6–9 March 2011, CAPE TOWN

- **BRCA1 and BRCA2 predictive testing: Case report of two double heterozygotes present in an Afrikaner family and implications for diagnostic testing.** F. Loubser, JNP de Villiers, NC van der Merwe.
- **Albinism: Attitudes and Stigmatisation in a Local South African Population.** C. Lewis, F Loubser, L Stakes.
- **Experiences of parents with a child with Down syndrome in the Western Cape.** C. Scott, M Futter, A Wonkam.
- **Determining the effect of Modifier Genes on the survival period until diagnosis of Lynch syndrome.** N. Verkijk, A Vorster, S Owens and R Ramesar.
- **The Phenotype of Juvenile Huntington Disease in the Western Cape.** M. Schoeman, K Fieggen, J Heckman, R van Toorn, G Riordan, M Urban.

Poster presented at the third Biennial meeting of the Transnational Alliance of Genetic Counsellors (TAGC): 11 October, 2011, MCGILL UNIVERSITY, MONTREAL, CANADA.
(<http://tagc.med.sc.edu/montreal11.asp>)

- Tina Wessels (Wits), Jennifer Kromberg (Wits) and Jacquie Greenberg (UCT) **Genetic Counselling Training in South Africa.**

2009:

Oral presentation at the thirteenth congress of the SA Society of Human Genetics SASHG: April 2009, SPIER, STELLENBOSCH, WESTERN CAPE:

- **Delivery of an ophthalmic genetic service including a telephone counselling model: a bench-to-bedside**

review. J Greenberg, LJ Roberts, M Schoeman, Z Bruwer, K Loggenberg, F Loubser.

Poster presentations at the thirteenth congress of the SA Society of Human Genetics SASHG: April 2009, SPIER, STELLENBOSCH, WESTERN CAPE:

- **Personal understanding of predictive test result in South African nonpolyposis colorectal cancer families.** Z Bruwer. R Ramesar. J Greenberg. M Futter
- **Genetic counselling experiences in delivery of genetic research results to patients affected with ABCA4 associated retinal degenerative disorders.** F Loubser, K Loggenberg, L Roberts, LJ Greenberg

2008:

Poster presentation at the School of Child & Adolescent Health Annual Research Day: 21st & 22nd October, 2008 RED CROSS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, CAPE TOWN

- **The Impact of level of Genetic Knowledge on Reproductive Choices and Risk Communication in Cystic Fibrosis Families.”** M Schoeman, M Futter, J Greenberg

2007:

Oral presentation at the third International Conference on Birth Defects and Disabilities in the Developing World: June 17–21, 2007, RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

- **Exploring Patient Perceptions of Participating in a Genetic Research Programme in South Africa using Qualitative Methods.** F Basson, M Futter , J Greenberg

Oral presentation at the twelfth congress of the South African Society of Human Genetics: March 2007, GOLDEN GATE HIGHLANDS NATIONAL PARK

- **An Investigation into the Level of Genetic Knowledge of Parents of Sons with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.** K Loggenberg, M Futter, J Greenberg.

Poster presentation at the annual Congress of the European Society of Human Genetics: June 2007, NICE, FRANCE

- **A qualitative investigation of the impact of DMD on South African families.** K Loggenberg, M Futter, J Greenberg.

2005:

Presentation at the eleventh congress of the SA Society of Human Genetics SASHG: 2005, MULDRSDRIFT, GAUTENG.

- **Sorsby Fundus Dystrophy and the importance of counselling in the delivery of genetic results to at-risk individuals: a Lab to Life experience.** J. Greenberg, A. Peters, R. Ramesar.

2004:

Poster presentation at the twenty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Society of Genetic Counsellors: October 2004, WASHINGTON

- **THE GREAT DIVIDE: The challenge to genetic counsellors of maintaining ethical standards of practice in previously disadvantaged and under-resourced communities in South Africa.** PA Craig, U Algar, R Felix, G Pietersen, A Vorster, R Hendriks, PA Goldberg, RS Ramesar.

Poster presentation at the first International Symposium of the National Neurovision Research Institute on translation of clinical and molecular research for inherited retinal disease therapies: November 2004,

- **The importance of counselling in the delivery of genetic results to patients and families with retinal degenerative disorders in southern Africa : from lab to life.** J. Greenberg, A. Peters, R. Ramesar.

Seminar given for Professor Janice Edwards, Director, Genetic Counselling Program, University of South Carolina School of Medicine and for Professor Barbara Biesecker at the NIH in Washington: November 2004

- *Championing change and challenges facing genetic counsellors in Southern Africa.* J Greenberg.