



Warren Alpert Alliance to Increase Diversity in Genetic Counseling



The Warren Alpert Alliance to Increase Diversity in Genetic Counseling provides a unique opportunity for five accredited genetic counseling programs to work together, sharing resources and expertise, create an inclusive climate through strategies that address the diversity of learners and that support group learning. The Alliance programs will recruit and retain qualified students from groups that are Underrepresented in Genetic Counseling (URiGC).

The program is funded by the Warren Alpert Foundation, directed by the University of Pennsylvania Master of Science in Genetic Counseling program and includes Boston University, Rutgers University, Sarah Lawrence College, and the University of Maryland. Each program will enroll two Warren Alpert Scholars per year for the next five years. The students will receive mentoring and career development through the AID-GC program and their enrolled institution.

The Alliance programs will provide:

1. Funding to cover the cost of tuition, fees, meeting and conference travel and an educational fellowship that will allow the students to focus on their education.
2. A faculty advisor for each Warren Alpert Scholar to answer questions and provide support during the program.
3. A professional mentor for each Warren Alpert Scholar to provide guidance and career counseling. These mentors will include senior genetic counselors with extensive education experience and awareness of current issues surrounding diversity and inclusion.
4. A peer mentor – a rising second year genetic counseling student or recent graduate from a genetic counseling program will be assigned to each Warren Alpert Scholar.
5. All first-year genetic counseling students at each program will participate in an Anti-Bias training and education. This training will include JEDI course work and the development of standardized patient scenarios that focus on culturally sensitive concerns.

The Warren Alpert Scholars will:

1. Attend monthly virtual meetings and twice per year all Warren Alpert Scholars in-person retreat meetings.
2. Submit a portfolio outlining their academic achievements and community outreach participation prior to graduation.
3. Create and maintain a career development plan that describes their short and long-term career goals, identifying steps and measures to attain these goals, and demonstrate the progress they have made.
4. Participate in outreach efforts unique to their local community. These efforts will promote genetic counseling as a cutting-edge health care profession to undergraduates and high school students.

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