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Genetic Alliance Announces Winners of the Impact Awards

Outreach and Education Programs that Improve Access to Genetic Services and Support

WASHINGTON, DC (May 30, 2014) –Genetic Alliance is excited to announce the seven winning proposals chosen to receive Impact Awards as part of the activities of the National Genetics Education and Consumer Network (NGECN). For a one-year period (May 2014-April 2015) awardees will focus on significantly expanding the reach of their existing outreach and education efforts and scaling their impact on access to genetic services and support for individuals and families.

Awardees include:

- Boston University School of Public Health
- Gallaudet University
- Nemours A.I. duPont Hospital for Children
- Michigan Public Health Institute
- The Center for Jewish Genetics
- The Hali Project
- The University of Wisconsin-Madison

The [Impact Awards](#) are a key activity of the NGECN, which focuses on improving access to and knowledge about genetic services and support through consumer engagement and public education activities. “It is very exciting to see the number of different kinds of genetics-related projects that exist and are having a measurable impact on communities across the US,” says James O’Leary, Chief Innovation Officer for Genetic Alliance. “Beyond expanding the reach of these seven projects, our goal is to highlight model programs and effective strategies to help guide future efforts.”

Consumers played a pivotal role in designing the award opportunity, reviewing the proposals, and selecting exemplary projects that took not only the needs of consumers into account, but their voice as well. “Incorporating consumer perspectives into the design of consumer-focused programs helps ensure your outreach and education strategies will be effective and meet the needs of the target population,” says Mark Smith, NGECN Consumer Advisory Group member. “The strongest proposals, and those that I believe will be most effective, worked with and for the target population to implement strategies that identify and reduce barriers to access.”

A full description of the Impact Award opportunity and the seven funded programs is available at: www.GeneticAlliance.org/ImpactAwards.

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About NGEEN

The National Genetics Education and Consumer Network (NGEEN) is a three-year initiative led by Genetic Alliance in conjunction with efforts of the American College of Medical Genetics' [National Coordinating Center for the Regional Genetic Service Collaboratives](#) (NCC). This collaboration and award opportunity are supported by the Genetics Services Branch of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau within the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Cooperative Agreement #U22MC04100.

About Genetic Alliance

[Genetic Alliance](#) is a nonprofit health advocacy organization that engages individuals, families, and communities to transform health. We bring together diverse stakeholders to create novel partnerships in advocacy. We promote individualized decision making through increased access to information. We integrate individual, family, and community perspectives to improve health systems and services.