

# Daniela Diaz Caro, MS, CGC

## Education

---

**GC-FIRST Genetic Counseling Fellow in Research Training** 2025 - Present  
*University of Minnesota (Remote)*

**Master of Science in Human Genetics and Genetic Counseling** 2019-2021  
*Stanford University, Stanford, CA*

- Thesis: "LGBTQ+ Community Perspectives on Precision Medicine: Understanding the benefits, concerns, facilitators, and barriers."

**Bachelor of Science in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology** 2015-2017  
*University of Washington, Seattle, WA*

## Professional Experience

---

**Part-time Research Faculty (Remote)** April 2024 – Present  
*Mass General Hospital, Boston, MA*

- Served as thesis advisor, guiding multiple students through capstone projects by providing strategic advice on study design and execution.
- Evaluated and updated research course educational guidelines and student evaluations.
- Provided feedback on the direction and helped update the curriculum of two research courses for master level genetic counseling.

**Research Genetic Counselor (Remote)** February 2022 - Present  
*Columbia University Irving Medical Center, New York, NY*

- Organized and delivered health education and risk disclosures in both English and/or Spanish for participants interested in the IDEAL study.
- Collected family history information of individuals with a family history of dementia.
- Designed protocols to track study participants and improve workflow for team members.
- Wrote and provided feedback on manuscripts submitted for publication.
- Managed genetic testing kit logistics, genetic risk disclosure, and participant follow-ups.
- Provided medical interpretation in Spanish during genetic counseling clinical visits for individuals who have a family history of early-onset Alzheimer's disease.
- Served as a spokesperson for the IDEAL study by conducting public presentations.

**Research Assistant (Remote)** August 2021 – February 2022  
*Columbia University Irving Medical Center, New York, NY*

- Guided educational sessions for participants interested in the IDEAL study
- Translated documents and materials from English to Spanish.
- Designed study informational material and procedures to best communicate with a predominantly Latinx community.
- Administered participant compensation, addressed questions about the study's aims and procedures.

**Work Study Intern (Remote)**

September 2019 – June 2021

*Stanford Center for Inherited Cardiovascular Disease, Palo Alto, CA*

- Participated in establishing a national cardiovascular genetic counseling project at Stanford by formatting surveys and entering participants' data in Redcap.

**Research Assistant (Remote)**

May – September 2020

*Stanford Center for Biomedical Ethics, Palo Alto, CA*

- Conducted interviews for a research project led by Dr. Jenni Louise Young focused on understanding the experience of Spanish-speaking Undiagnosed Disease Network participants living with a child who is undiagnosed or has a rare diagnosis.
- Transcribed Spanish interviews and translated them into English.

**Laboratory Genetic Counseling Assistant**

October 2018 -July 2019

*Seattle Children's Hospital, Seattle, WA*

- Worked with laboratory genetic counselors to review genetic testing insurance preauthorization requests.
- Participated in data management for Seattle Children's genetics departmental database and analyzed genetic test data.
- Answered providers' questions regarding genetic testing options.
- Helped establish training protocols for future genetic counseling assistants.

**Scientist I - Cell Line and Development**

June 2017 – October 2018

*Just Biotherapeutics, Seattle, WA*

- Worked on individual process development projects and group-driven projects focused on the manufacturing of mammalian cell-based biotherapeutics for clinical and commercial use.
- Optimized robust, automated, high-throughput transfection procedures and created in-house vectors to increase the productivity of host cell protein productivity.
- Maintained well-organized electronic documentation of projects, analyzed data, and created DOEs in JMP.

**Professional Membership and Leadership Experience**

---

**Founding Member and Research Committee Chair**

June 2021 – Present

*Latin American Professional Society of Genetic Counseling (SPLAGen)*

- One of three founding members of a society focused on improving awareness of and access to genetic counseling services in Latin America (LATAM).
- Organized meetings to improve connections between professionals from around the world interested in our organizational mission, board of director meetings and meetings focused on improving quality and focus of genetic counseling research studies in Latin America (LATAM).
- Wrote bylaws, leadership position descriptions, and other documentation necessary to establish the organization's structure.
- Wrote and obtained a grant from the Texas Society for Genetic Counseling (TSGC) for a project focused on creating a map of geneticists and genetic counselors in LATAM.
- Established and managed SPLAGen's social media platforms and social media internship program which has consisted of 5+ prospective genetic counseling students.
- Created and maintained the SPLAGen website in Spanish, English, and Portuguese ([www.splagen.org](http://www.splagen.org)).
- Supervised and mentored students, offering guidance on research methodologies, including study design, data collection, and data analysis, to facilitate their academic and research development.

**Founding Member**

October 2022-Present

*UndocuGC Network*

- Established a network of genetic counselors and genetic counseling students who work together to promote awareness of and advocate for issues that impact the undocumented genetic counseling community and patients.
- Wrote a list of recommendations for program directors to help them understand how to best support genetic counseling prospective and current students navigate graduate school.
- Wrote a guide for undocumented prospective students interested in obtaining a career in genetic counseling highlighting the unique circumstances they must keep in mind due to their immigration status.
- Create a website to highlight members stories and the resources mentioned above ([www.undocugc.com](http://www.undocugc.com)).
- Created an educational webinar to educate genetic counselors and genetic counseling students on the psychosocial considerations of caring for undocumented patients while also offering CEU's.
- Funded and established Undocu GC Network scholarship to cover undocumented students' application fees.

**Co-chair of Spanish Development SIG**

January 2023 - Present

*National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC)*

- Currently formulating strategies to find the best ways to support our Spanish-speaking genetic counselors in our community.
- Organized and co-lead meeting for members of the SIG and those involved in leadership of the SIG.
- Organized a virtual meeting for prospective Latine genetic counseling students.

**Mentor and Hispanic/Latinx Channel Coordinator**

May 2020 – September 2023

*Minority Genetic Professional Network (MGPN)*

- Organized events to encourage communication and connection for a group of +30 Hispanic/Latinx genetic counselors and genetic counseling students.
- Led team projects to improve awareness of Latinx members in the genetic counseling field.
  - Specific projects were related to the compilation of Spanish genetic counseling resources for patients.
- Provided year-long mentorship to prospective genetic counseling students.

**Active Member**

September 2019 - Present

*National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC)*

- Spanish Development Special Interest Group (SIG)
- International Special Interest Group
- Research Special Interest Group

*American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG)*

September 2023 – Present

*Alliance for Genomic Justice (AGJ)*

October 2023- Present

**Committee Chair and Founding Member**

June 2020 – October 2022

*Stanford Genetic Counseling Diversity and Inclusion Committee*

- Created a strategic plan of action to encourage diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in the Stanford Genetic Counseling Program.
- Led meetings with +20 genetic counselors and genetic counseling students.
- Organized outreach events for under-resourced college students.
- Participated in DEI-focused presentations and discussions with the hopes to expand diversity and inclusion within the genetics department at Stanford University.

## Extracurriculars

---

### Thesis Advisor (Remote)

April 2024 – Present

*Columbia University, New York, NY*

- Provide advice for students interested in completing a thesis on topics related to the utility of race, ethnicity, and ancestry for patients.
  - **Current mentees:** Juliana Barcenas, BS
    - Project titled “Exploring the Perspectives of Spanish-Speaking Genetic Counselors on Asking Questions about Race, Ethnicity, and Ancestry”

### Mentor and Thesis Advisor (Remote)

December 2022 – Present

*Sarah Lawrence Genetic Counseling Program, Bronxville, NY*

- Provide advice to graduate students interested in completing a thesis on topics related to the practice of genetic counseling in Latin America.
  - **Mentored:** Rebeca Venezia, MS, CGC
    - Project titled “Exploring the perspectives of genetics providers in Latin America on establishing the field of genetic counseling”
  - **Current mentees:** Annette Gynspan, MD and Katerina Faget, BS

### Mentor and Thesis Advisor (Remote)

December 2022 – Present

*Brigham Young University – Department of Biology, Provo, UT*

- Provide advice for an undergraduate student interested in completing a thesis on topics related to the practice of genetic counseling in Latin America.
  - **Mentored:** Badí Quintero, BS
    - Project titled “Assessing human genetics’ training in Ecuadorian medical schools”

### Guest Lecturer (Remote)

November 2022

*Columbia University Genetic Counseling Program, New York City, NY*

- Presented work on my role and interest in becoming a research genetic counselor.

### GED Adult Science Presenter (Spanish)

March 2018

*Edmonds Community College, Edmonds, WA*

- Taught an adult Spanish language class on scientific principles in life science, chemistry, physics, earth, and space science to prepare the students for the high school equivalency (GED) exam.

## Presentations

---

2024 Pre-Health Dreamers Conference (Upcoming) July, 2024

*My Journey to Genetic Counseling as DACA Recipient – Panel Discussion*

Alzheimer’s Association International Conference (AAIC) Poster Presentation (Upcoming) July 2024

*Exploring the Immediate Impact of APOE e4e4 Genotype Disclosure among Latinos*

ELSI 2024 Conference Poster Presentation June 10, 2024

*Exploring the Immediate Impact of APOE e4e4 Genotype Disclosure among Latinos*

MIT Hackathon April 21, 2024

*G.A.L.E: Enable and Empower Home-based Senior Care*

ASHG 2023 Annual Conference Poster Presentation November 4, 2023

*Exploring precision medicine through the lens of the LGBTQ+ community*

UndocuGC Network (recorded) <i>Understanding the Undocumented Immigrant Experience</i>	
World Congress on Genetic Counseling Annual Conference Presentation. <i>Exploring precision medicine through the lens of the LGBTQ+ community</i>	October 25, 2023
NSGC International Special Interest Group Webinar <i>Creating a Professional Society: Latin American Professional Society of Genetic Counseling</i>	September 21, 2022
Television show Diálogo Democrático with Maria Luna – Televised in Spanish <i>Ideas para el Futuro IDEAL (El Estudio IDEAL)</i>	February 2022
2021 National Conference for the National Society of Genetic Counselors <i>A Dreamers Voyage: Navigating the GC Profession while Undocumented</i> (platform presentation)	September 2021
Stanford Medical Genetics Grand Rounds <i>Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR): A Way to Address Health Disparities in Genetics</i> (pre-recorded presentation)	April 9, 2021
Stanford Genetic Counseling Professional Development Seminar Series <i>Clinical Genetics and the Latino/a/x Community: An Introduction and Overview</i>	February 8, 2021
University of Washington Medical Genetics Case Conference <i>Vulnerable populations: Undocumented Immigrants in Genetic Counseling</i>	July 15, 2020
Color Health Clinical Case Conference <i>Public Perception of Predictive Cancer Genetic Testing and Research in Oregon</i>	May 25, 2020
Stanford Hospital Cardiogenetics Case Conference <i>Evaluation of Heart Disease Associated with Titin-Truncating Variants</i>	March 11, 2020

## Publications

---

**Diaz Caro, D.,** & Simone, L. (Accepted awaiting publication). *Commentary: The Role of Latin American Professional Society of Genetic Counseling (SPLAGen): Advancing Genetic Counseling in Latin America. Genetics in Medicine Open.*

Wetmore, J., Rodriguez, S., **Diaz Caro, D.,** Caban, M.; Uhlmann, W., Goldman, J., Leu, C.S., Godinez, J., Camarillo, I., Ferber, R., Blasco, D.; Lantigua, R.; Abraido-Lanza, A.; Chung, W.; Roberts, J. S.; Siegel, Karolynn; Ottman, R. (Under-review). *Designing and Implementing the IDEAL Study: A Randomized Clinical Trial of Genetic Risk Disclosure for Late-Onset Alzheimer's Disease in an Urban, Latino Population. Clinical Trials: Journal of Society for Clinical Trials.*

**Diaz Caro, D.;** Strang, A.; Yasis, J.M.; Lewis, A.; Soto, S.; Alastre, S. The Challenges of the Undocumented Genetic Counselor Professional Journey and the Vision for Resolution. *NSGC Perspective*. Published October, 10, 2022. <https://perspectives.nsgc.org/Article/the-challenges-of-the-undocumented-genetic-counselor-professional-journey-and-the-vision-for-resolution>.

Simone, L.; De Leon, A.; **Diaz Caro, D.** Creating a Genetic Counseling Professional Society in Latin America. *NSGC Perspective*. Published March 3, 2022. <https://perspectives.nsgc.org/Article/TitleLink/Creating-a-Genetic-Counseling-Professional-Society-in-Latin-America>.

## Technical Skills

---

- Bilingual in English and Spanish (Native speaker)
- Experienced with data collection software such as REDCap and Qualtrics
- Proficient in using qualitative data analysis software such as Dedoose

- Experience using communication tools such as Slack, Zoom, and Microsoft teams
- Proficient with Adobe suite tools, Webflow, and coding languages (Java, Matlab, Python, and R)

## Certificates

---

**200-hour Yoga Teacher Training (virtual)**

Shanti Yoga, Sag Harbor, NY

June 2024

**Board Certification for Genetic Counseling**

American Board of Genetic Counseling (ABGC)

Credential number 21063Exp. December 31, 2028

February 2023

**Inspiring Change 2.0****The Center for Implementation Science**Additional course: *Practical Guidance for Embodying Equity in Implementation*

November 2022

## Honors and Awards

---

**Leader in Diversity and Inclusion Award**

National Society for Genetic Counseling (NSGC)

2024