

Curriculum Vitae

Amanda Scaffé Higgs, M.G.C., C.G.C.

Instructor, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences
University of Maryland School of Medicine

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Contact Information

Business Address: Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences
22 South Greene Street, N6W39
Baltimore, MD 21201
Business Phone Number: (410) 328-3338
Fax: (410) 328-0279
Email: ahiggs@umm.edu

Education

1996	B.S.	Biology, University of Richmond (summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa), undergraduate honors research thesis – “The Control of Flagellar Regeneration in Chlamydomonas reinhardtii”
2000	M.G.C.	Masters in Genetic Counseling, University of Maryland School of Medicine. Masters thesis – “Evaluation of Different Recruitment Strategies Used in a Family Study”

Certificates

2002	Diplomate, American Board of Genetic Counseling (#2002292)
2012	Diplomate, American Board of Genetic Counseling (#11515)

Employment History

1996 – 1997	Research Assistant, Acute Cardiac Team, Department of Nuclear Medicine, Medical College of Virginia
1998	Family Planning Associate (volunteer), Planned Parenthood of Maryland
1998 – 2000	Study Coordinator, Family Study of Early Onset Ischemic Stroke, Department of Neurology, University of Maryland School of Medicine
2000 – 2002	Prenatal Genetic Counselor, High Risk Pregnancy Center, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Mercy Medical Center
2002 – present	Prenatal Genetic Counselor, Center for Advanced Fetal Care, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, University of Maryland School of Medicine
2011 – present	Senior Genetic Counselor, Center for Advanced Fetal Care, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, University of Maryland School of Medicine

Employment History (continued)

2011 – present Genetic Counselor, Fetal Heart Program, Center for Advanced Fetal Care,
Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, University of
Maryland School of Medicine

Academic Appointments

2004 – 2011 Clinical Instructor (Volunteer), Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and
Reproductive Sciences, University of Maryland School of Medicine
2009 – present Graduate Faculty Member (Associate), University of Maryland Graduate School,
University of Maryland
2011 – present Instructor, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences,
University of Maryland School of Medicine

Professional Society Membership

2000 – present Full Member, National Society of Genetic Counselors
2002 – present Diplomate, American Board of Genetic Counseling

Honors and Awards

2010 Master Genetic Counselor (peer-nominated), Jane Engelberg Memorial
Foundation, National Society of Genetic Counselors

Clinical Activities

Prenatal genetic counseling for advanced maternal age, teratogen exposure, abnormal screening results,
fetal ultrasound abnormalities, family history concerns, termination of pregnancy for fetal indication
Teleconsultation

Clinical Expertise

Board certified genetic counselor

Scope of Clinical Practice

Site of Primary Practice:	Center for Advanced Fetal Care
Total Number of Encounters:	~400 per year
Responsibilities With Practice:	leadership role
Total Time Spent:	100% FTE

Administrative Service

Institutional Service

2002 – present	Member, Program Admissions Committee, Masters in Genetic Counseling Training Program, University of Maryland School of Medicine
2002 – present	Member, Oral Examination Committee (~2 students per year/~10 candidates total), Masters in Genetic Counseling Training Program, University of Maryland School of Medicine
2002	Chair, Psychosocial Curriculum Committee, Masters in Genetic Counseling Training Program Committee for Accreditation, University of Maryland School of Medicine,
2007	Chair, Medical Genetics Curriculum Committee, Masters in Genetic Counseling Training Program Committee for Reaccreditation, University of Maryland School of Medicine
2007 – present	Member, Curriculum Committee, Masters in Genetic Counseling Training Program, University of Maryland School of Medicine
2008 – present	Member, Prenatal Consultation Team, Ethical Advisory Committee, University of Maryland Medical Center
2010 – present	Member, Ethical Advisory Committee, University of Maryland Medical Center
2010 – present	Member, Perinatal Bereavement Committee, University of Maryland Medical Center
2012 – present	Member, Application Review Committee, Masters in Genetic Counseling Training Program, University of Maryland School of Medicine
2012 – present	Faculty Advisor, Medical Students for Choice, University of Maryland School of Medicine
2014	Planning Committee, Supervisor's Workshop, University of Maryland Genetic Counseling Training Program, University of Maryland School of Medicine
2014 – present	Member, Advancement Committee, Masters in Genetic Counseling Training Program, University of Maryland School of Medicine
2016	Member, Search Committee for Associate Program Director, Masters in Genetic Counseling Training Program, University of Maryland School of Medicine
2016	Alternate Member, School of Medicine Council, University of Maryland School of Medicine
2016 – present	Member, Steering Committee, Ethical Advisory Committee, University of Maryland Medical Center
2017 – present	Co-Director, Introduction to Genetics and Genetics Research Rotation, Maternal Fetal Medicine Fellowship Program, University of Maryland School of Medicine

Local and National Service

National Service

2007 – 2008	Member, Annual Education Conference Planning Committee, National Society of Genetic Counselors
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National Service (continued)

2016 Item Writer, Certified Genetic Counselor Examination, American Board of Genetic Counseling

Local Service

2000 Rapporteur, Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetic Testing
2011 - present Member, Birth Defect Reporting Information System Advisory Committee, The Office For Genetics and Children With Special Health Care Needs, State of Maryland

Teaching Service

Mercy Medical Center

2000-2002 Lecturer
"Prenatal Genetic Counseling, Prenatal Screening and Diagnosis"
6-8, 3rd year medical students - 8 contact hours per year

University of Maryland School of Medicine

2002 - present Clinical Supervisor, Masters in Genetic Counseling Training Program,
2-3 students per year

2002 - present Clinical Supervisor, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, ~6 residents per year

2002 - present Independent Study Project Advisor, Masters in Genetic Counseling Training Program, 8 students total

2002 - present Small Group Facilitator
Cell and Molecular Biology (Year 1 Block IV)
25 first-year medical students, 6 contact hours per year

2002 - present Lecturer, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences
"Nontraditional Inheritance and Updates in Molecular Testing in Prenatal Genetics"
"An update on prenatal screening for open neural tube defects and trisomies 18 and 21"
"Sample Prenatal Genetic Counseling Scenarios"
"Genetic Risk Assessment"
~ 24 residents, one contact hour per year

Teaching Service (continued)

University of Maryland School of Medicine (continued)

- 2002 - present Lecturer, Masters in Genetic Counseling Training Program
“Second Trimester Screening”
“Prenatal Diagnosis”
“Prenatal Role Playing”
“Practical Issues in Prenatal Genetic Counseling”
“Introduction to Genetic Carrier Screening”
“Genetic Termination of Pregnancy”
“First and Second Trimester Screening”
“Prenatal Genetic Counseling Boot Camp”
“Genetic Counseling Following Abnormal Prenatal Diagnosis; Crisis Counseling and Facilitation of Decision Making”
~8 students, 12 contact hours per year
- 2007 Lecturer, Division of Neonatology, Department of Pediatrics
“Prenatal Diagnosis for Genetic Disorders”
~6 neonatology fellows
- 2008 Lecturer, Department of Family Medicine
“Introduction to Prenatal Genetic Counseling”
~ 15 family medicine residents
- 2008 - present Coursemaster, Masters in Genetic Counseling Training Program
HGEN 610: Genetic Counseling Seminar
~16 students, 32 contact hours per year
- 2011 Lecturer, Program in Epidemiology and Human Genetics, Human Genetics and Genomic Medicine Track and Masters in Genetic Counseling Training Program
HGEN 601: Human Genetics 1
“Risk Assessment”
~14 graduate students, 2 contact hours
- 2011 - present Facilitator
MSPR 512: Structure and Development
~100 first-year medical students, 2 contact hours
- 2011 – present Clinical Supervisor, Maternal Fetal Medicine Fellowship Program,
1 fellow per year

Publications

Akkurt, MO, **Higgs, A**, Turan, OT, Turan, OM, Turan, S. Prenatal diagnosis of inverted duplication deletion 8p syndrome mimicking trisomy 18. Am J Med Genet Part A 2017 173A:776-779.

Abstracts and/or Proceedings

1. **Scaffé, A**, Pollin, T, Xu, J, Kittner, S. An evaluation of different recruitment strategies used in a family study. Journal of Genetic Counseling 2000; 9(6): 530. Poster presentation at the Annual Education Conference of the National Society of Genetic Counselors, Savannah, Georgia, 2000.
2. Piurek, A, **Higgs, A**, Ning, Y, Thomas, G. Current resources, methods and strategies for the identification of clinically important cytogenetic abnormalities: a survey and independent analysis. Journal of Genetic Counseling 2007; 16(6): 676. Platform presentation at the Annual Education Conference of the National Society of Genetic Counselors, Kansas City, Missouri, 2007.
3. Dinsmore, C, Udoff, L, **Higgs, A**, Ashley, S. The use of invasive prenatal diagnostic tests in patients with infertility. Journal of Genetic Counseling 2008; 17(6): 583. Platform presentation at the Annual Education Conference of the National Society of Genetic Counselors, Los Angeles, California, 2008.
4. Martin, J, **Higgs, A**, Denne, E, Baschat, A. Determination of risk assessment protocols for midtrimester amniocentesis in prenatal care centers. Journal of Genetic Counseling 2008; 17(6): 638. Poster presentation at the Annual Education Conference of the National Society of Genetic Counselors, Los Angeles, California, 2008.
5. Kantor, V, Joines, J, **Higgs, A**, Skinner, M. Patient education and subsequent satisfaction with genetic counseling. Poster presentation at the Annual Education Conference of the National Society of Genetic Counselors, San Diego, California, 2011.
6. Kaplan J, Skinner M, **Higgs A**, Harman C, Greene C. Uncontrolled Maternal PKU as a Cause of Holoprosencephaly. DW Smith Workshop, Lake Lanier, Buford, GA, 2012.
7. Low, A., Hippman, C., Dixon, S., **Higgs, A.**, & Joines, J. Training to provide psychiatric genetic counseling: How does it impact recent graduates' and current students' attitudes towards individuals with psychiatric illness and their readiness to provide genetic counseling for this population? Journal of Genetic Counseling 2015; 24(6): 1139. Poster presentation at the Annual Education Conference of the National Society of Genetic Counselors, Pittsburgh, PA, October 2015.

Major Invited Speeches

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| 2000, 2001, 2002 | Scaffé, A. "Introduction to Clinical Genetics and Genetic Counseling" (Departmental Seminar), Department of Biology, University of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia |
| 2012 | Higgs, A. "Genetic Considerations in Congenital Heart Disease", Focus on the Fetal Heart CME Symposium, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland |