

Brenda Ho

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Education

Master of Science in Genetic Counseling Anticipated May 2023
University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus | Aurora, CO

Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences & Physiology; Minors in Biochemistry and Microbiology May 2018
University of Arizona | Tucson, AZ

Eligible for ABGC Active Candidate Status upon graduation Anticipated May 2023

Genetic Counseling Experience

Inherited Metabolic Disease Clinic November 2022 – February 2023
Children's Hospital Colorado | Aurora, CO

- Provide genetic counseling for patients for PKU, lysosomal storage disorders, mitochondrial disease, fatty acid oxidation disorders, and other conditions
- Identify appropriate clinical trials for patients
- Attend and present cases at weekly team meetings with genetic counselors, physicians, and dietitians for discussion of medical nutritional, and psychosocial supports/needs
- Discuss newborn screening and new patient diagnostic protocols with team

Adult Neurology Genetics Clinic October 2022 – November 2022
University of Colorado Hospital | Aurora, CO

- Provide genetic counseling for adult patients for indications including hereditary prion disease, Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease, ALS, and ataxia
- Discuss the implications of genetic testing and impacts to family members
- Attend weekly case review meetings with the team to prepare for the upcoming week

Adult Hereditary Cancer Clinic August 2022 – September 2022 and Spring 2023
University of Colorado Hospital | Aurora, CO

- Provide genetic counseling for adult patients for personal and family history of multiple cancer types including breast, colon, renal, and thyroid
- Discuss the patient's cancer risk based on risk models and family history
- Determine appropriate genetic tests based on the indication
- Critically review NCCN guidelines and relevant literature for clinical indications

Pediatric Oncology Clinic July 2022 – Present
Children's Hospital Colorado | Aurora, CO

- Provide and observe genetic counseling for pediatric patients and their families for indications including Li Fraumeni syndrome, neutropenia, short telomere disorder, and other risk factors
- Review relevant medical records and literature and collect family history for risk assessment
- Attend pediatric oncology tumor board meetings

Specialty Genetics Clinic/Regional Telemedicine Clinics July 2022 – Present
Children's Hospital Colorado | Aurora, CO

- Provide and observe genetic counseling for patients in the following multidisciplinary specialty clinics: Cardiology, Ocular, Neurocutaneous, Neuromuscular, Skeletal Dysplasia, Cleft Lip/Palate, 22q11.2 deletion, SOAR (differences of sexual development)
- Provide genetic counseling to patients in rural Colorado via telemedicine
- Observe inpatient NICU/PICU genetics team consults

General Genetics Clinic

June 2022 – August 2022

Children's Hospital Colorado | Aurora, CO

- Provided genetic counseling to pediatric patients and their families for intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorder, hearing loss, connective tissue disorders, known genetic conditions, and other positive test results
- Reviewed relevant medical records, literature, and databases for the indication
- Conducted informed consent and discussed possible results including incidental findings
- Disclosed genetic testing results to families and conducted follow-up meetings as needed
- Wrote detailed clinical documentation in Epic for each patient

Prenatal Genetics Clinic

March 2022 – May 2022

Fetal Care Center, Kaiser Permanente, University of Colorado Hospital | Denver & Aurora, CO

- Provided genetic counseling for patients for advanced maternal age, carrier screening, fetal anomalies on ultrasound, and family history of genetic conditions
- Discussed recurrence risk, inheritance patterns, and testing options and results
- Attended family meetings with multidisciplinary team that included fetal surgeons, neonatologists, radiologists, social workers, and genetic counselors

Oncology Genetic Counseling Assistant

October 2019 – July 2021

Community Health Network | Indianapolis, IN

- Supported clinical activities of five genetic counselors
- Disclosed and documented negative and variant of unknown significance genetic test results to patients by phone, approximately 10 patients per week
- Collected personal and family history using CancerGene Connect and Epic EMR for an average of 25 counseling sessions per week
- Wrote a research abstract on a newly proposed clinical process as part of the MDAnderson project and presented a research poster at the 2020 NSGC Annual Conference

Volunteer

June 2018 – December 2019

University of Arizona Cancer Center | Tucson, AZ

- Built pedigrees in Progeny by compiling patient and family medical history from patient charts
- Created educational handouts and visual aids to describe the fundamental concepts for genetic counseling of patients

Research Experience

Capstone Research Project

January 2022 – Present

- Title: Assessing the Risk for Hereditary Cancer in Transmasculine and/or Nonbinary Individuals that are Assigned-Female-at-Birth and the Influence of Genetic Counseling on Surgery Decisions
- Designed a mixed method study through RedCap software to assess breast cancer risk and risk perception in this population to determine whether a referral process between the Integrated Transgender Program and the Hereditary Cancer Clinic at the University of Colorado is feasible
- Will write manuscript and present findings at departmental seminar in May 2023

Product Development Research Intern

May 2017 – August 2017

Roche Ventana Medical Systems, Inc. | Oro Valley, AZ

- Developed an *in situ* hybridization assay as a companion treatment for stomach cancer
- Delivered a presentation summarizing research findings to an audience of 70 employees
- Provided research updates during weekly team and monthly department meetings

Publications

- Bednar E, Chen M, Walsh M, Eppolito A, Klein M, Todd K, Hodge B, Berg (Hunter) J, Chao HG, Davis D, Serchion S, Yobbi C, Krukenberg R, Jenkinson S, Moore J, Garcia C, Gonzalez F, Murray T, Nielsen L, **Ho B**, ..., & Lu K. Outcomes of the BRCA Quality Improvement Dissemination Program: An initiative to improve patient receipt of cancer genetics services at five health systems. *Genetics in Medicine*. Manuscript in submission.
- Blohm-Mangone K, Burkett NB, Tahsin S, Myrdal PB, Aodah A, **Ho B**, Janda J, McComas M, Saboda K, Roe DJ, Dong Z, Bode AM, Petricoin EF 3rd, Calvert VS, Curiel-Lewandrowski C, Alberts DS, Wondrak GT, & Dickinson SE. (2018). Pharmacological TLR4 Antagonism Using Topical Resatorvid Blocks Solar UV-Induced Skin Tumorigenesis in SKH-1 Mice. *Cancer Prev Res (Phila)*, 11(5):265-278. <http://doi.org/10.1158/1940-6207.CAPR-17-0349>.

Posters

- **Ho B**, Garcia C, Yobbi C, Moore J, Jenkinson S, Gonzalez F, Krukenberg, R. (2020, November). Review Process of Somatic Tumor Reports and Genetic Germline Counseling Referrals. 2020 NSGC Annual Conference (virtual format).
- **Ho B**, Bricker D, Pang L. (2017, August). RNA in situ Hybridization. Roche Ventana Medical Systems, Inc., Oro Valley, Arizona.

Educational Activities

Conferences

- 2022 National Society of Genetic Counselors Annual Conference | Nashville, TN
- 2022 Semi-Annual Colorado Genetic Counselors Symposium | Aurora, CO
- 2020 National Society of Genetic Counselors Annual Conference | Virtual

Genetic Counseling Journal Club

- Present current research literature and facilitate two discussions, one article on discussing parental understanding of variants of unknown significance in pediatric neurology and developmental pediatric clinics, the second article on diversity training experiences and implicit bias
- Actively participate in monthly discussions with other genetic counseling students