INTERESTED IN GENETIC COUNSELLING?

Contact: Angela Inglis, CGC / CCGC Genetic Counsellor

604-875-2000 ext 4733

@ angela.inglis@cw.bc.ca

"Counselling made clearer my understanding of the part genetics plays in mental illness. It also allowed me to put things in perspective and to be able to pass valuable information along to my offspring that may assist them in maintaining good mental health." - Psychiatric genetic counselling recipient.

We respect your privacy.

Your information will remain confidential.

SERVICE SUPPORTED BY:





University of British Columbia Department of Psychiatry





GENETIC COUNSELLOR:

Dr. Jehannine Austin

Angela Inglis

Understanding Mental Illness: NEW CLINICAL SERVICE

Do you or one of your family members have a mental illness?

Would you like to learn more about the causes of mental illness?



Are you concerned about potential risks for your children or other family members?



WHO ARE GENETIC COUNSELLORS?

Genetic counsellors are health care professionals with specialized training and experience in the areas of medical genetics and counselling.

Genetic counsellors can tell you what is currently known about the causes of mental illness, and can help you to apply this information to your own family.

"Genetic counselling is the process of helping people understand and adapt to the medical, psychological and familial implications of genetic contributions to illness."

- National Society of Genetic Counselors (2006)

WHO IS THIS SERVICE AVAILABLE TO?

Men and women who:

- Are interested in learning more about the causes of their and/or their family member's mental illness
- Live in British Columbia

Understanding is the first step to acceptance, and only with acceptance can there be recovery. ~J.K. Rowling

WHAT IS INVOLVED WITH A GENETIC COUNSELLING APPOINTMENT?

- We welcome self-referrals as well as referrals from physicians and other healthcare providers.
- Prior to the appointments, the genetic counsellor will phone you to do a family history. This usually takes approximately 30 minutes.
- The genetic counselling appointments are approximately an hour in length.
- The genetic counsellor will try to answer any questions that you may have about the causes of your or your family members' mental illness.
- **Please note:** We are <u>not</u> offering any genetic testing.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

• Q: Is there a charge for this service?

A: No. This is a free clinical service.

• Q: Do I need to be referred by my family doctor?

A: No. We welcome self-referrals! To schedule an appointment, call Angela Inglis at 604-875-2000 x. 4733 or email: angela.inglis@cw.bc.ca

• Q: Where do I go for appointments?

A: The appointments take place at the department of medical genetics at BC Women's and Children's hospital: **4500 Oak Street**, **Vancouver**, **BC**

 Q: I live quite far from Vancouver, would I have to travel to the clinic?

A: No. We are able to do appointments by tele-health and by phone.

