

## How do I Become a Member?

Prospective members will usually have a qualification in nursing or genetic counselling and must be nominated by two members of the AGNC/BSHG.

Membership of the AGNC includes membership of the BSHG. If you are interested in membership please go to the BSHG website at: [www.bshg.org.uk](http://www.bshg.org.uk)

## How to contact us

The AGNC can be contacted via the BSHG at:

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Contact details for committee members and regional representatives can also be found on the AGNC website:

[www.agnc.org.uk](http://www.agnc.org.uk)



Association of  
Genetic Nurses  
and Counsellors

[www.agnc.org.uk](http://www.agnc.org.uk)

## What is Genetic Counselling?

Genetic counselling is defined as 'a communication process which deals with human problems associated with the occurrence, or the risk of occurrence, of a genetic disorder in a family (American Society of Human Genetics, 1975).

The aims of genetic counselling are to help the individual or family:

- understand the information about the genetic condition
- appreciate the inheritance pattern and risk of recurrence
- understand the options available
- make decisions appropriate to their personal and family situation
- make the best possible adjustment to the disorder or risk.

## What is the AGNC?

The Association of Genetic Nurses and Counsellors is an organisation representing Genetic Counsellors, Nurses and other non-medical staff working within Clinical Genetics.

The AGNC is one of the five constituent groups of the British Society of Human genetics (BSHG). Currently we have over 300 members in the UK.

## Our Aims

- to provide support for professionals working in the field
- to provide forums for education and scientific meetings
- to represent the views of the profession
- to prescribe good standards of clinical practice
- to liaise and collaborate with other clinical and scientific colleagues in the field
- to provide channels of communication within the profession

## How do we operate?

The AGNC has a board of elected AGNC committee members. There are also regional AGNC representatives across the UK.

To ensure that the profession continues to develop several groups have been established with specific terms of reference to address issues requiring a UK wide perspective.

The personal of these groups are individuals with an interest and expertise in the area and give their time and knowledge generously. Established groups include:

- Trainee Panel
- Careers Structure Salaries and Wages Working Group (CSSWG)
- Genetic Counsellors Statutory Regulation Steering Group (GCSRSG)
- Reciprocity Working Group
- Knowledge and Skills Framework Working Group
- MSc Benchmarking Group

Details of the working groups are available on the AGNC website: [www.agnc.org.uk](http://www.agnc.org.uk)

Genetic counselling registration is currently undertaken on a voluntary basis. The Registration Board (GCRB) is now run independently from the AGNC and oversees the registration and regulation of the profession

Membership of the AGNC is open to professionals whose work involves contact with families or individuals affected by or at risk of a genetic condition. Whilst in many cases, members are working within a Regional Genetics Service, increasingly those working in allied areas such as oncology and fetal medicine have found membership of the Association beneficial.