

National Society Honors 3 University of Utah Faculty For Excellence in Human Genetics Education



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SALT LAKE CITY – Nov. 14, 2008 – Three University of Utah faculty members have been chosen as the 2008 recipients of the American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) Award for Excellence in Human Genetics Education.

Louisa Stark, Ph.D., director of the U's Genetic Science Learning Center, Lynn B. Jorde, Ph.D., professor of human genetics, and John C. Carey, M.D., professor of pediatrics, are the first group of individuals to be named joint recipients of the award. They will receive the award at the ASHG 2008 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia on Nov. 15.

"As leaders at the University of Utah, your combined efforts have provided a model for genetics education, outreach, and training for individuals at every end of the spectrum, and through the widest array of methods," Joann A. Boughman, Ph.D., executive vice president of the ASHG said in a letter to the three recipients.

Stark has been with the Genetic Science Learning Center for 10 years and has served as director since 2004. The Center's Web sites for teachers and students in grades 5 through college undergraduates received 7.1 million visits from people in 175 countries last year. *Scientific American* recognized it as one of the top 50 sites on the Internet and one of the top five sites for biology.

For the past 25 years, Jorde has taught first-year medical students and received numerous teaching awards. He is the lead author of *Medical Genetics*, a textbook used widely in medical school curricula across the country and internationally. For the past 10 years, he has educated U.S. and international judges on DNA and genetics for application in the courtroom.

Carey, co-author of *Medical Genetics*, has mentored doctoral students, fellows, and physicians in medical genetics since the early 1980s, when he founded the U's Medical Genetics Fellowship Program. He continues to serve as the program's director.

Lorris Betz, M.D., Ph.D., senior vice president for health sciences at the University and executive dean of the medical school, said the U not only is a top research school in human genetics, but it also excels in genetics education. "The ASHG Award for Excellence speaks to the creativity, dedication, and collaboration among our faculty. This is a wonderful recognition for Louisa Stark, Lynn Jorde, and John Carey who have developed several successful educational approaches to promote genetic literacy."

About The American Society of Human Genetics

Founded in 1948, [The American Society of Human Genetics](#) (ASHG) is the primary professional membership organization for human genetics specialists worldwide. The nearly 8,000 members of ASHG include researchers, academicians, clinicians, laboratory practice professionals, genetic counselors, nurses, and others involved in or with a special interest in human genetics.

Award Recipient Bios

Louisa A. Stark, Ph.D., is the director of the Genetic Science Learning Center at the University of Utah. The Center is recognized nationally and internationally for its science education outreach program for students and teachers primarily in grades 5 through college undergraduates as well as the general public. Learn.Genetics, <http://learn.genetics.utah.edu>, and Teach.Genetics, <http://teach.genetics.utah.edu>, are the most widely disseminated genetics education sites in the world, which received 7.1 million visits from people in 175 countries in 2007. Stark is also a clinical professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning in the College of Education at the University.

Lynn B. Jorde, Ph.D., professor and holder of the H.A. and Edna Benning Presidential Endowed Chair in the Department of Human Genetics in the U's School of Medicine has been on the U's faculty for 29 years. Jorde is the lead author of *Medical Genetics*, a widely used textbook in medical schools around the country. Now going into its fourth edition, the textbook has been translated into several languages, including Spanish, French, Polish, and Portuguese. In the past 10 years, Jorde has educated 4,000 state, federal, and international judges about DNA and genetics for application in the courtroom.

John C. Carey, M.D., M.P.H., is a professor and vice chair of the Department of Pediatrics in the U's School of Medicine. Carey is co-author of *Medical Genetics*, a widely used textbook throughout North America and Europe. He established the Medical Genetics Fellowship Program in the early 1980s and continues to serve as its program director. As one of the first accredited fellowship programs in the country, the U's program has trained more than 20 clinicians and lab directors specializing in medical genetics. Carey serves as the editor-in-chief of American Journal of Medical Genetics. He joined the U's faculty in 1979.

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