



Dear colleague,

This October we will celebrate 10 years of the Maine Cancer Genomics Initiative, and it is hard to believe how much has happened since MCGI began in 2016. As we celebrate, I am especially grateful for our team and the many clinicians, researchers, healthcare organizations, and partners who have helped shape MCGI over the past decade.

This month, I am looking forward to connecting with colleagues across the broader oncology community at the WIN 2026 Symposium in Providence and the SWOG Cancer Research Network Fall Group Meeting in Chicago. The WIN Symposium will focus on innovation and equity in precision oncology, while the SWOG meeting will bring together researchers and clinicians from across the cancer research community.

There's a lot to look forward to as MCGI enters its next decade, and I am excited to see where new ideas, collaborations and advances in precision oncology will take us.

Sincerely,

Jens Rueter, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer, The Jackson Laboratory
Medical Director, MCGI

MCGI Partners with Columbia Students to Explore Future Strategies

This fall, MCGI is partnering with a team of students from Columbia Business School and Columbia University Irving Medical Center through the Consulting Practicum: Healthcare Management, Design, and Strategy. The course brings together students with business and medical backgrounds to work directly with healthcare organizations on real-world strategic challenges.

MCGI is one of several outside groups participating in this year's course. Our five-person student team includes three students with medical backgrounds and two MBA students who will work with us through December.

Over the next three months, the team will take a closer look at MCGI's current model and explore potential strategies for the program's future. Their work begins with a three-week information-gathering phase, during which they will learn more about MCGI, review available information and data, and speak with members of the team. Throughout their course, they will also attend Genomic Tumor Boards and learn about the role MCGI plays in supporting precision oncology in Maine.

Using what they learn, the students will suggest ways to refine MCGI's current business strategy and explore potential models that could support the program moving forward. The collaboration provides an opportunity to bring fresh perspectives from both healthcare and business as we think about the next chapter of MCGI.

Health Policy

Building a genomics-capable cancer workforce: a competency-based framework for education and training in precision oncology

Amanda Drury^{a b}  , Yosr Hamdi^{c d}, Nicola Mulder^e, Jens Rueter^f, Lindsey Kelley^f, Kathleen Blazer^g, Raffaella Casolino^{h j}, Stacy W. Gray^{i j}

Building a Genomics-Capable Cancer Workforce

A recently published paper in eClinicalMedicine, co-authored by MCGI Medical Director **Jens Rueter**, M.D., and Associate Director **Lindsey Kelley**, MPH, MS, CGC, looks at how education and training can help prepare healthcare professionals to use precision oncology in practice.

The paper introduces a framework that outlines what healthcare professionals may need to know at different stages of their training and across different roles. This framework can help guide the development of education and training programs as genomic information becomes an increasingly important part of cancer care.

Advances in precision oncology are changing how we understand and treat cancer, but bringing these advances into routine cancer care requires more than access to genomic testing. Healthcare professionals also need the knowledge and skills to understand genomic information and use it in patient care.

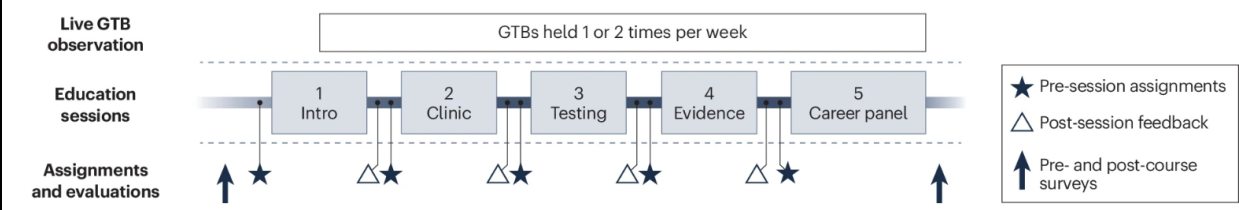
Read the full paper:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2589537026003950>

Fig. 1: Interaction and flow of course components.

From: [Connecting research and clinical practice: training the next generation of translational scientists](#)

Course components and flow



Early Career Researcher Course Launches Fall 2026

MCGI and JAX Clinical Education are hosting their fall 2026 course, Genomic Tumor Boards for Early Career Researchers, with trainees from JAX, Tufts University, UConn, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, and MIT.

The course gives graduate students and postdoctoral researchers an opportunity to see how genomic information is interpreted and applied in patient care. Participants observe MCGI Genomic Tumor Boards (GTBs) to see firsthand how experts from different specialties work with treating oncologists to discuss patient cases, genomic testing results, and potential treatment options.

In addition to observing GTBs, participants take part in five interactive education sessions designed to provide more context around the discussion they observe. Sessions cover topics including biomarker testing, evidence curation and prioritization, and the complexities of translating genomic research into patient care.

Learn more about the Genomic Tumor Boards for Early Career Researchers course in a recent [Nature Biotechnology feature](#).



Bringing Genomics into the Classroom

JAX Genomic Education and educators from Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system recently launched Genomics in Action, a free series of 13 online modules designed to connect genomics concepts with real-world applications and career exploration.

Developed in collaboration with Connecticut State faculty, the modules cover topics including genomic variation, sequencing, precision medicine, CRISPR, and ethics. In addition, interactive activities, case studies, and career stories help students explore how genomics is applied across biomedical research, healthcare, biotechnology, and laboratory science.

The modules are free and currently available for educators looking to incorporate applied genomics and career exploration into their undergraduate courses. [Explore the Genomics in Action MiniCourses.](#)



[About MCGI](#)



[Genomic Tumor Boards](#)



[For Patients](#)

The Jackson Laboratory
600 Main Street
Bar Harbor, ME 04609

207-288-6000

[Privacy Policy](#)