

# Medical and Human Genetics in ARKANSAS

Jackie Whitfield, State Genetic Services Coordinator; Leslie Himstedt, Supervisor, Newborn Screening Laboratory  
Arkansas Department of Health; Little Rock, Arkansas



## Available Genetic Services

### Arkansas Children's Hospital Clinics

- General Genetics
- Metabolism
- Endo-genetics
- Newborn Screening
- Autism (Interdisciplinary)
- Down Syndrome (Interdisciplinary)
- Metabolic Follow-up (Interdisciplinary)
- Oro-facial Clefting (Interdisciplinary)
- Hemophilia and Bleeding Disorders (Interdisciplinary)
- Vascular Malformations (Interdisciplinary)
- Spina Bifida (Interdisciplinary)
- Outreach Clinic – Lowell, AR

### Perinatal and NBS Telemedicine (ANGELS)

- 15+ sites

### University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Clinics

- Maternal Fetal Medicine
- Cancer Genetics
- Adult Down Syndrome
- Adult Genetics
- Retinal Genetics (Interdisciplinary)

### Private Clinics

- Arkansas Infertility and Gynecology Associates (Reproductive Endocrinology/Infertility)

## Reference

State Genetic Plan: 2002

## Advisory Bodies

State Genetic Health Committee  
March of Dimes

## Personnel

### Newborn Screening Laboratory

*Laboratory*

#### Nurses

Leslie Himstedt, Arkansas Department of Health  
Glen Baker, Arkansas Department of Health  
Annette Arnold, Arkansas Department of Health  
Jackie Whitfield, Arkansas Department of Health  
Glenda Matthews, Arkansas Department of Health  
Alean Johnson, Arkansas Department of Health  
Mary Jean Gresham, Arkansas Department of Health  
Alice Martin, Arkansas Department of Health  
Tanja Brown, Arkansas Department of Health  
Bob West, Arkansas Department of Health

#### Medical

### Clinical Geneticists

Brad Schaefer, Arkansas Children's Hospital  
Steve Kahler, Arkansas Children's Hospital  
Adolfo Garnica, Arkansas Children's Hospital  
Kent McKelvey, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

### Maternal Fetal Medicine

Curtis Lowery, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences  
Paul J. Wendel, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences  
Nafisa Dajani, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

### Cytogeneticist

Jeff Sawyer, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

### Quadruple Screening Prog.

Tim O'Brien, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences  
Mona Blacklaw, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

### Genetic Counselors

#### Prenatal

Shannon Barringer, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences  
Noelle Agan, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences  
Mindy Simonson, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences  
Kris Baldwin, Arkansas Children's Hospital  
Shobana Kubendran, Wichita Telegenetics Site  
Anirudh Saronwala, Arkansas Children's Hospital  
Carla Bell, Arkansas Children's Hospital  
Tiffany Lepard, Arkansas Children's Hospital  
Jill Kelsay, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

#### NBS

#### Pediatric

#### Cancer/Adult

### Genetic Nurses

#### Prenatal

#### Pediatric

LaJuana Whyte, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences  
Paula Conaway, Arkansas Children's Hospital  
Sheila Hull, Arkansas Children's Hospital  
Suzanne Huetter, Arkansas Children's Hospital  
Carmen Ramirez, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences  
Donna LeBlanc, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

#### Cancer/Adult

### Metabolic Nutritionist

Brandi Nichols, Arkansas Children's Hospital

### Dept. of Genetic Counseling

Bruce Haas, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences  
Becky Butler, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences  
Lenna Levitch, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

### Birth Defects Registry

Charlotte Hobbs, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

## Training

Genetics Fellowships  
MS in Genetic Counseling (Accredited)

## State Profile

Population: 2,855,390 Capital: Little Rock

Largest cities: Little Rock, Fort Smith, Fayetteville, Springdale



## Newborn Screening

40,000 occurrent births/year

<b>1967</b> Phenylketonuria	<b>2008</b> Biotinidase Deficiency
<b>1981</b> Congenital Hypothyroidism	Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia
<b>1987</b> Hemoglobinopathies	Cystic Fibrosis
<b>1995</b> Galactosemia	Amino Acid Disorders
	Organic Acidemias
	Fatty Acid Oxidation Defects

## Special Features

- Genetic Counseling Telemedicine Clinic
- First Multi-state Genetic Counseling Consortium
- First Genetic Counseling Clinic in the VA Hospital System
- First Char Syndrome patient identified by Florence Char
- Nationally recognized Birth Defects Registry

## Facilities

- Arkansas Department of Health/Newborn Screening Laboratory
- Arkansas Children's Hospital
- University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
- Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System