

Hybrid Conference Programme

Start (GMT)	Finish (GMT)	Presenter details
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Monday 24 February 2025

12:00	13:00	Registration, lunch and networking
12:45		<i>Briefing for Session 1 speakers, microphone runners, chair, moderator & committee - Auditorium</i>
13:00	13:10	Welcome and introductions
		Wellcome Connecting Science: <i>Treasa Creavin, Wellcome Connecting Science, UK</i>
		Scientific programme committee: Khadajah Bakur, LiferOmics, Saudi Arabia Annie Quratulain Hasan, Kamineni Hospital, India Charlotta Ingvaldstad Malmgren, Karolinska University Hospital, Sweden Kelly Ormond, ETH Zurich, Switzerland
13:10	14:40	Session 1: Genetic counselling practice around the world
		<i>Chair: Annie Quratulain Hasan, Kamineni Hospital, India</i> <i>Moderator: Kelly Ormond, ETH Zurich, Switzerland</i>
13:10	13:40	Genetic Counselling in the EU: Policy recommendations and implementation pathways J. Matt McCrary, Hannover Medical School, Germany
13:40	14:10	The state of genetic counselling in Asia Breana Cham, KK Women's and Children's Hospital, Singapore
14:10	14:25	A prospective, multicentre, qualitative study exploring how family communication is addressed in genetic counselling <i>Sandra Pinto da Silva, University of Aveiro, Portugal</i>
14:25	14:40	Establishing molecular diagnostics and genetic counseling services in Tanzania <i>Mohamed Alimohamed, Muhimbili University Of Health And Allied Sciences, Tanzania (VIRTUAL)</i>
14:40	15:20	Refreshment break and networking
15:05		<i>Briefing for Session 2 & 3 speakers, chair & moderator - Auditorium</i>
15:20	16:50	Session 2: Genetic counselling education and training - sharing best approaches
		<i>Chair: Khadajah Bakur, LiferOmics, Saudi Arabia</i> <i>Moderator: Charlotta Ingvaldstad Malmgren, Karolinska University Hospital, Sweden</i>
15:20	15:50	A new developmental milestone framework for genetic counselor graduate education Dawn Allain, Ohio State University, USA
15:50	16:20	Developing competencies for genetic counselor training in countries where the profession is new or emerging Kelly Ormond, ETH Zurich, Switzerland
16:20	16:35	Communities of practice: Developing capability across the multiprofessional workforce to implement genomic medicine at scale <i>Gemma Chandratillake, NHS East Genomics, UK</i>
16:35	16:50	From classroom to clinic: Exploring the communication skills training journeys of genetic counselling students in a South African context <i>Megan Scott, University of the Witwatersrand; MSGenetics, South Africa</i>
16:50	17:00	Comfort break
17:00	17:40	Session 3: Debate - What defines a genetic counsellor: skills v certification
		<i>Chair: Charlotta Ingvaldstad Malmgren, Karolinska University Hospital, Sweden</i> <i>Moderator: Kelly Ormond, ETH Zurich, Switzerland</i>
		Caroline Benjamin, Cardiff University, UK Rebecka Pestoff, Linköping University, Sweden
17:40	18:30	Drinks reception and speed networking
18:30	20:30	Dinner
		Bar open (card payments only)

Tuesday 25 February 2025

08:45	09:30	Virtual Poster Session - odd numbered posters (from presenters based in Europe, Africa and Asia)
09:15		Briefing for Session 4 speakers, chair & moderator - Auditorium
09:30	10:45	Session 4: The art of being a researcher - building capacity and collaborations Chair: Kelly Ormond, ETH Zurich, Switzerland Moderator: Charlotta Ingvaldstad Malmgren, Karolinska University Hospital, Sweden
09:30	10:00	GC research journey Cindy James, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, USA
10:00	10:15	DNA Voices Brazil: citizen science platform for co-production of popular education, multi-professional teams continued learning and governance model observatory Maria Sharmila Alina de Sousa, Escola Paulista De Medicina, Universidade Federal De Sao Paulo, Brazil (VIRTUAL)
10:15	10:30	Challenges, insights and outcomes of a clinically integrated multi-omic rare disease program, RDNOW, for individuals who remain undiagnosed after clinical genomic sequencing Michelle de Silva, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Australia
10:30	10:45	Returning individual genetic results to research participants: Experiences of stigma in South African families with neurodevelopmental disorders Nolene Chetty, University Of Cape Town, South Africa (VIRTUAL)
10:45	11:30	Refreshment break and networking
11:30	13:00	Session 5: Research collaborations - building research networks in genetic counselling (in person only workshop) <i>Rosalind Franklin Pavilion</i> Led by: Khadijah Bakur, LiferaOmics, Saudi Arabia
13:00	14:15	Lunch and networking
14:00		Briefing for Session 6 speakers, chair & moderator - Auditorium
14:15	15:45	Session 6: Cultural humility in genetic counselling: global perspectives and adaptive practices Chair: Annie Qurratulain Hasan, Kamineni Hospital, India Moderator: Khadijah Bakur, LiferaOmics, Saudi Arabia
14:15	14:45	Navigating cultural and ethical dilemmas in genetic counseling: Insights and challenges from Qatar in the genomic era Reem Jawad A Al Sulaiman, Hamad Medical Corporation Doha, Qatar
14:45	15:15	Experiences of teaching and practising cultural humility Sasha Henriques, Wellcome Connecting Science, UK
15:15	15:30	The Arab genome - culture, tradition, and religion: A guide for expats and a reflection for Arabs Hibat Omer, Genomics Hub UAE, United Arab Emirates (VIRTUAL)
15:30	15:45	Thinking through models of disability: Comparative practices in prenatal testing Jonathan Roberts, East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Trust, UK (VIRTUAL)
15:45	16:30	Refreshment break and networking
16:20		Briefing for Keynote, chair & moderator - Auditorium
16:30	17:20	Keynote Chair: Kelly Ormond, ETH Zurich, Switzerland Moderator: Charlotta Ingvaldstad Malmgren, Karolinska University Hospital, Sweden Genetic counsellors as healthcare gamechangers Clara Gaff, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Australia
17:20	17:50	Poster pitch talks Chair: Khadijah Bakur, LiferaOmics, Saudi Arabia
17:50	18:35	Poster session - odd numbered posters (in person and virtual poster presenters based in UK, North and Latin America)
18:35	19:20	Poster session - even numbered posters (in person and virtual poster presenters based in UK, North and Latin America)
19:20	20:30	Dinner
		Bar open (card payments only)

Wednesday 26 February 2025

08:45 09:30 **Virtual Poster Session - even numbered posters (from presenters based in Europe, Africa and Asia)**

09:15 Briefing for Session 7 speakers, chair & moderator - Auditorium

09:30 11:00 Session 7: Using technology in genetic counselling

*Chair: Charlotta Ingvaldstad Malmgren, Karolinska University Hospital, Sweden
Moderator: Annie Qurratulain Hasan, Kamineni Hospital, India*

09:30 10:00 Chatbots in genetic counselling

Elen Siglen, Haukeland University Hospital, Norway

10:00 10:30 Bridging the gap: Leveraging technology in genetic counselling

[Rachelle Chambers, NYU Langone Health, USA](#)

10:30 10:45 Patient perspectives on the role of technology in genetic counselling: are online educational and artificial intelligence tools perceived as comparable to traditional genetic counseling care?

Heather Zierhut, University Of Minnesota, USA

10:45 11:00 Pilot of mainstreamed diagnostic germline breast cancer genetic testing using clinician-light BRCA-DIRECT model: interim findings from first 1756 patients

Bethany Torr, Institute of Cancer Research, UK (VIRTUAL)

11:00 11:40 Refreshment break and networking

11:30 Briefing for session 8 speakers, moderator & committee - Auditorium

11:40 13:10 Session 8: The future of genetic counselling in precision medicine (panel discussion)

*Chair: Kelly Ormond, ETH Zurich, Switzerland
Moderator: Charlotta Ingvaldstad Malmgren, Karolinska University Hospital, Sweden*

*Sonia Margarit, Clinica Alemana Universidad Del Desarrollo, Chile
Gemma Chandratillake, NHS East Genomics, United Kingdom
Masakazu Nishigaki, International University of Health and Welfare, Tokyo, Japan
Heather Zierhut, University Of Minnesota, USA
Lucinda Freeman, University Of Technology Sydney, Australia
Megan Scott University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa*

13:10 13:20 Closing Remarks

Scientific Programme Committee:

[Khadijah Bakur, LiferOmics, Saudi Arabia](#)

[Annie Qurratulain Hasan, Kamineni Hospital, India](#)

[Charlotta Ingvaldstad Malmgren, Karolinska University Hospital, Sweden](#)

[Kelly Ormond, ETH Zurich, Switzerland](#)

13:20 14:20 Lunch and departures

14:20 Coach departures for Stansted and Heathrow airports

14:30 Coach departures for Cambridge train station and city centre