



## HAPPY NEW YEAR AND SEMESTER

Greetings,

Looking at the calendar, Christmas wasn't that long ago, but when we come back to work/school, perception of time changes! Everything moves super- fast!

We're excited and have already kicked off the new semester. I wanted to update you on the new labs we added in the fall. The forensics activities requested by many of you have been well received. In addition the new HS-level karyotyping exercise has proven to be a good activity to engage students in patient analyses, karyotype construction and determination of diagnoses. Thank you for trying out our new ideas! Your feedback is always appreciated.

We've had a few changes to GGC that I'd like to share with you:

### RESEARCH DIVISION:

In August, Richard Steet, PhD joined GGC as Director of Research. His focus is to define the disease mechanisms for specific rare diseases and explore new methods of treatment. His colleague and spouse, Heather Flanagan-Steet, PhD is the Director of Functional Studies and uses zebrafish as a model organism for studying human genetic disorders. When you're here, we'll tour the new aquaculture facility to see the fish!



### SUMMER PROGRAMS

- **Teachers Course:** A new course is in development with Lander University. As soon as it is formally approved, we will send you a brochure as well as post it to the website. The content is somewhat different than previous courses and will focus on three broad areas: Human Variation, Global Health, Gene Structure and Function/Animals as Model Organisms. Labs and activities will be all new and will complement the major topics.

We will continue to have the two-day 'hands-on' workshop in Greenwood, but we are also exploring an off-site workshop location in the Charleston area. More about these ideas to come.

- **HS Summer Camp:** We have enjoyed working with students during the summer and plan to offer this camp again in Greenwood. We are also looking for a regional site to be able to offer this to more students in our state.

### OUR TEAM

GGC's education team joined 41 outreach programs and companies from across the US at the Mobile Lab Coalition Conference at Wayne State University in Detroit. The team participated in a poster presentation and gleaned new information on technology, curriculum, and many other important topics. Hannah Balentine (second from right) was selected to participate in the Coalition's Website and Communications committee!

*Looking forward to seeing you in the new year and hopefully this summer!*

*Leta*

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