

Nicolette Walano

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Education

Master of Science, Genetic Counseling **2014-2016**
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

Thesis: Familial Clustering of Suicide and Major Depressive Disorder: An Observational Analysis

Bachelor of Science, Psychology with Biology minor **2005-2010**
DePaul University, Chicago, IL

Senior Honors Thesis: Neural Lesioning in Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Patients

Employment Experience

Tulane University Hayward Genetics Center, New Orleans, LA **June 2016**

General Genetics Genetic Counselor
Tulane University Faculty Instructor
Telegenetics Coordinator

Medical Director: Hans C. Andersson M.D.

- Explained genes, chromosomes, inheritance and risks.
- Provided psychosocial support to patients.
- Prepared patient letters and laboratory request forms
- Counseled patients regarding results, explained the significance and risks related to positive, negative and variant results.
- Scheduled and organized clinics
- Participated in the curriculum committee for the Master's of Human Genetics program at Tulane University

Graduate Student Researcher UPMC, Pittsburgh, PA **May, 2015-June 2016**

Supervisor: Lisa Pan, M.D.

- Elicited family histories during study intake appointments, entered and utilized them for analysis
- Researched, analyzed and counseled patients on unusual metabolic and genetic findings, including microarray results.
- Coordinated insurance coverage for study participants receiving genetic testing outside of study protocol.
- Aided in writing case reports and a grant for the National PKU Alliance
- Interpreted whole exome results on a research basis
- Liaised between psychiatric clinic and medical genetics department for patient appointments

Shift Supervisor YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago, IL **February, 2012-February, 2013**

Supervisor: Jennifer VanderPloeg

- Operated the 24-hour Chicago Rape Crisis Hotline and RAINN Hotline, maintained up-to-date information regarding resources and policy.
- Conceptualized and presented information for ICASA 40 hour volunteer training, train and supervised volunteers on day-to-day office operations. Debriefed new volunteers after calls.
- Recruited volunteers by working events at local organizations as well as by forging partnerships between the rape crisis hotline and local organizations and education centers.

Genetic Counseling Experience

Allegheny Health Network Cancer Institute, Pittsburgh, PA

May 2015

Cancer Genetics

Medical Director: Lawrence Wickerham M.D. Supervisor: Emily James M.S., CGC

- Obtained family and medical histories in preparation for appointments.
- Explained hereditary, familial and sporadic cancers, genes, chromosomes, inheritance and cancer risks. Provided psychosocial support to patients.
- Prepared patient letters and laboratory request forms
- Called patients with results, explained the significance and risks related to positive, negative and variant results.

Magee-Women's Hospital of UPMC, Pittsburgh, PA

June-August 2015

Prenatal/Adult Genetics

Medical Director: Aleksandar Rajkovic, M.D., Ph.D. Supervisor: Michele Clemens M.S., CGC

- Participated in counseling sessions. Ascertained detailed family and pregnancy history. Explained risks based on advanced maternal age, family history and screening results. Discussed testing options including risks, benefits and detection rates.
- Worked with insurance companies to preauthorize coverage for genetic tests, prepared patient letters, and called patients with test results. Identified appropriate resources in the community and provided psychosocial support
- Prepared case summaries for adult clinic. Presented cases to genetics team during weekly clinic meeting.
- Participated in Fetal Diagnostic and Treatment Center clinic, Huntington's disease clinic and Sickle Cell clinic.

Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, PA

September 2015-January 2016

Pediatric Genetics/Utilization Review Management

Medical Director: Gerald Vockley, M.D., Ph.D. Supervisors: Elena Infante M.S., CGC and Roxanne Aquaro M.S., CGC

- Participated in counseling sessions for a variety of indications. Ascertained detailed pregnancy, family and medical history and explained basic genetic concepts
- Provided psychosocial support to patients and their families during appointments
- Prepared patient letters and case presentations. Identified appropriate resources in the community and prepared slides for genetic testing results disclosure
- Reviewed past medical records and relevant biochemical and genetic testing to prepare cases for clinic

- Worked with certified genetic counselors and medical geneticists to determine the most appropriate course of testing and/or management for patients
- Participated in several specialty clinics: metabolic disorders, lysosomal storage disorders and phenylketonuria
- Participated in weekly case conferences with medical genetics staff
- Created educational slides for interdisciplinary education and utilization review

Magee-Women's Hospital of UPMC, Pittsburgh, PA

January-March 2016

Cancer Genetics Program

Medical Director: Aleksandar Rajkovic, M.D., Ph.D. Supervisor: Darcy Thull M.S., CGC

- Participated in counseling sessions. Ascertained detailed family and medical history and provided psychosocial support to patients and their families
- Prepared patient letters, case presentations and called patients with test results.
- Identified appropriate resources in the community.
- Built pedigrees and used appropriate models for assessing cancer risks
- Prepared patient friendly educational slides based on the patient's specific cancer type, family history or genetic indication.
- Participated in weekly clinic meeting and presented cases

Conference Presentations and Publications

Pan, L., Zimmer, T., Martin, P., Segreti, A., Kassif, S., McKain, B., Baca, C., Rengasamy, M., Hyland, K., Walano, N., Steinfeld, R., Hughes, M., Pasquino, M., Finegold, D., Perel, J., Naviaux, R., Brent, D., Vockley, J. *Neurometabolomic disorders: potentially treatable abnormalities in patients with treatment refractory depression and suicidal behavior*. American Journal of Psychiatry (submitted).

Wiet, D.; Walano, N; and Higgins, T. B. *Using GIS software to make periodic table diffusion cartograms*. 22nd Biennial Conference on Chemical Education, July 2012, Abst. P531.

Jason, L.A., Porter, N., Walano, N., Barach, I., Morello, M., & Paavola, E. *An effort to influence medical textbook writers*. (2010). The Journal of IIME, 4, 13-20.

Walano, N. Jason, L.A. *Neural Lesioning in Patients with a Viral Etiology of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: A Meta-Analytic Review (2010)* Poster Presented at DePaul University's Psych Night Research Conference

Walano, N. Jason, L.A. *Neural Lesioning in Patients with a Viral Etiology of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: A Meta-Analytic Review (2010)* Poster Presented at The Midwest Psychological Association 82nd Annual Conference

Jason, L.A., Porter, N., Walano, N. *Textbook Intervention: How Textbook Orientation Changes the Representation of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome* (2009). Poster presented at DePaul University's Psych Night Research Conference, Chicago, IL