

Margaret Erpelding

Education

Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri

August 2023 – Expected May 2025

Master of Science in Genetic Counseling

Thesis: Characterization of parental responses to being an obligate carrier of a *GLA* variant diagnosed as a result of newborn screening in Missouri or Illinois between 2013 and 2023

University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota

September 2019 – May 2023

Bachelor of Science in Biology, College of Arts and Sciences

Bachelor of Arts in Spanish, College of Arts and Sciences

Majors: Biology, Spanish Cultural and Literary Studies

Honors: Aquinas Honors Scholar Program, Dean's List (eight semesters), Summa Cum Laude

Study Abroad: IES Granada, Spain

January 2022 – May 2022

- Participated in homestay program with a family to immerse self in the Spanish language and culture
- Intern at Centro Juvenil de Orientación para la Salud and created a suicide prevention program for the University of Granada. Led eighteen participants in workshops improving relational and sexual health.

Clinical Fieldwork

Completed Rotations

Mercy Oncology, St. Louis, MO

Cancer Genetic Counseling Intern

June 2024 – July 2024

- 160 hours supervised by Alex Correale-Otto MS, CGC
- Obtained personal cancer screening history, and family history to identify hereditary cancer risk in patients
- Analyzed medical records, pedigrees, and reviewed National Comprehensive Cancer Network guidelines to develop clinically relevant genetic counseling plans and order proper genetic testing

Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis Children's Hospital

Pediatric Genetic Counseling Intern

August 2024 – October 2024

- 112 hours supervised by Linda Manwaring MS, CGC
- Demonstrated effective interpersonal communication to facilitate patient-centered results disclosures and family history assessments in a pediatric genetics clinic setting
- Collaborated with a multidisciplinary team of physicians and genetic counselors to provide comprehensive genetic counseling services for pediatric patients and their families, supporting informed decision-making

Rotations in Progress

Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis Prenatal Genetics

Prenatal Genetic Counseling Intern

October 2024 – December 2024

- 112 hours supervised by Amie Stanley MS, CGC

Scheduled Rotations

SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital Prenatal Genetics, St. Louis, MO

Prenatal Genetic Counseling Intern

Expected January 2025 – February 2025

- 112 hours supervised by Sadie Friedrich MS, CGC

Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis Advanced Clinical Genetics

General Genetics Genetic Counseling Intern

Expected March 2025 – April 2025

- 112 hours supervised by Leia Peterman-Prather MS, CGC
- Specialties: Pediatric Genetics, General Genetics, Metabolic Genetics, Fetal Care, Inpatient, Neurogenetics

Research Experience

Returning Research Results That Indicate Risk of Alzheimer Disease Dementia to Healthy Participants in Longitudinal Studies (WeSHARE); St. Louis, MO *April 2023 - Present*

- Disclosed five-year Alzheimer dementia risk estimate report to participants in the clinical trial (ClinicalTrials.gov ID NCT04699786)
- Explained genetic and neuroimaging research results to participants in relation to their risk estimate
- Psychosocially assessed and counseled participants through results discussed via teach-back method
- Logged disclosure appointments and notes in a HIPPA compliant database

Dr. Sarah Heimovics' Lab; St. Paul, MN

May 2021 - Present

Undergraduate Research Assistant

- Conducted research on the effects of a behavioral fidelity on test zebra finch males for the expression of dopamine related genes. Investigated and resolved unforeseen issues in all areas of research
- Independently performed quantitative PCR, RNA isolation, RNA quantification, and primer design to complete gene expression characterization. Designed own schedule and supervised a lab assistant.
- Wrote the lab protocol and the trouble shooting document for quantitative PCRs and RNA isolation from brain tissue along that is now used routinely in the lab as a standard operating procedure
- Read and discuss scientific publications to better understand current scientific research and create further research projects

Senior Capstone – Independent Research

- Designed neuroendocrinology research project to evaluate the stress response after partner separation
- Analyzed relative amounts of corticosterone protein using the Western Blot technique. Preparing a presentation of important test results at the annual biology symposium

Counseling and Teaching Experiences

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI); St. Paul, MN

December 2020 – January 2022

Support Group Facilitator for Young Adults with Mental Illnesses

- Led bi-monthly Connections Support group as a facilitator. Directed daily agenda for providing care
- Helped a variety of people with differing mental illnesses and communication needs. Connected across barriers to reach participants at their level depending on their developmental needs
- Created a safe environment by mediating challenging conversations between participants

Flipside Program, Hidden River Middle School

Science Program Teacher

September 2022- May 2023

- Planned and taught 2-hour weekly science classes for after school program for 10 students
- Organized and executed end of semester science fair for students at middle school and university

Presbyterian Homes; Chanhassen, MN

June 2020 – June 2021

Community Support Assistant

- Upheld strict COVID-19 protocols in the nursing home and performed wellness checks on residents
- Fostered emotional support and social interactions for the elderly during a difficult isolation period

Professional Development

NSGC Professional Conference

September 2024

Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education (CIPE) Conference

August 2023

- Completed interprofessional practice curriculum with medical students, physical therapy students, occupational therapy student, speech-language pathology students, and audiology students
- Attended interprofessional case discussion evenings
- Member of Health Professional Student Leadership Council

Awards and Honors

Keystone Award

May 2023

Issued by University of St. Thomas Biology Department to those who initiative and dedication has produced changes that have benefited the department, the university, or the wider community

Jagodzinski-NC Instruments Scholarship

August 2022

Issued by the University of St. Thomas Department of Biology to a student with postgraduate aspirations

O'Phelan Scholarship

August 2022

Issued by the University of St. Thomas Health Professions Advisory Committee

Young Scholars Summer Grant

June 2022

Issued by Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program for independent research project summer 2022

National Presidential Service Award: Bronze Level

May 2022

Issued by AmeriCorps for 100 volunteer hours in a semester

St. Thomas Community Engagement Club Award

May 2022

Issued by University of St. Thomas for Association Women in Science volunteer project at Flipside

Presidents' Student Leadership Award

April 2022

Issued by University of St. Thomas recognizing outstanding contributions in civic and community engagement by students, faculty, staff, collaborative teams and community organizations on individual member campuses

Dr. Paul Germann Scholarship

May 2021

Issued by the University of St. Thomas Department of Biology to a sophomore or junior biology major with outstanding participation in biology and excellence in academics

Poster Presentations and Future Publications

- *Poster Presentation:* Erpelding, M. "The Impact of Companion Dogs on Job Satisfaction of Genetic Counselors" 2022 Honors: Dogs! Poster Session, St. Paul, MN. 6 December 2022.
- *Conference:* Erpelding, M. "Dopamine related gene expression in the social decision-making network in response to an infidelity challenge in the monogamous zebra finch" 2022 Society for Neuroscience Conference, San Diego, CA. 15 November 2022.
- *Poster Presentation:* Erpelding, M. "Dopamine related gene expression in the social decision-making network in response to an infidelity challenge in the monogamous zebra finch" 2022 St. Thomas Inquiry Poster Session, St. Paul, MN. 13 October 2022.
- *Anticipated Publication:* Erpelding, M. Westberry, J. Heimovics, S. "Dopamine related gene expression in the social decision-making network in response to an infidelity challenge in the monogamous zebra finch." anticipated submission date: December 1, 2024.