



October 2016

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Dear Members and Friends of the Cancer Genomics Consortium,

It is a great privilege to serve as President of the CGC at this exciting time for our organization. Our 7th Annual Meeting in Denver this past August was a testament to how much the CGC has grown, transforming from a small collaboration of laboratory professionals to an international consortium committed to providing high quality education, developing resources and promoting best practices in clinical cancer genomics.

This year, I am pleased to announce three outstanding new members who were elected to the CGC Board of Directors: Alka Chaubey, PhD (Greenwood Genetics), Jennelle Hodge, MD, PhD (Cedars-Sinai) and Patricia Miron, PhD (University of Massachusetts Medical School). We have also added the second Junior Board Member, Yang Cao, PhD (Mayo Medical Laboratories).

The CGC is particularly excited to have officially launched the Compendium of Cancer Genomic Aberrations (CCGA), a resource aimed to provide integrated and up-to-date insights into the molecular and cytogenomics features of specific tumor types. Furthermore, based on the strength and remarkable progress of the CGC working groups which were commissioned in 2015 to develop evidence-based reviews and practice guidelines for tumor specific genomic testing, we have expended this initiative to form working groups for additional tumor types including melanoma and breast cancer.

The CGC has made significant strides forward in establishing collaborations with professional organizations with a shared goal to promote best practices for the use of genomics in human health. We are pleased to announce a collaboration with the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ACMG) to develop standards and guidelines for interpretation and reporting of acquired CNVs and CN-LOH in cancer. We have also signed a co-promotional agreement with the Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP), and are working on collaborative agreements with the Jackson Laboratories and the Washington University CIVIC project.

The 2016 Annual Meeting included outstanding keynote presentations and invited talks, an increased number of CGC travel awards for trainees and technologists and a record number of submitted high-quality abstracts. Importantly, there were many opportunities for member participation and networking, including a break-out session with round-table discussions of important topics in genetic/genomic diagnostics, and a friendly competition to solve challenging and educational case-puzzles and win attractive prizes. Overall, a great success! Recordings of the 2016 meeting presentations will be posted on the CGC website later this month, and the Program Committee chaired by Alan Lennon, PhD is already putting together amazing content for the 2017 Summer Meeting.

The foremost privilege as President is the opportunity to work closely with so many of you! The CGC invites all members to take an active role in our initiatives and help us shape the landscape of diagnostic genomics. We encourage you all to help develop content for CCGA, or contact us to join one of the CGC Working groups. We look forward to working with you.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gordana Raca'.

Gordana Raca, MD, PhD,
CGC President