



**Service Category:** Mentoring

**Name of Organization:** Genetics Student Interest Group

**Person verifying Co-Curricular hours:** Autumn Schultz

**Email:** [aschultz@med.wayne.edu](mailto:aschultz@med.wayne.edu)

**Phone:** 248-444-2321

**Faculty Advisor:** Michelle Cichon

**Description:**

Focus is to help students gain a better awareness and understanding of what it is like for patients living with genetic conditions. In order to gain this understanding, students will have the opportunity to mentor people affected by Down Syndrome through the Down Syndrome Guild of Southeast Michigan. During these events, students are able to interact with parents of the children and converse about the everyday life of having a child with Down Syndrome. One such activity the genetics group participates in is pairing up with a child with Down's Syndrome and playing baseball. This is not only a lot of fun, but gives the parents a short break from parenting. Also, around Christmas time, we volunteer at the holiday party helping families do crafts, take pictures with Santa, and putting up decorations.

**Available Dates and times:** variable

**Activities for Medical Students:**

1. Observing Agency/Organization staff interacts with clients/patients.
2. Opportunity to communicate health education information to clients/patients.
3. Students will mentor children with Down Syndrome by helping them play baseball, doing a "Buddy Walk", aiding with holiday parties, etc.