

Heather Ferguson joins Genetic Alliance as the Associate Director of Genetic Resources & Services

WASHINGTON, DC – May 15, 2007 - Heather Ferguson, MS, CGC, comes to Genetic Alliance with over ten years of experience as a genetic counselor. Originally from Boston, Massachusetts, she relocated to Washington, DC in 2005. Before joining Genetic Alliance, she worked as the Director of Genetic Counseling Services for GeneDx, a testing company whose mission is to make clinical testing available to people with rare genetic conditions and their families. Before that, she was the coordinator for a Harvard-affiliated research study for individuals with balanced chromosome rearrangements. Her clinical background is diverse and includes prenatal, cancer and adult genetics. She earned her degree from the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston. Heather has a special interest in genetic education. She is dedicated to training genetic counseling students, as well as other healthcare professionals, in a continued effort toward the improvement of patient care.

At Genetic Alliance, Heather will coordinate the Access to Credible Genetics Resources Network project (funded by CDC), the goal of which is to provide access to quality information about Duchenne Becker Muscular Dystrophy and Fragile X syndrome for families and health care providers. She will also coordinate work on the newly expanded Disease InfoSearch and the Collaboration, Education and Test Translation Program sponsored by the Office of Rare Diseases, NIH (cettprogram.org). “We are delighted to have Heather join us. Her passion for empowering individuals and families and her facility with genetics education and information will propel us forward”, said Sharon Terry, President & CEO. You can reach Heather at hferguson@geneticalliance.org

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Genetic Alliance transforms leadership. Genetic Alliance increases the capacity of organizations to achieve their missions and leverages the voices of millions of individuals and families living with genetic conditions. We build communication and mentoring networks, design and sponsor rigorous training courses, and provide infrastructure that strengthens and empowers our 600 member organizations. The technical assistance we provide to advocacy organizations results in measurable growth: increased funding for research, access to services and support for emerging technologies. For more information:

www.geneticalliance.org.