



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND  
MARLENE AND STEWART GREENEBAUM  
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER

# Genetic Counseling

For more information about genetic counseling or to make an appointment, please call **410-328-7904**.

The **University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center** is a National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated center, a distinction shared by only the top cancer centers in the country that are acknowledged for their scientific excellence.

Understanding and Exploring Your Family History of Cancer



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22 South Greene Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201

**General Appointment Line:**  
1-800-888-8823

**Genetic Counseling Appointment Line:**  
410-328-7904

[umgccc.org](http://umgccc.org)



Comprehensive  
Cancer Center

A Cancer Center Designated by the  
National Cancer Institute



**At the University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center**, genetic counselors provide risk assessments and education to patients who are interested in exploring whether the cancer in their family is hereditary. Families with a hereditary form of cancer often have a strong family history of cancer which may be due to an inherited gene mutation. Learning more about whether or not the cancer in your family is hereditary may be important as it can provide insight about cancer risks for you and other family members.

During a genetic counseling appointment, our counselors will review your family history and discuss options for genetic testing, if appropriate. Genetic testing looks for changes or mutations in your genes that may indicate an increased risk for cancer. Our counselors provide clear and clinically relevant information about your genetic risk factors in a supportive environment.

**The most common hereditary cancers are:**

- Breast Cancer
- Ovarian Cancer
- Colorectal Cancer
- Pancreatic Cancer



**GENETIC COUNSELING MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY IF:**

- Certain types of cancer are present in multiple generations, on the same side of your family. Examples include breast and colon cancer.
- You or your relatives have been diagnosed with cancer at an early age (under age 50)
- You or a relative have been diagnosed with more than one cancer
- There is a presence of rare cancers (example: male breast cancer)
- You are concerned that your personal history of cancer may be linked to other cases of cancer in your family

**A GENETIC COUNSELING CONSULTATION WILL INCLUDE:**

- A personalized cancer risk assessment based on personal and family risk factors. A consultation typically takes 60–90 minutes to complete. The cost is often covered by most insurance plans.
- A review of the most up-to-date information about hereditary cancer genes
- Discussions on screening for cancer and risk reduction strategies
- Evaluating the pros and cons of genetic testing and deciding if it is necessary
- Identification of other relatives who may have an increased risk

**Ask your doctor if genetic counseling might be right for you.**

“Genetic testing can provide powerful information for patients and their family members. We strive to provide information in a compassionate way that will allow each patient to make decisions regarding genetic testing in a supported manner.”

**Jessica Scott, MGC**

Genetic Counselor, University of Maryland  
Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum  
Comprehensive Cancer Center