

Jewish Genetic Disorders

Genetic disorders often occur more frequently in defined populations. The following disorders are most commonly found in people of Ashkenazi Jewish descent (from Eastern or Central European lineage) but may also be found in other groups

Jewish genetic disorders include conditions that directly result from the abnormal genes (Mendelian disorders), and disorders that result from the combination of specific genes (disease predisposition genes) plus a range of other unknown factors.

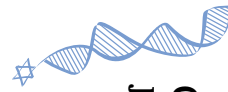
Mendelian Disorders

- **Bloom Syndrome**
- **Canavan Disease**
- **Dystonia**
- **Familial Dysautonomia**
- **Fanconi Anemia (Type C)**
- **Gaucher Disease (Type 1)**
- **Mucopolidosis IV**
- **Niemann-Pick Disease (Type A)**
- **Tay-Sachs Disease**

Disease Predisposition Genes

- **Breast Cancer (BRCA 1 and BRCA 2)**
- **Familial Colon Cancer**

Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
Ben Gurion Way
One South Franklin Street
Chicago, Illinois 60606-4694



Chicago Center for
Jewish Genetic Disorders

Chicago Center for Jewish Genetic Disorders



First Class
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 6950
Chicago, Illinois

**Jewish United Fund/
Jewish Federation of
Metropolitan Chicago**

Ben Gurion Way
One South Franklin Street
Chicago, Illinois 60606-4694

Our Mission

To provide information to the Jewish community to help its members understand the scope of Jewish genetic disorders;

To educate physicians, other healthcare professionals and clergy;

To provide a vehicle for population-based services including education, screening, testing and genetic counseling;

To act as a clearinghouse for the full range of services required by individuals and their families who are affected by Jewish genetic disorders, including diagnostic work, treatment, counseling, support services and advocacy;

To develop a national and international presence that allows the Center to update and exchange information on the most current research and new treatment modalities;

To interface with other organizations focused on the clinical and bioethical issues that concern our community.



Our Story

Over the last 30 years, screening tests for carriers have been developed for many of the identified Jewish genetic disorders. Unfortunately, community-based education efforts have not paralleled scientific advances.

Data collected by the International Tay-Sachs Disease Quality Control Program show that fewer than 900 people per year in the Chicago area are screened for Tay-Sachs disease, a substantial decline from figures recorded in the early 1980's. This screening rate of 3 per 1,000 Jewish people per year is less than half the screening rates in Los Angeles and New York. It is believed that this discrepancy is largely attributable to the lack of on-going education within the Chicago area.

The Center is a critical new effort to provide public and professional education and to empower community members to seek out information and prevention strategies.

With its current set of sponsors, the Chicago Center for Jewish Genetic Disorders represents the blending of science with religious, cultural and historical sensitivity and awareness. The Center seeks to become the voice that translates laboratory discoveries into accessible information for the Jewish community at risk as well as for physicians and other health care providers.

Chicago Center for Jewish Genetic Disorders

Executive Committee:

Chairman

Dennis Kessler

Joel Carp, ACSW

Joel Charrow, M.D.

Benn Greenspan, Ph.D.

Pat Yuzawa-Rubin

Center Director

Karen Litwack, LCSW, ACSW

(312) 357-4718

fax: (312) 855-3295

e-mail: jewishgeneticsctr@juf.org

www.juf.org

The Chicago Center for Jewish Genetic Disorders

is a cooperative effort of the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, Children's Memorial Hospital and the Illinois Jewish Genetic Disorders Committee.

The Center is supported by a generous grant from the Michael Reese Health Trust