

Helix *highlights*

FOR FRIENDS OF THE GREENWOOD GENETIC CENTER SUMMER 2025



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Greenwood Genetic Center

Where Compassion Inspires Progress

"Scary and out of nowhere." That's how Jillian Dill of Greenville, SC described her daughter's first spasm.

"Mabry was a happy, healthy, typically-developing baby when, at eight months, she had her first spasm," said Jillian. Then a few days later, she had another, more pronounced spasm which prompted an emergency neurology appointment.

During that first neurology visit, Mabry's doctor suggested the family seek the services of GGC. "She knew that this was a world-class institution, and that for a medical emergency like Mabry's, it was the best place for us to go," added Mabry's father, David.

The Dills met with Dr. Steve Skinner, one of GGC's senior clinical geneticists, on a Zoom call just two days later and drove to Greenwood for an appointment by the end of the week. "He prioritized helping us get the answers that we needed for Mabry. We were very concerned, of course, and we didn't know how serious this would become for her," added David.

Infantile spasms, like Mabry's, often present as a symptom of another underlying issue. They can be related to a genetic disorder or to a structural malformation of the brain. Knowing the underlying cause, or at least ruling out certain causes, is vital to effectively managing infantile spasms and inducing remission.

"I've lost count of how many rounds of genetic testing we've gone through, and they're still ongoing," said Jillian. "GGC has left no stone unturned. We've been really impressed with the care that we've received at the Greenwood Genetic Center."

In 2024, Mabry underwent surgery to remove a part of her brain that has a malformation called focal cortical dysplasia. While the exact cause of this malformation remains unknown, genetic testing was able to rule out certain conditions that, if present, would have prevented her from being a candidate for this surgery.

Mabry, 2, is now free of spasms and is working very hard in therapy to recover deficits that were caused by the surgery, including verbal communication and gross motor skills such as running and climbing. "She's a very determined little girl and has made remarkable progress," said Jillian.



Jillian, David, and Mabry Dill visiting GGC's campus this spring

A Grateful Family Shares their Diagnostic and Treatment Journey



The GGC team is still working to better understand what caused Mabry's malformation. Fran Anese, LMSW, GGC's Greenwood clinic manager, coordinated tissue collection with surgeons at Cincinnati Children's Hospital for further testing. Ellen Linebaugh, MS, CGC, genetic counselor (pictured with the family, right) has remained in close contact throughout the testing process and surgery and has been an invaluable resource for the Dill family.



"That's what we do here at GGC," said Skinner. "Our faculty and staff go the extra mile with care and compassion for each family who entrusts us with their care."

"We've just been blessed to work with an incredible team here at Greenwood Genetics... They have given us immense peace of mind as parents."

- David and Jillian Dill

GGC President Honored by Scbio

Dr. Steve Skinner, GGC's President and CEO, was honored with the 2025 SC Life Sciences Pinnacle Award for Individual Contribution by SCbio during its annual conference in Charleston in February.

SCbio is a statewide, non-profit, industry association and economic development organization tasked with building the business of life sciences in South Carolina's life sciences industry. This annual award recognizes an individual whose industry-related efforts have resulted in broad economic, innovation, social and quality of life benefits that not only have had a profoundly positive impact on South Carolina's life sciences industry, but also on its citizens – an impact that could be felt nationally and even globally.

"Dr. Skinner has expanded the impact of the Greenwood Genetic

Center through innovative initiatives and become one of the country's leading experts on neurodevelopmental genetic disorders," said SCbio President and CEO James Chappell, Ph.D. "His knowledge and leadership as a physician and administrator continue to help patients and families across South Carolina and worldwide."

Skinner, who joined the GGC in 1987 as a trainee, has led the organization since 2011 spearheading many partnerships and programs to support individuals impacted by genetic disorders including the Center's treatment program and current Precision Medicine Initiative. Skinner also serves as chief of MUSC's Integrated Center of Clinical Excellence in Genetics and Genomics and is the clinical lead for MUSC's Precision Health Initiative (see below).



"I am truly honored to receive this recognition from SCbio and proud to be part of the extraordinary life science community in South Carolina," said Skinner. "Our work at the Greenwood Genetic Center, along with that of our collaborators and other like-minded organizations across our state, is leading to the advancement of technologies and the growth of precision medicine that will leave a lasting impact on every citizen of South Carolina."



GGC's Precision Medicine Initiative Key Component of MUSC Institute



With GGC in the second year of the Precision Medicine Initiative, this innovative plan anchored by the four A's - access, analysis, answers, and action (see p. 5) - is serving as the strategic framework for the establishment of a Precision Health Institute (PHI) at MUSC.

In recent months, GGC president and CEO, Dr. Steve Skinner, has taken a more active role with MUSC as the clinical lead for the PHI which has identified four goals.

1) Become a NORD Rare Disease Center of Excellence

The National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) Centers of Excellence program recognizes leaders in rare disease care and research. Attaining this designation would help expand industry

partnerships, offer opportunities to improve patient outcomes, catalyze research and discovery, and enhance the reputation and visibility of both GGC and MUSC.

2) Expand Genetic Testing Infrastructure

Genetic test results empower every part of a patient's journey from finding an early diagnosis to clinical trial enrollment and personalized intervention. Improving access to testing, advancing data analysis, and the ability of genetic testing to efficiently make a diagnosis is a critical component of patient care.

3) Advance knowledge and skills to expand gene therapy

Bridging diagnostic testing, research, and therapeutic interventions is fundamental to not only providing an answer for a family but using that answer to lead to a treatment or even a cure. GGC's Genomic Discovery Program (see p. 5) is a critical part of

expanding this knowledge base to link gene discovery to patient benefit.

4) Expand Workforce and Genetics Education

Precision medicine requires a skilled workforce with talented and dedicated individuals who not only make advances in therapeutics but also provide compassionate and expert care that drives patient literacy.

"I'm pleased to be involved at the ground level of developing this statewide precision health initiative that will have a direct and lasting impact on the health and well-being of patients across South Carolina and even around the world," said Skinner. "With GGC's current cross-divisional focus on the four A's, our work in improving access to care, using advanced genomic technologies and data analysis to find answers, and leading patients to actionable treatments is fueling many of the goals of this broader PHI."



15 Years of the 'Gene Machine'

Inspiring the next generation of scientists

The excitement was palpable as GGC's Gene Machine Mobile Science Lab was first driven onto campus in the summer of 2010. In May, the program wrapped up its 15th year of traveling across South Carolina bringing fun, innovative, hands-on genetics activities to students from 7th-12th grades.

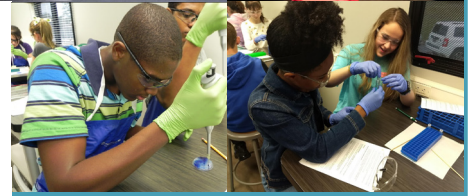
"It's hard to believe we've been on the road for 15 years," said Leta Tribble, PhD, GGC's Director of Education, who acquired the Gene Machine with a grant from the NIH's Genome Research Institute in 2010. "The goals for this program have always been two-fold: to improve genetic literacy by enhancing the classroom genetics curricula and to inspire students to believe they could achieve careers in genetics."

Since 2010, GGC's dedicated and enthusiastic team of educators have

traveled more than 265,000 miles and inspired over 114,000 students. With the addition of the Helix Express van in 2017, the program's reach became even greater, and its impact is now being felt in the state's workforce.

Mattie Piotrowski, who recently completed her Masters degree in Genetic Counseling from MUSC and will join GGC's faculty this summer, recalls a visit from the Gene Machine as a student at D.W. Daniel High School in Central, SC.

"The Gene Machine played a big part in my continued interest in genetics. I loved learning about different careers within the field, especially genetic counseling, as I did not get to hear much about it in my regular classes. I remember the instructors were always passionate and engaging, which encouraged me to pursue genetic counseling."

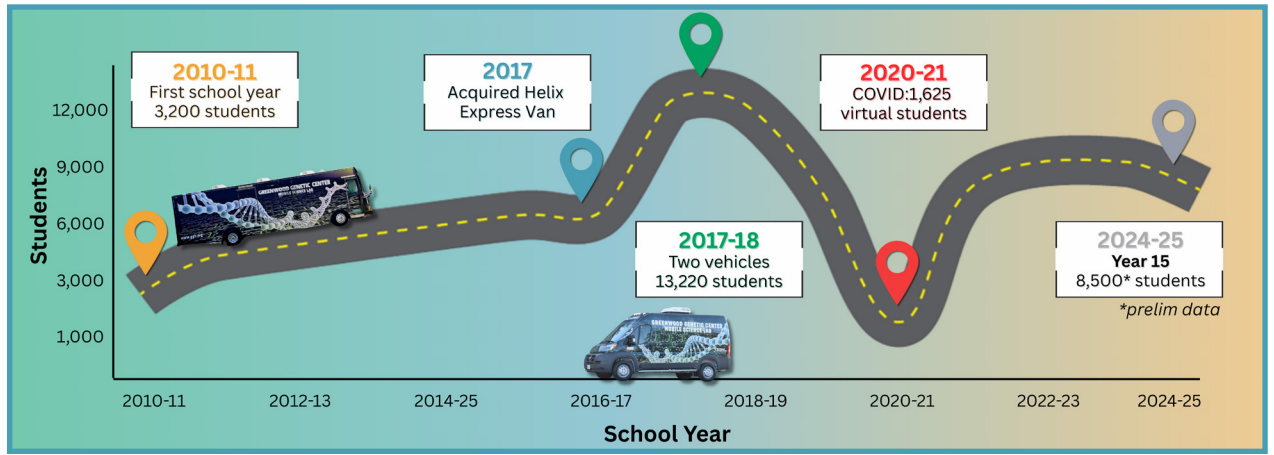


A Teacher's View

"Thank you so much for all you do for our students. I'm always so impressed and in awe of the time, commitment, logistics, planning, and traveling that goes into doing the tasks you do in such an excellent way."

- James LillibrIDGE
Wando High School Mount Pleasant, SC

MOBILE SCIENCE LABS: 2010-2025



Care Reimagined

As GGC embarks upon its second 50 years, the Center's **Precision Medicine Initiative** is the cornerstone of the future of genomic medicine.

The GGC Foundation's Care Reimagined campaign is funding the initiative's four critical pillars - also called the 4 A's - **Access, Analysis, Answers, and Action** (see below).

Through this campaign, we will break down barriers for children and adults who are uninsured or underinsured, enable GGC to diagnose patients who have had 'every test in the book' with no answer, and identify new treatments for patients based on understanding the impact of their specific genetic variant. Care Reimagined aims to transform the delivery of genetic services by integrating a patient's personal genomic data with their individual care providing everyone with a genetic disorder access to affordable, personalized, and precise healthcare.

To learn more about Care Reimagined and how you can support this vital GGC initiative, view the campaign video using the QR code below.



The Four Pillars of GGC's Precision Medicine Initiative



ACCESS - Improve access to genomic testing and services for South Carolinians through the GGC Cares Fund.



ANALYSIS - Generate and analyze genomic data through GGC's proving ground for new technologies and approaches to analyze data.



ANSWERS - Diagnose each patient in a timely manner and identify potential treatments through GGC's Genomic Discovery Program.



ACTION - Lead patients to a personalized treatment or therapy for their genetic condition.

One Year In...

The first year of the **Genomic Discovery Program (GDP)** is leading to **ANSWERS** for GGC patients.



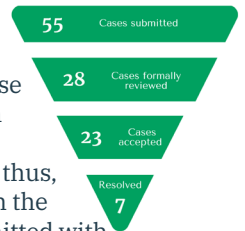
GGC's Genomic Discovery Program (GDP) formally launched in April of 2024 as a cornerstone of the Center's Precision Medicine Initiative. In the first year, the cross-divisional team has developed workflows and begun assessing cases to improve the ability to identify timely answers for undiagnosed patients and personalized treatments to improve their quality of life. GGC clinicians can submit undiagnosed cases for review after traditional first-tier genomic testing methods have been exhausted with no clear answer.

Clinical, diagnostic lab, and research faculty are involved in each of the three tracks and meet regularly to review submissions and determine the best steps forward.

For the **Discovery track**, undiagnosed cases are reviewed and the team often suggests novel testing or new data analysis approaches to help lead to a diagnosis. In year one of the GDP, the Discovery track has reviewed **70** undiagnosed cases. Follow-up testing is pending on most; however, a diagnosis or suspected cause has already been identified for **eight** patients.

For patients submitted to the **Resolution track**, prior genetic testing has identified uncertain variants. The team studies each case to determine if additional research could help determine whether the variant is clinically significant and thus, if the variant is a clear diagnosis. In the first year, **55** cases have been submitted with 23 accepted for further study. Of those, **seven** variants have been resolved with additional experiments underway.

GDP RESOLUTION TRACK



For patients with a confirmed diagnosis, the **Treatment track** is connecting patients with clinical trials and existing therapies and exploring novel treatment options including single patient trials with drugs that may already have FDA approval.

"We are excited about the productivity through the first year of our GDP with several families receiving answers after years of uncertainty," said Fran Annese, LMSW, GGC's GDP Coordinator. "These teams have worked so hard to improve access to new diagnostic technologies, shorten the time to diagnosis for patients with rare diseases, and identify personalized treatments."

Project Hope Foundation Breaks Ground on GGC Partnership Campus

World Autism Day is celebrated each year on April 2 to not only raise awareness for the impact of autism, but also to promote inclusion and acceptance of individuals with this diagnosis.

On April 2 of this year, excitement filled GGC's Greenwood campus and the adjacent GGC Partnership Campus as a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the new Greenwood location for Project Hope Foundation.

Project Hope Foundation, SC's largest provider of autism services for children and adults, has been part of the Greenwood community since 2016, but were in need of a new facility. Their new home will be just steps from GGC's main campus as a state-of-the-art site to provide ABA and speech therapy to individuals in the Greenwood area.

"Today, World Autism Day, is not just a day to recognize autism, but to respond to it," said Lisa Lane, co-founder of Project Hope Foundation, at the ceremony. "We're literally breaking ground today, but we're also breaking barriers. This site is more than a building, it will be a place of purpose."

GGC president and CEO, Dr. Steve Skinner, also spoke at the event, welcoming the crowd gathered and Project Hope Foundation to the GGC

Partnership Campus. "I'm excited about where this could go," he said. "My vision is that this is just phase one. I would love to see this whole Partnership Campus filled with services for a life-cycle approach to autism from diagnosis and interventions to education, transition to adulthood, and work-based programs."

Project Hope secured the property from the GGC Foundation in June of 2024 and the building is being funded with nonrecurring legislative funds. Once construction begins on the 10,000 sqft Helix Road building, it is expected to take 12-18 months to complete.

"GGC and Project Hope have a long history of collaboration and a shared mission to provide compassionate, cutting-edge care for individuals and families impacted by autism," said Skinner. "We are thrilled to have them join our campus as we expand our partnership to help expedite earlier diagnoses, expand access to services, and work together on research and future clinical trial opportunities."



Project Hope Foundation co-founder, Lisa Lane, speaks at the groundbreaking ceremony. Cover photo: Stakeholders at the groundbreaking included Project Hope Foundation co-founders, staff, donors, parents, and board members.



Asher Irons, 14, a student at Project Hope Foundation, dons a hard hat and joins in the celebration of the new facility.



Banking on Partnerships



Two longtime GGC supporters in the Greenwood banking community provided \$50,000 in funding to support the GGC's Foundation's 'Care Reimagined' campaign in early 2025.

"We are grateful to both CountyBank and First Citizens Bank for supporting GGC's initiatives to improve access to genetics care and support

families searching for answers and treatments," said Cady Nell Keener, Executive Director of the GGC Foundation. "Both of these institutions have been friends to GGC for decades, and their support is a significant reason that we can continue to provide the best care to patients and families impacted by genetic disorders."



Nikhil Sahajpal, PhD, Assistant Lab Director, prepares the Bionano Saphyr instrument for an OGM run.

Novel Test Identifies Genetic Causes for Neural Tube Defects

While NTDs are largely preventable through folic acid supplementation, unexplained cases are still occurring. A new GGC study has identified novel genetic changes that may help explain why.

Neural Tube Defects (NTDs)

NTDs, including spina bifida and anencephaly, are the most common birth defect of the central nervous system impacting approximately 300,000 births worldwide each year. Since the early 1990s, folic acid supplementation has been recommended for all women of childbearing age. Through the efforts of GGC's Birth Defects Prevention Program, founded in 1992, SC has seen a 60% decline in these often devastating congenital conditions.

However, even with folic acid supplementation and fortification in many food staples, NTDs continue to occur. A genetic link is suspected in as many as 60-70% of cases, yet current standard genetic technologies such as chromosome analysis and gene sequencing only identify a genetic explanation in about 8% of patients with an NTD.

Optical Genome Mapping

Optical genome mapping (OGM)

identifies structural variations in the genome at a higher resolution and in a more cost-effective and timely manner than other testing, combining the capabilities of three other cytogenetic tests (karyotyping, fluorescent in-situ hybridization, and microarray) with 1000X higher resolution than traditional chromosome analysis.

GGC launched OGM as a clinical test in 2024 following two years of studies and validation led by former GGC fellow and current Assistant Director, Nikhil Sahajpal, PhD. One of those studies looked at 104 patients with an NTD to see if the novel technology could identify previously unrecognized variants.

In March, Sahajpal and collaborators at GGC and Bionano Genomics, Inc., where the OGM technology was developed, published the results of a study in *Genome Research* using OGM to investigate the genetic landscape of NTDs.

In the study, OGM was able to identify known pathogenic variants in 8% of

"While folic acid supplementation has helped to significantly reduce occurrences of NTDs, many parents still grapple with the heartbreak of an NTD without knowing why it happened.

This study underscores our commitment to helping these families with cutting-edge research, including with novel techniques like OGM and it marks an important step forward, offering them not just scientific progress, but a renewed sense of hope for a better understanding of their child's condition."

**- Steve Skinner, MD
GGC President and CEO**

NTD cases, and variants that interfere with known NTD pathways and are suspected to be causative in another 13% of cases.

Additionally, in 9% of cases, previously unreported, but potentially causative variants in genes that have been associated with NTDs in mouse models were also found, though more studies are needed to determine their impact in humans.

There were also four new candidate genes, *RMND5A*, *HNRNPC*, *FOXD4*, and *RBBP4*, identified as having strong potential involvement in NTDs.

Overall, this study identified genetic factors and likely variants in 30% of cases, illustrating the potential utility of OGM for helping to better understand the genetic basis of NTDs.

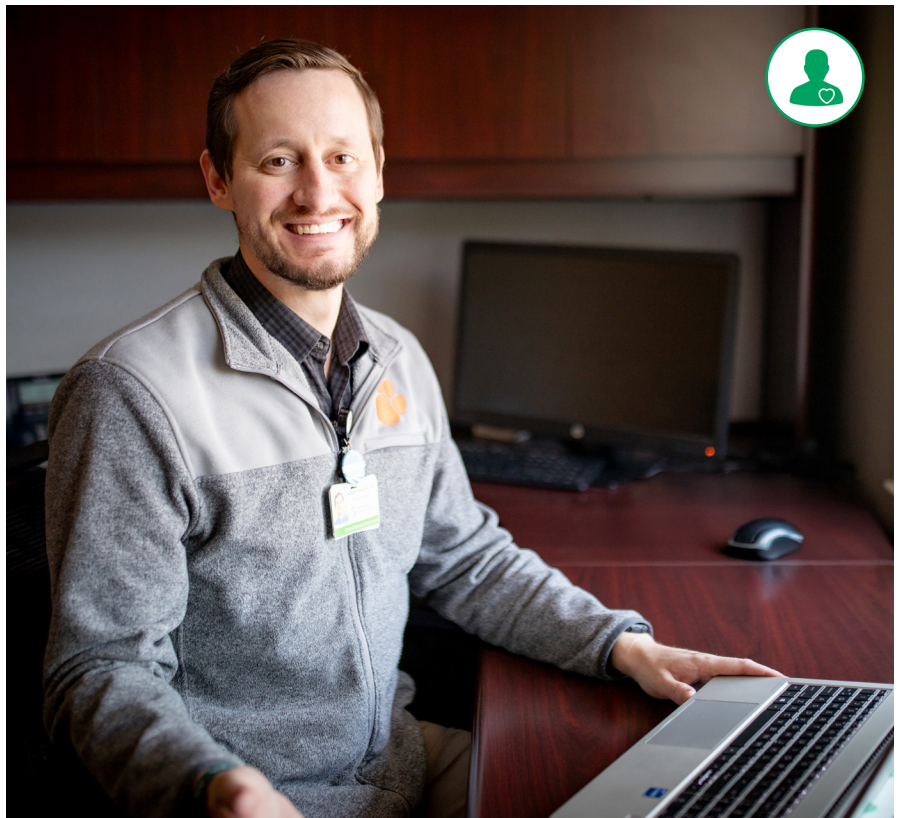
"This research brings something invaluable – insights into potential genetic drivers for NTDs that may have remained unknown without OGM," said Erik Holmlin, president and CEO of Bionano. "Optical genome mapping has not only revealed previously undetected genetic variants but has also uncovered rare structural variants that can deepen our understanding of NTDs. I believe the reported findings mark a significant advancement in the field and may improve future patient management and guide future therapeutic interventions."



Employee Achievements

GGC is grateful for the talent, dedication, and hard work of all of our employees. Below we celebrate those who have excelled in their positions in recent months.

- ✓ **Kenya De Leon, MS, CGC**, achieved certification by the American Board of Genetic Counseling.
- ✓ **Simone Hetherington, MS, CGC**, achieved certification by the American Board of Genetic Counseling.
- ✓ **Mikayla Jennings, MS, CGC**, achieved certification by the American Board of Genetic Counseling.
- ✓ **Mackenzie Lally** was promoted to Technologist, Level III.
- ✓ **Jack Ledbetter, CQPA**, achieved certification as a Quality Process Analyst by the American Society for Quality.
- ✓ **Sydney Posey, MB (ASCP)**, - **pictured above** - achieved certification as a Technologist in Molecular Biology by the American College of Clinical Pathologists and was promoted to Technologist, Level III.
- ✓ **Nikhil Sahajpal, PhD**, completed GGC's Laboratory Genetics and Genomics Fellowship and joined the faculty as Assistant Director in the Cytogenetics Laboratory.
- ✓ **Alexis Stone** was promoted to Technologist, Level II.



Workforce Development Pioneers

GGC creates one of the first genetics training programs for advanced practice providers

With a significant nationwide shortage of clinical geneticists alongside a growing demand for consultations, the field of medical genetics must adapt to meet the tremendous need and ensure access to all who need genetic services.

While technological initiatives such as GGC's eVisits and eConsults are removing some barriers to access, the lack of providers remains a significant challenge.

As part of that need, GGC is launching one of the first fellowship programs in medical genetics and genomics for advanced practice providers (MGGAPP), such as physician assistants (PAs) and nurse practitioners (NPs).

With generous funding from biotechnology company, Amgen, GGC's first MGGAPP fellow will begin training this summer under the supervision of GGC's first PA, Wesley Patterson, MSPA, PA-C, PhD (pictured above).

The 12 month program will prepare PAs and NPs to evaluate and treat genetic disorders in individuals of all ages.

The fellow will be based in the Greenwood clinic and will also join in clinical visits at other GGC offices and through various specialty, multidisciplinary, and enrichment clinics. The training will also include rotations through GGC's Diagnostic Laboratories, an original research project, and attendance at a national genetics meeting.

"By the end of the program, the MGGAPP Fellow will be capable of performing a comprehensive genetics evaluation, ordering appropriate genetic testing, interpreting reports, and delivering results to patients and family members," said Patterson. "This is an exciting addition to our training program as we expand our workforce to better serve our patients."

PRECISION TREATMENT

National MPS Society Funds Expansion of Newborn Screening Project to Explore Treatment

The National MPS Society has awarded a \$100,000 grant to Rich Steet, PhD, GGC's Director of Research. Steet will lead the two-year project that expands upon previous work to better understand the significance of rare genetic variants in the IDUA gene that causes Mucopolysaccharidosis Type I (MPS I). This new funding will also support research into personalized therapies for patients with MPS I.

MPS I, also known as Hurler, Scheie, or Hurler-Scheie syndrome, is a rare lysosomal storage disorder caused by the inability of the body's cells to produce enough of an enzyme called alpha-iduronidase that breaks down glycosaminoglycans. The toxic buildup of these substances leads to symptoms including coarse facial features, hearing loss, skeletal deformities, cardiac issues, and developmental delay.

"In recent years, MPS I has been added to the newborn screening panels in most US states, which is vital to making an early diagnosis and initiating early treatments," said Steet. "However, this increased screening is leading to the identification of more variants of uncertain significance, raising questions about which variants are actually disease-causing and uncertainty of how or if to treat these infants."

With prior support from the National MPS Society, Steet's lab and their colleagues in GGC's Biochemical Genetics Laboratory have developed a platform to functionally assess these variants to determine their impact and offer a clear diagnosis to inform medical management and treatment decisions. The lead researcher on this project is GGC Senior Staff Scientist Dr. Seok-Ho Yu (pictured above).

"The new platform allows us to determine the relative specific activity of these variant enzymes, which



Staff Scientist Seok-Ho YU, PhD prepares a research specimen for testing

compares the amount of enzyme activity produced by the gene variants to the activity we should see with a typical gene," said Laura Pollard, PhD, Director of GGC's Biochemical Genetics Laboratory. "To date, we have characterized thirty-five variants in the IDUA gene, allowing us to predict whether each of these variants is expected to cause symptoms of MPS I."

These findings were published in *npj Genomic Medicine* in 2024, and the development of this research platform has led to additional work supporting clinical providers around the country to clarify what impact these variants have on symptoms.

"As newborn screening expands, we are uncovering more variants of unknown significance which impacts treatment decisions and also leads to parental anxiety," said Francyne Kubaski, PhD, Staff Scientist in GGC's Biochemical Genetics Laboratory. "As we improve the ability to clarify these variants through protocols such as our IDUA platform and analyses by mass spectrometry of lysosomal storage, we will have more tools available to support newborn screening follow-up for other genes and conditions as well."

The project is now expanding to investigate potential personalized treatments for some of these MPS I variants.

"This new National MPS Society grant will take this project in a new direction by looking at specific gain-of-glycosylation variants that interfere with enzyme activity because of the addition

of extra sugar chains to the MPS I enzyme," said Heather Flanagan-Steet, PhD, a lead researcher on the project. "If we can prevent those new sugar chains from being added, this may offer a personalized therapy specifically for patients with those variants."

The team's advancements have also prompted a complementary project with Gene Spotlight, a leading medical research non-profit organization, on GGC's first high-throughput drug screen for patients with a specific variant in the gene that causes MPS I. GGC researchers are screening approximately 1,800 compounds, most of which already have FDA approval for other purposes, to determine if they increase the activity of the alpha-iduronidase enzyme in cells with a specific MPS I variant.

"We are excited about the expansion of this project and are grateful for our longstanding collaboration with the National MPS Society," said Mike Lyons, MD, Chief Genomics Officer and Curry Chair in Translational Genomics and Therapeutics at GGC. "As GGC fulfills our strategic precision medicine initiative, this work will be instrumental in not only providing clarity and answers for more rare disease patients but also allowing us to act on those discoveries with personalized treatments to improve each patient's quality of life."



Keys for Care Fun(d)raiser!

Dueling pianos event supports Care Reimagined, the Greenwood Genetic Center's blueprint for the next 50 years of advancing genetic healthcare.



Friends and neighbors, Glenda R Horton, Cookie Craft, Dorrie Schofield, Diane Glenn, Ileana LaSalle, Peggy Fitzgerald-Hobbs, and Marsha Cioffl, join in the fun at Keys for Care.

From Neil Diamond's 'Sweet Caroline' to the patient-requested 'Old MacDonald Had a Farm,' guests at the GGC Foundation's second 'Keys for Care' dueling pianos fundraiser enjoyed food, drinks, and lively entertainment – all while supporting the Center's 'Care Reimagined' campaign.

Held at the Greenwood Country Club on March 13, the event welcomed 150 attendees for an interactive dueling pianos experience, featuring pianists from Atlanta who took song requests from the crowd. While the night was filled with music and laughter, the purpose behind it was meaningful.

The event raised \$31,000 for the GGC

Foundation's 'Care Reimagined' campaign, which is transforming genetic services and care for families across South Carolina and beyond.

In between rousing dueling piano renditions, the crowd was also introduced to families who have benefited from GGC's care and services. Jordan and Luci Eysen were in attendance to support the event as parents of three-year-old Nora, who was born with infantile-onset Pompe disease.

"We are really thankful for the work of the Greenwood Genetic Center and everything that they have done and continue to do for Nora and all of their

patients," said Luci. "We have the utmost confidence in the care that she receives."

"Many patients with rare diseases wait years for a correct diagnosis, and even when the answer is found, there are often no available treatments," said Cady Nell Keener, Executive Director of the GGC Foundation. "Our goal with this event and the 'Care Reimagined' campaign is to support GGC's Precision Medicine Initiative, which is a paradigm shift for genetics care to improve access to services, shorten the time to diagnosis, and identify effective treatments for patients and families."

"Keys for Care was such fun—truly an incredible evening! The passion, energy, and dedication of everyone involved that made this event such a success was inspiring," said Erin Layland, who attended the event and serves on the GGC Foundation Board of Trustees. "It is amazing to see the positive impact that the Greenwood Genetic Center makes in our community and, most importantly, for the many families they serve."

Next year's Keys for Care has been scheduled for January 22, 2026. Learn more at event.gives/keysforcare2026



New Foundation Trustees

The GGC Foundation Board of Trustees welcomed two new members in 2025, Reynolds Flowe (far left) and Sym Singh (immediate left).

GGC Foundation trustees serve as mission ambassadors by cultivating, securing, and stewarding philanthropic funds that advance the Center's mission for the benefit of the patients and families served by GGC. They also manage all fiduciary responsibilities and activities of the Foundation.

Reynolds Flowe of Greenville, SC is a Commercial Real Estate Broker for Pintail Capital Partners. He is originally from Greenwood and is the brother of the first patient diagnosed with Phelan-McDermid syndrome at the Greenwood Genetic Center.

Sym Singh of Greenwood, SC is the Director of Government Affairs for Scout Motors. He first became involved with GGC through his previous role as Director of Budget and Legislative Affairs in the South Carolina Governor's office, where he and Governor McMaster supported the Center's innovative research and vision to assist individuals and families in South Carolina.

Race the Helix - Upstate

The 11th annual Race the Helix-Upstate was held on a beautifully warm April 5th morning at Lake Conestee Nature Park in Greenville, SC with over 200 registered participants and countless volunteers and spectators.

This year's event, presented by Bionano and Frank & Cathy Witney, raised over \$20,000 for the GGC Foundation's GGC Cares Fund that provides financial assistance for uninsured or underinsured families to receive the clinical services, testing, and treatment that they need.

Brandon Bryson has participated in Race the Helix every year since her now three-year-old daughter, Sully, was diagnosed with Leigh syndrome, a rare mitochondrial disease, at seven months. Brandon welcomed participants and shared her family's GGC story prior to the start of the race.

"We were obviously very scared, very anxious, and Greenwood Genetics was able to give us answers quickly," said Brandon. "We are here today to race for other families to get the answers they need to help their children succeed."

Save the date for Race the Helix - Greenwood - September 20, 2025



Left: Brandon Bryson grabbed her daughter, Sully, near the end of the course and they finished the race together.

Above: Members of 'Team Journey' celebrate as they cross the 5K finish line.



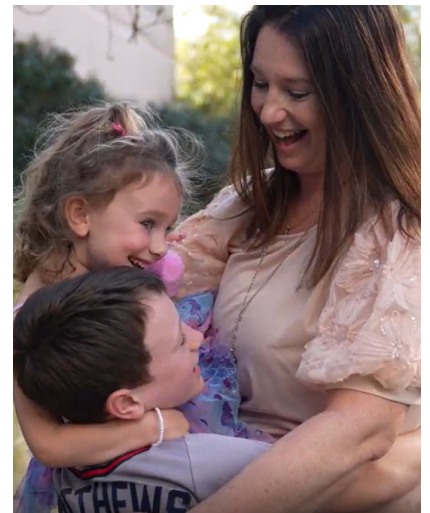
The GGC Foundation's Grateful Family Program is a way for those who have experienced GGC's compassionate care and expertise firsthand to express their gratitude. By paying it forward, families can ensure that the next patient to walk through our doors has an opportunity to receive the same high-quality care and the answers they deserve.

Meet program chair and GGC mom, Helen Campbell, using the QR code below or visit ggc.org/grateful-family to learn more.



"We are so happy to be a part of the Greenwood Genetics community... We were on the phone with Dr. Schroer the same day we got Sutton's newborn screening report. He and his team are just amazing to work with... I'm very thankful that Greenwood Genetics is there to walk with us through the process of getting diagnosed, treated, and living every day with PKU."

- Courtney Matthews, mom to Sutton, 5



Share Your GGC Story

If you or a family member had a "Giving Greater Care" experience at GGC, sharing your story, like the Matthews family did, can help bring awareness to the Center and encourage other families who are dealing with similar circumstances.

Honor Your GGC Caregiver

Make a gift to the GGC Foundation in honor of a member of the GGC team who made a difference in your life or went above and beyond for your family.

Start a Facebook Fundraiser

Starting a Facebook fundraiser is a wonderful way to share your family's story and increase awareness of GGC's mission while also contributing to the important work of the Center.



care reimagined
GREENWOOD GENETIC CENTER



The Greenwood Genetic Center is a nonprofit organized to provide clinical genetic services, diagnostic laboratory testing, educational programs and materials, and research in the field of medical genetics.



Greenwood Genetic Center

Where Compassion Inspires Progress

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