

National Society of Genetic Counselors, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Kelly Banaszak (856) 488-5500 x2105, cell (609) 760-3332
kbanaszak@stargroup1.com

Joanna Leslie-Ford (856) 488-5500 x2082

NATIONAL SOCIETY OF GENETIC COUNSELORS SUPPORTS THE U.S. PREVENTATIVE SERVICES TASK FORCE (USPSTF) RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING GENETIC RISK ASSESSMENT AND BRCA MUTATION TESTING

Philadelphia, PA (September 7, 2005) – The National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC) applauds the efforts of the USPSTF in addressing the important issue of genetic counseling, risk assessment and testing for breast and ovarian cancer susceptibility. The NSGC fully supports the Task Force’s emphasis on the importance of genetic counseling for appropriate risk assessment and informed decision-making regarding *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* genetic testing and management. NSGC believes that individuals who appear to have a low risk family history may still benefit from the cancer risk assessment process, and no data has suggested that genetic counseling poses adverse effects.

“Since the discovery of the *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* genes, genetic counselors have been integral to the application of this technology in patient care,” explained Cecelia Bellcross, co-chair of the Familial Cancer Genetic Counseling Special Interest Group of NSGC. “A substantial number of practicing genetic counselors currently specialize in cancer risk assessment and are uniquely trained and qualified to address the important issues outlined by the Task Force.”

NSGC is the leading voice, authority and advocate for the genetic counseling profession. Membership represents more than 2,000 masters-level health professionals, most of whom provide direct patient care (totaling over one million visits per year). Members are employed in a wide range of clinical care, academic, research and biotechnology settings, and are located in every state of the U.S. and internationally. The organization is committed to ensuring that the public has access to genetic counseling and genetic testing.

For more information about the National Society of Genetic Counselors, visit www.nsgc.org.

###
