

The Jewish Genetic Disease Consortium (JGDC) was founded in 2005 by a group of many not-for-profit organizations sharing the common goal of combating Jewish genetic diseases. This union was innovative and bold. While each member group has its own mission and focus, the mission of the JGDC is to unite these organizations as one group to educate the medical community, Jewish clergy and the Jewish community as a whole about the availability of pre-conception carrier screening for the tragic and often fatal Jewish genetic diseases that may affect their families.

Recognizing that it is crucial to reach all segments of our target audience simultaneously, the JGDC has pioneered a three-pronged approach that is proving to be quite successful. We offer three distinct educational programs about screening for Jewish genetic diseases that are specifically geared to the three different segments of our target audience in the same geographic location. These programs all provide information that is critical to the family health of all persons of Jewish heritage.

### **JGDC Medical Grand Rounds Program**

Aimed at obstetricians and gynecologists, pediatricians, medical students, residents, nurses/midwives, nurse practitioners and physician assistants, this program promotes awareness of Jewish genetic diseases and the importance and availability of genetic screening. The forum for this program is a lecture format called Grand Rounds, which takes place in all hospitals on a monthly basis. The program provides information about new technologies and changes in the standards of care for genetic testing and screening of the Jewish population.

### **JGDC Clergy Program**

This program trains and empowers rabbis and cantors to discuss genetic disease carrier screening during pre-marital counseling sessions. During the training, rabbis meet parents of children with genetic diseases, learn from a genetic counselor about the science behind the screening and discuss the critical role rabbis can play in premarital counseling about Jewish genetic disease screening.

### **JGDC Community Program**

At Jewish community centers, synagogues or wherever Jews gather to think about the well-being of their families the JGDC presents thoughtful educational and outreach sessions that highlight the role carrier screening plays in the prevention of genetic diseases. Through our videos, discussions and handouts, we help people understand what Jewish genetic diseases are, what it means to be a carrier, and what couples can do to maximize their chances of having healthy children.

If you are interested in the programs that the JGDC offers, please email us at [info@JewishGeneticDiseases.org](mailto:info@JewishGeneticDiseases.org) or call us at 855.642.6900.