



**Board of Genetic Counseling India
(BGCI)**

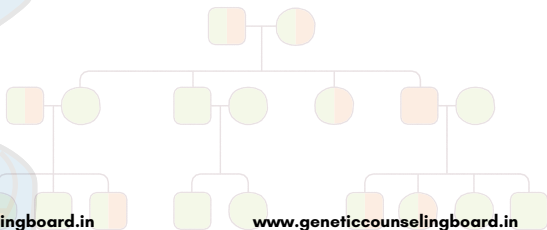
**in association with
Central University of Punjab**

**11th Annual International Conference
*Hybrid Mode***

**Genetic Counseling: Pivotal for Diagnosis, Treatment,
and Management of
Multiple Clinical Disorders**

3rd to 5th July 2026 at Bathinda, Punjab

Program Schedule





**Genetic Counseling: Pivotal for Diagnosis,
Treatment, and Management of
Multiple Clinical Disorders**
3rd to 5th July 2026 at Bathinda, Punjab



DAY 1 - 3rd JULY 2026



8:00-9:00 - REGISTRATION



WORKSHOP 1

**Genetic Counseling Teaching - Training
Programmes Pan India**

(Venue: Seminar Hall 1, Ground Floor)

Moderators:

Dr. Gayatri Iyer & Ms. Suruthi Abirami

Time	Session Title	Speaker
09:10 – 09:25	The Faculty Perspective: Expectations and Opportunities, Lack of faculty for teaching	Dr. AJS Bhanwer
09:25-09:40	Perspectives on training and capacity building	Dr. Kausik Mandal
09:40-09:55	Why a One-Year or Two-Year Training Program? Evaluating the Need and Structure	Dr. Q. Annie Hasan
09:55-10:10	Training the Next Generation of Genetic Counsellors: Lessons from Education and Experience	Dr. Reena Gulati
10:10-10:25	Quality Over Duration: The Benefits of a 6 Month Genetic Counseling Course	Dr. B.R. Lakshmi
10:25-10:40	Institutional Experiences and Opportunities for Collaboration- starting a new course	Dr. Parani Madasamy
10:40-10:55	Future Directions in Genetics Training [VIRTUAL]	Dr. Jaya Vyas
11:00-11:15	Tea Break and Networking	
11:15-11:30	Question and Answer Session	
	Moderated Discussion	
11:30-12:00	What are the current gaps? What initiatives exist? What remains unaddressed? How to collaborate? What are immediate priorities?	
12:00-12:30	Brainstorming Session: Developing a Roadmap for Genetic Counseling Training	



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WORKSHOP 2

**Next Generation Sequencing - Process
and Data Analysis**

(Venue: Room No. 302, Third Floor)

Moderator:

Dr. Subhadra Poornima

Time	Session Title	Speakers
09:00-11:00	Long Read Sequencing Demonstration - Genotypic Technologies	Dr. Amanraj Tiwari Dr Divyank Mahajan
11:00-11:15	Tea Break and Networking	
11:15-13:00	Analysis and Interpretation of Genome Sequencing - Karkinos Healthcare	Dr. Jyoti Bajpai Dixit Dr. Priyanka Saberwal



13:00-14:00 - LUNCH
Activity Hall Ground Floor



Inaugural Session

(Venue: Auditorium Hall, Ground Floor)

Time	Session Title	Speaker
14:00-14:10	University Anthem and Watering of Plants	
14:10-14:15	Welcome Speech	Prof. Anjana Munshi
14:15-14:20	Presidential Remarks	Dr. Annie Hasan
14:20-14:30	Address by Chief Guest	Dr. N.K. Mehra
14:30-14:40	Address by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Central University of Punjab	Prof. RP Tiwari
14:40-14:45	Remarks from the Patron, BGC India / Vote of Thanks	Prof AJS Bhanwer
14:45-15:00	Genetic Counseling in India in the Era of Multiomics	Dr. Maya Thangavelu (Virtual)



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DAY 1 - 3rd JULY 2026



15:00-15:30 - KEY NOTE SPEAKER

"AI in Healthcare"

Dr. Renu John

Professor, Biomedical Engineering, IIT Hyderabad



15:30-16:00 - TEA BREAK



SESSION 1 OCULAR GENETICS



Time	Speakers/Title	
16:00-16:20	"Syndromic association of Inherited Retinal disorders - Genetic, clinical and diagnostic aspects" Dr. Sabia Handa Department of Ophthalmology, AIIMS, Bathinda	Moderator Ms. Deepti Chaudhary Chairpersons Dr. N.K. Mehra and Prof. AJS Bhanwer
16:20-16:40	"Integrating genetic counselling in Ophthalmological practice - crucial for care of genetic and rare eye disorders" Dr. Shailja Tibrewal Senior Consultant, Center for Unknown and Rare Eye Diseases, Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital, Delhi	
16:40-17:00	"Advances in Ophthalmology: Stem Cell to Gene Therapy" Dr. Geeta Vemuganti Distinguished Pathologist and Scientist, LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad	
17:00-17:30	Q&A and Panel Discussion	
17:30 - 18:30	Posters	



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DAY 2 - 4th JULY 2026

8:00-9:00 - REGISTRATION

09:00-09:30 - KEY NOTE SPEAKER

Personalized Management of Brain Stroke

Dr. Subhash Kaul

Former Dean, NIMS Hyderabad,

Senior Consultant Neurologist at KIMS Hospital, Hyderabad



SESSION 2

NEUROLOGY



Time	Speakers/Title	Moderator: Ms. Anuradha Sharma Chairpersons - Prof. Anjana Munshi & Prof Aklank Jain
09:30-09:50	Dr. Arvinder Wander Department of Pediatrics, AIIMS, Bathinda	
09:50-10:10	"Treating the untreatable: Management in Genetic disorders" Dr. Kausik Mandal Professor & Head, SGPGIMS, Lucknow	
10:10-10:30	"Beyond Perinatal Asphyxia When Cerebral Palsy Is Genetic" Dr. Naveen Bhardwaj Department of Pediatrics, AIIMS, Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh	
10:30-11:00	QnA and Panel Discussion	



11:00-11:30 - TEA BREAK





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DAY 2 - 4th JULY 2026



**SESSION 3
RARE GENETIC DISORDERS**



Time	Speakers/Title	
11:30-11:50	"Early Diagnosis of Pediatric Rare Diseases: Changing outcomes through Timely action" Dr. Shashi Kant Dhir Head, Department of Pediatrics, GGS Medical College, Faridkot, Punjab	Moderator: Ms. Kankana Goswami Chairperson Dr. Rajni Khajuria (Consultant, Clinical Genomics & Genetic Counseling, Fertilis Academy) and Dr. Preeti Khetarpal, Central University of Punjab
11:50-12:10	"Recognizing the Unrecognized: A Practical Approach to Suspected Rare Genetic Disorders" Dr. Shifali Gupta (Consultant Clinical Geneticist, Bathinda)	
12:10-12:30	"The dawn of genomic medicine in the United Kingdom" Prof. Julian Barwell [VIRTUAL] Genomic Medicine, University of Leicester	
12:30-13:00	QnA and Panel Discussion	



13:00-13:30 - KEY NOTE SPEAKER

"Precision Therapy by Engineered T-cells for Improved graft outcome"

Dr. N.K. Mehra

AIIMS, New Delhi

13:30-14:10 - LUNCH



Time	Speakers/Title	
14:10-15:00	Posters	
15:00-15:15	"Personalized Genomics: Emerging Frontiers in Genetic Counseling" Dr. Nitika Langeh Neuberg Diagnostics, Ahmedabad	



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**SESSION 4
HEMATOLOGY**

Time	Speakers/Title	
15:15-15:35	"Genomics of Acute Leukemia" Dr. Prashant Chhabbra Department of Hematology, AIIMS, Bathinda	Moderators: Ms. Sukruti Aggarwal & Mr. Soham Banerjee Chairpersons: Prof. Monisha Dhiman & Dr. Sunil Singh, Central University of Punjab
15:35-15:55	"Understanding Molecular Diagnostics in Thalassemia to offer Precision Genetic Counselling" Dr. Reena Das [VIRTUAL] Head, Department of Hematology, PGIMER, Chandigarh	
15:55-16:15	"Integrating Genetic Counselling into the National Sickle Cell Mission: Strengthening Public Health Delivery in India" Dr. Deepa Bhat Professor, Anatomy & Genetic Counselor, JSS Medical College Mysuru	
16:15-16:45	QnA and Panel Discussion	
16:45-17:15	Keynote: "The emerging role of a genetic counselor in the Omics Era" Prof. Dhavendra Kumar [VIRTUAL] Honorary Clinical Professor, William Harvey Research Institute, UK	
17:15-18:15	Annual General Body Meeting	



17:15-17:45 - TEA BREAK



19:00 Onwards - CULTURAL/GALA DINNER





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DAY 3 - 5th JULY 2026

09:00-09:30 - KEY NOTE SPEAKER

"Prenatal Genomics in the UK: Lessons from the R21 Pathway for Global Practice/Genetic Counseling in India"

Prof. Pradeep Vasudevan

Head of Service Consultant in Clinical Genetics & Honorary
Professor at the University of Leicester (Medical Genetics)



SESSION 5

REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY



Time	Speakers/Title	
09:30-09:50	"Beyond Maternal Nutrition: Paternal Folate Deficiency Drives Offspring Insulin Resistance" Prof. Jyotdeep Kaur Head, Department of Biochemistry, PGIMER, Chandigarh	Moderator: Ms. Judes Nisha Chairpersons - Dr. Gurjit Kaur (Professor Physiology, GMCH, Chandigarh) Dr. Gitanjali (Department of Biochemistry, AIIMS, Bathinda)
09:50-10:10	"Gene Discovery, Multi-Omics, and Functional Validation: Advancing the Understanding of Congenital Tooth Agenesis" Dr. Parimal Das Department of Genetics, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, UP	
10:10-10:30	"Genetic Counseling in Consanguineous Populations Balancing Risk Communication with Cultural Sensitivity" Dr. Preetha Shetty Assistant Vice Chancellor - Academic Affairs Program Director, Biomedical Science, Dubai Medical University	
10:30-11:00	QnA and Panel Discussion	



11:00-11:30 - TEA BREAK





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DAY 3 - 5th JULY 2026



11:30-12:00 - KEY NOTE SPEAKER

**"The challenges of Genetic Counseling for Cancer Genetics with
Advances in Genetic Tests"**

Prof. Shirley Hodgson

Emeritus Professor of Cancer Genetics at City St. Georges

SESSION 6 ONCOLOGY

Time	Speakers/Title	
12:00-12:15	"Germline to Slide: Pathology of Hereditary Cancer Syndromes" Prof. Manjit Kaur Rana Head, Department of Pathology, AIIMS, Bathinda	Moderator: Ms. Abhinika Chairpersons - Prof. Vasudha Sambyal and Dr. Kamlesh Guleria (Department of Human Genetics, GNDU, Amritsar)
12:15-12:30	Dr. Vamshi Krishna Thamtham Technical Director, Genomics & Clinical Cytogenetics, Dr. Lalpath Labs	
12:30-12:45	"Targeted Cancer Therapy: Medicinal Chemistry Approaches for Enzyme Inhibition and Targeted Protein Degradation" Prof. Raj Kumar Central University of Punjab	
12:45-13:00	Dr. Geethika Simma Cancer Clinics	
13:00-13:30	QnA and Panel Discussion	



13:30-14:00

VALEDICTORY AND AWARD CEREMONY



14:00 Onwards LUNCH



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Prof. Anjana Munshi

HoD, Human Genetics
and Molecular Medicine,
Central University of Punjab

Dr. Q Annie Hasan

President BGC-I

Prof. Aklank Jain

Department of Zoology,
Central University of Punjab

Dr. Subhadra Poornima

Consultant & HOD
BGCI-Level 2
Genetic Counselor
Dept of Genetics and Molecular
Medicine

Advisory Committee



**Prof. Ramakrishna
Wusirika**

Dean In-charge, Academics
Central University of Punjab



Prof. Monisha Dhiman

Director, IQAC
Department of Microbiology
Central University of Punjab



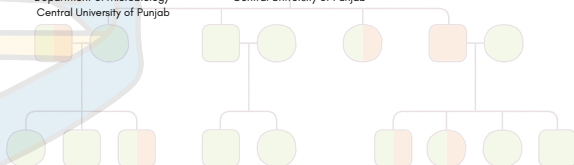
Prof. Smeer Durani

Professor of Practice
Central University of Punjab



Dr. Sucheta Bhatt

California, US





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Organizing Members

Registration Committee



Ms. Anita Chaudhary
Central University of Punjab



Ms. Kankana Goswami
BGCI-Level 2
Strand Life Sciences Pvt Ltd



Ms. Anuradha Sharma
BGCI-Level 2
Genetic Counselor
Maharshi Dayanand University Rohtak
Haryana



Mr. Rahul Choudhary
Central University of Punjab

Abstract Committee



Dr. N. Arul Jothi
BGCI-Level 1
SRM Institute of Science and
Technology, Chennai



Ms. Suruthi Abirami.B
BGCI-Level 2
Lead Genetic Counselor
Anderson Diagnostic Services Pvt Ltd



Mr. Ajay Kumar
Central University of Punjab



Ms. Rachna Sandha
BGCI-Level 1
Genetic Counselor

Accommodation and Hospitality Committee



Mr. Sohith Kashyap
Central University of Punjab



Ms. Judes Nisha
Tutor and Genetic Counselor
JSS Medical College and Hospitals
Mysore



Ms. Sanjana Bisht
Central university of Punjab



Ms. Ishwarya C T
BGCI-Level 1
Genetic Counselor
Anderson Diagnostics Services Pvt Ltd



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Organizing Members

AV and Online Streaming Committee



Mr. Sandeep Singh

Central University of Punjab



Mr. Parichay SR

BGCI-Level 2

Senior Genetic Counselor
Medgenome Labs, Bengaluru



GC Soham Banerjee

Sr. Consultant & HOD
Dept of Medical Genetics &
Genetic Counseling, Sharanya
Super Speciality Hospital,
West Bengal



Ms. Ritu

BGCI-Level 1



Ms. Jasina Arora

Central University of Punjab

Transport Committee



Ms. Deepti Chaudhary

BGCI, Lead Genetic Counselor
LifeCell International Pvt Ltd.,
Chandigarh



Mr. Vishal Patidar

Central University of Punjab



Ms. Abhinika

BGCI-Level 1
Genetic Counselor
Dr. Lal Path Labs



Mr. Harshdeep Josan

Central University of Punjab



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Organizing Members Social Media and Designing Committee



Dr. Deepa Bhat

Executive Committee Member - BGCI
JSS Medical College and Hospital



Ms. Vaishnavi Suresh

Executive Committee Member - BGCI
Manager Genetic Counseling, Wellytics



Ms. Sukruti Aggarwal

Lilac Insights, Genome Analyst
BGCI-Level I, Genetic Counselor

Sponsor and Finance Committee



Dr. Ravindresh Chhabra

Central University of Punjab



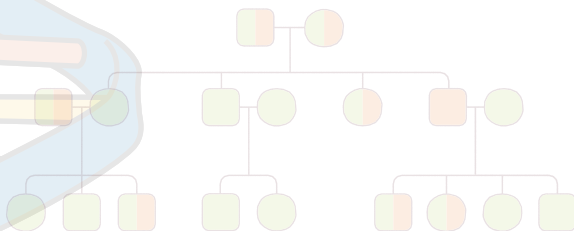
Mr. Percy Italia

Italia & Associates



Dr. Aruna Priya

Executive Committee Member - BGCI
Progenics. Labs





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Preconference Workshops

- Genetic Counseling – teaching and training
- Next Generation Sequencing

Conference Themes/Topics Covered

- Neuro Genetics
- AI in Genomics
- Ocular Genetics
- Reproductive Genetics
- Hematology
- Rare Genetic Disorders
- Wellness
- Oncology

How to Apply:

Candidates can apply through the registration QR code given below

Registration Guidelines:

Registration Fee including GST (includes breakfast and lunch but no accommodation)



Registration Fees			
	Early Up to 30th April, 2026	Regular 1 st May to 15 th June	Late Registration 16 th – 30 June
PG Students	INR 1000	INR 2000	INR 4000
Delegates	INR 4000	INR 5000	INR 6000
Virtual Participation		INR 1500	
Pre-Conference Workshop		INR 1000	
50% DISCOUNT FOR BGCI MEMBERS WITH VALID REGISTRATION			

***Registration fee is non-refundable. Registration and payment through online mode only.**

Please visit the registration QR code.

Abstract submission deadline: 15/05/2026



Registration

events@geneticcounselingboard.in



Abstract Submission

www.geneticcounselingboard.in

Places to
Visit in
Bathinda



Qila Mubarak

Rose Garden



Bathinda Lake



**Places to
Visit
Nearby**



**Golden Temple
(Harmandir Sahib)**

Jallianwala Bagh



Attari - Wagah Border