



Winter 2005

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2004 Annual Meeting A Great Success!



Tim Drumheller (CO), Sarah Iden (AZ), Karen Bryne-Essif (AZ) and BJ Archambault (MT) at the 20th Anniversary Gala.

For our 20th Anniversary, the MSGN Annual Meeting once again provided an outstanding program for new and returning members and guests.

Why was this meeting so successful? Here are a few of the many reasons:

- ◆ Attendance: 135 attendees, including many new faces.
- ◆ CEUs: Nursing, genetic counseling, and laboratory CEUs were available, adding interest and value to the meeting.
- ◆ Outstanding Presentations: The topics, information and presenters at this year's educational sessions were uniformly outstanding.
- ◆ Coordinated Effort: Many MSGN members and MSGF Board members assisted with the preparation of the meeting and obtaining CEUs.
- ◆ Great Support: Lillian Spreng and Laura Taylor efficiently managed registration, membership and many other important tasks to help the meeting run smoothly.
- ◆ Generous Grant Funding: The National Newborn Screening and Genetics Resource Center supported many aspects of the meeting with a generous grant.
- ◆ Supportive Vendors: Applied Spectral Imaging, Genzyme, and Vysis provided interesting technology presentations and exhibits.
- ◆ Bow to Our History: The 20th Anniversary Gala, and the excellent Silent Auction chaired by Gail Goldberg and Bev Christine, generated fun and funding with donations and bids.
- ◆ Location: Denver continues to be a great central location for the meeting, with good conference facilities. to support the meeting.

Only more attendance from the Network membership would have made the meeting even more successful! Although we missed those members who could not be present, MSGN was

delighted to see so many who attended for the first time. And we especially want to extend a warm welcome to those who joined the Network during the meeting. We look forward to your input and participation in the coming year!

MSGF AWARDED REGIONAL GENETICS COLLABORATIVE GRANT FOR REGION 6

The Mountain States Genetics Foundation has been awarded a Federal HRSA grant designed to support a national coordinating center (the Mountain States Genetics Network/Region 6) for regional genetic services and newborn screening collaboratives, including support for increasing the screening capacity of newborn screening programs to improve early identification of infants with hyperbilirubinemia.

The Mountain States Genetics Foundation will administrate the grant and coordinate the Mountain States Regional Network programs. The starting date for the grant was October 1, 2004.

Save the Date for the 2005 Annual Meeting

The agenda for the 2005 Annual Meeting is nearly complete, with an outstanding roster of topics. *Once again, continuing education credits for physicians, nurses, genetic counselors, laboratory technicians and attorneys will be offered.* This year's meeting will be held in Denver on July 14 -16 at the Inverness Hotel and Conference Center. Opening Presentation begins at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 14th; Final Program ends at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 16th.

For more information regarding attendance and exhibits, please contact Susan Bryan at (602) 870-4752 or email at susanbryan@mostgene.org.

WELCOME TEXAS!

In reorganizing the country into regions, the Genetics Branch has assigned Texas to Region 6 (formerly composed of only Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming). The MSGN is pleased to have Texas as part of the region and looks forward to working with its genetics stakeholders. The MSGN has a strong history with Texas via the Sickle Cell Consortium led by Dr. Peter Lane and its many years as TexGene. Again, a warm welcome to Texas as you join the Mountain States Genetics Network.