

Lausanne, 28 of February 2022

**Statement from the Swiss Association of Genetic Counsellors (ASCG) regarding the “CAS Genetische Beratung” in the Ostschweizer Fachhochschule in St-Gallen.**

Dear Professor Seelhofer,  
Dear Ms Vetsch,

We are writing on behalf of the ASCG regarding the creation of the “CAS Genetische Beratung” in the Ostschweizer Fachhochschule in St-Gallen. The ASCG has been informed of the creation of this CAS by the SGMG (Swiss Society of Medical Genetics), with whom we collaborate.

Since 2016, the ASCG represents the genetic counsellors working in Switzerland. Our main duties are to promote the genetic counsellor profession, to ensure that genetic counsellors have the appropriate training and eventually protect the title “Genetic Counsellor”.

Genetic counselling is a communication process allowing patients and families to understand implications of a genetic condition. These implications are medical but also psychosocial, familial and reproductive. The fundamental values of genetic counselling include correct information, non-directiveness, patients’ autonomy, empathy and support in the decision-making process. Genetic counselling is therefore a complex process. In our opinion, a CAS is not the appropriate format to train correctly professionals to deliver genetic counselling.

Genetic counsellors are health professionals who have a specific education. The training consists in a Master degree in genetic counselling. The EBMG (European Board of Medical Genetics) established in 2012 professional and educational standards for genetic counsellors in Europe. The EBMG recognizes that the gold standard for the training of genetic counsellors is Masters level theoretical and practical training (equivalent to a full-time 2 years Masters or 120 ECTS). The practical component of the course (placements) should account for at least 50% of the course teaching hours. A minimum of 25% of the course teaching hours and 50%

of the practical placement hours must be spent by the student in a genetics center under the mentorship of a genetic counsellor or where this is not possible, the mentorship of an experienced medical geneticist. Such Masters allow genetic counsellors to acquire specific abilities to deliver genetic counselling

As a result, we would like to inform you that the ASCG will not recognize students trained in this CAS as genetic counsellor professionals and they will not be able to become active members of the ASCG.

We remain at your disposal for any clarification or further information.

Best regards,

Viviane Cina  
President



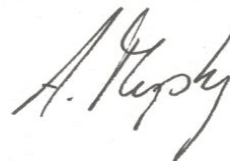
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