

## MONICA ALVARADO, M.S., C.G.C.

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### **A. EDUCATION:**

University:

University of California, San Diego-Revelle College,  
Double major: Biology/Anthropology  
B.A. degree, 1983

University of California, Irvine  
Major: Genetic Counseling  
Master of Science degree, 1986

Certification:

Diplomate, American Board of Medical Genetics  
Certified in Genetic Counseling, 1987

### **B. PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:**

**Work Experience:**

**May 2004-Present: Regional Genetic Services Administrator, Kaiser Permanente, Southern California.** Manage clinical and administrative operations of Regional Genetic Services. Supervise the operations of the Regional Genetic Screening Program and the Regional Metabolic Genetics Service. Provide clinical and administrative supervision of genetic counselors. Create and manage department budgets.

**March 1997-April 2004: USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center.** Genetic Counselor/Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics. Sole Genetic Counselor for the Cancer Genetics Unit. Developed a new cancer genetics clinical program at NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. Developed and implemented research protocols in cancer genetics and ensured compliance with IRB and HIPAA guidelines. Trained and supervised administrative assistants in clinic coordination, scheduling, and outreach activities. Genetic Counselor for the USC Consortium of the Cooperative Family Registry for Colorectal Cancer Studies (a large international Registry of colorectal cancer families funded by the NCI). As such, conducted training and provided on-going clinical support to Registry coordinators at six different project sites around the country on family history data collection and quality assurance. Coordinated multidisciplinary clinical program for women at high risk of breast or ovarian cancer (Lynne Cohen Preventive Care Clinic for Women's Cancers) at USC/Norris. Trained and supervised research assistants on family history collection for the Familial Testicular Cancer Research Project. Developed and maintained cancer genetics database. Trained and supervised genetic counseling graduate students. Provided lectures to medical students, residents, fellows, community health professionals and the lay public on cancer genetics and other areas of medical genetics.

**July 1988-March 1997: Kaiser Permanente Medical Center**

### **Panorama City and Woodland Hills Medical Centers**

Provided genetic counseling and patient management in all areas of medical genetics including prenatal, pediatric, neurogenetics and cancer genetics. Worked hand in hand with Dr. Patricia Schmidt, perinatologist at Woodland Hills, to develop high-risk management plans for women with unexplained high MSAFP levels. Collaborated with Dr. Harold Bass and other medical genetics staff to develop Kaiser Permanente's Cancer Genetics guidelines in Southern California

### **June 1986-July 1988: Cedars-Sinai Medical Center**

**Beverly Hills, CA.** Genetic counselor for prenatal and pediatric Genetics clinics.

#### **Consulting Experience:**

June 1993-March 1997: Integrated Genetics/Bharat Shah, M.D., Pasadena, California. Genetic Counselor for perinatologist in private practice

July 1992-June 1993: Genetrix, Lancaster, California  
Genetic Counselor for Prenatal Diagnosis Clinic

#### **Special Projects:**

1991: "Decisiones Prenatales" Videos: Created/produced and Distributed educational videos in Spanish on prenatal diagnosis. Videos are currently in use at Kaiser Permanente and over 50 medical centers around the U.S.

2002: "Choices: Cystic Fibrosis Testing" Videos- Consultant/ Executive Producer on educational videos in Spanish and English about genetic testing options for CF. Video is used by Kaiser and numerous other Medical facilities

2003: "What My Girlfriend Didn't Know" fotonovela. Was part of a team at USC that created a photo-comic book in English and Spanish to educate young Latinas about the benefits of Folic Acid supplementation in reducing the risk of Neural Tube Defects

2003: Hispanic/Latino Community Genetic Consultation Summit. Was one of 150 genetics professionals and community leaders invited to participate in this NIH-sponsored event in Washington D.C. The summit's goal was to identify the challenges in the provision of medical genetics services to the Latino population of the U.S., and to formulate a strategic plan to begin to address these challenges.

2005: Redes En Accion: The National Hispanic/Latino Cancer Network Southwest Regional Center & University of Utah, Huntsman Cancer Institute Symposia. Received award in recognition of contributions to advancement of Latino health through research and education.

### **C. MEMBERSHIPS**

Member, Admissions committee for CSUN Genetic Counseling program

Member, National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC) and Cancer SIG  
Member, Advisory Board, Facing Our Risk for Cancer Empowered (FORCE) support group  
Member, Padres Contra el Cancer, Program committee

#### **D. CONSULTANSHIPS**

1992-2001: Consultant, California State Dept. of Health Services,  
Genetic Disease Branch. Advised on cultural competency of genetics  
educational materials  
1992-1997: Consultant, March of Dimes/California Birth Defects Monitoring Program.  
Provided consultation and/or translation of educational materials, Spanish spokesperson for  
media contact

#### **E. PUBLICATIONS**

**Alvarado, M.,** Bocian M., and Walker A.P. Interstitial Deletion of the long arm of  
chromosome 3: Case report and definition of a phenotype. *Am J of Med Gen* 27:781-786, 1987  
**Alvarado, M.,** Caldwell, S., et al. Fetal choroid plexus cysts: Outcome of 52 cases.  
*J Gen Counseling* 2:300, 1993  
**Alvarado, M.,** Bass, H.N., et al. Miller-Dieker syndrome: Detection of a cryptic  
chromosome translocation using in situ hybridization in a family with multiple  
affected offspring. *Am J Dis Child* 147:129101294, 1993  
**Alvarado, M.,** Casagrande Y., Beart R., et al. Colorectal Cancer Patient Education Project  
at USC/Norris. *J of Am Asstn Cancer Ed*, Fall 2003

#### **F. SELECTED LECTURES/PRESENTATIONS ON CANCER GENETICS**

2005: "Cancer Genetics and Latino Families", Redes en Accion/National Hispanic/Latino Cancer  
Network, SW Regional Center Conference, Hunstman Cancer Center, Salt Lake City, Utah  
2003, 2004: Genetics of Colorectal Cancer, Annual USC Colorectal Cancer Symposium  
for Physicians  
2003: Genetic Counseling Issues in High Risk Women, LCC Foundation Symposium:  
The Emergence of Screening and Prevention in Breast and Ovarian Cancer  
2000, 2001: Breast Health Conference, Culver City, CA  
2000-Present: Western University of Health Sciences, Lectures to medical students  
on principles of cancer genetics  
2000: YME National Bilingual Conference on Breast Cancer  
1997-Present: Lectures to physicians on clinical cancer genetics at various community  
hospitals in Los Angeles  
1997-Present- Various presentations to the public including Breast Health Day,  
Festival of Life, and seminar on cancer genetics at USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center;  
Wellness Community, Pasadena and Redondo Beach, California; LA Take-A-Hike