



May 12, 2020

Carolyn Shalhoub,
Senior Genetic Counsellor,
Chairperson, HGSA Board of Censors for Genetic Counselling
PO Box 6012, Alexandria NSW 2015, Australia
gcboc@hgsa.org.au

Dear Ms. Shalhoub:

The ABGC Accrediting Body Review Committee (ABRC) has completed its review of the HGSA application for recognition. We are pleased to inform you that the Board has approved the recommendation to recognize HGSA for a period of three years.

The three year period includes the following recommendations for areas of improvement:

- Interim reporting – currently there is no annual report or periodic reporting during the accreditation period. Although the accreditation cycle is only 5 years long, interim reporting assists in ensuring programs are in compliance with HGSA standards. In addition, having an interim reporting process is best practice; therefore, in the next review cycle, ABGC would like to see the addition of an interim reporting process. This was the only area that was found to be completely lacking in the ABRC review.
 - Interim reporting should include requirement for how the curriculum has changed or updated, as well as changes in personnel/faculty. Typically, these reports are submitted on an annual basis.
- Recommend that the HGSA take responsibility for notifying programs when their next accreditation application is due. Currently, the responsibility falls to the program to submit application for reaccreditation without prompting from HGSA.

Currently, HSGA accredits two programs, thus we recognize it may be easy to have an understanding of faculty or programmatic changes without additional reporting; however, should HGSA accredit additional programs in the future, we imagine it will become more difficult to have an idea of what is taking place at each program without



the additional reporting. Therefore, we are making these recommendations so that HGSA can be proactive and build upon best practices while the number of accredited programs is small. It is ABGC's expectation that significant progress towards these improvements by the end of the three year period will be made and having these systems in place will enhance the oversight of your programs.

At this time, we are not requiring HGSA to provide its own interim report to ABGC as we are accrediting HGSA for three years. At the end of the three-year period, we would re-evaluate HGSA for recognition and at that time, determine if interim reporting would be required.

This communication provides information on recognition only. ABGC will follow up with information on how individuals can apply to take the ABGC certification examination, if interested. This information is being added to the Examination Bulletin and will be posted on the website as well.

If you have questions, please direct those to soneal@abgc.net. We look forward to receiving your additional materials and continuing our review.

Sincerely,

Sheila O'Neal,
Executive Director