Our mission is to conduct leading-edge research to:

- Apply genomic discoveries to improve clinical and public health interventions
- Improve understanding how social factors influence genomic research and its clinical applications
- Inform ethical and public policy decisions related to genomic research

The Communication Research Section focuses on:

**Example Research Study:**
- Project La Raza: evaluates the use of promotoras to educate low-literacy Spanish-speaking communities about family history
- Example Research Question:
  - How might understanding the genetics of common health conditions influence the behaviors of individuals and health care providers?
- Example Research Study:
  - Project Physicians' Understanding of Human Genetic Variation: evaluates how physicians' understanding of human genetic variation and patients' race and ethnicity influence clinical decision-making

The Social Network Methods Section focuses on:

- Developing and evaluating effective ways of communicating genetic and genomic information
- Translating genomic concepts for communities with low levels of health literacy

**Example Research Question:**
- How do we build skills and knowledge related to genomics in groups with low health literacy?

**Example Research Study:**
- Project RAMA: evaluates whether giving family history information to multiple family members motivates changes in healthy habits among Mexican American families

The Genetic Services Research Unit focuses on:

- Identifying the needs of genetic counseling clients across the lifespan
- Developing and testing innovative practice models, measures of assessment and interventions

**Example Research Question:**
- What are the best practices for genetic counselors who are working with individuals affected by rare conditions and their families?

**Example Research Study:**
- Project Genomic Counseling for Neurofibromatosis: evaluates unmet needs of adults affected with neurofibromatosis that are associated with quality of life and adaptation to the condition

The Public Health Genomics Section focuses on:

- Understanding how best to prepare the public and health care providers to use genomic innovation to benefit health
- Translating findings into interventions that can be broadly and inexpensively disseminated

**Example Research Question:**
- How might understanding the genetics of common health conditions influence the behaviors of individuals and health care providers?

**Example Research Study:**
- Project Physicians' Understanding of Human Genetic Variation: evaluates how physicians' understanding of human genetic variation and patients' race and ethnicity influence clinical decision-making

The Genetic Services Research Unit focuses on:

- Understanding how best to prepare the public and health care providers to use genomic innovation to benefit health
- Translating findings into interventions that can be broadly and inexpensively disseminated

**Example Research Question:**
- Understanding how social factors influence genomic research and its clinical applications
- Inform ethical and public policy decisions related to genomic research

- Applying genomic discoveries to improve clinical and public health interventions
- Using new research tools to anticipate challenges of genetics communication
- Preparing a new generation of genetic counselors
- Preparing a new generation of genomic scientists
- Conducting social and behavioral research related to genetic counseling
- Educating health care providers, policy makers and the public about genetics and related health and social issues

**Program goals:**
- To train scientists to be competent in social science and genomics
- Prepare young scientists to participate in research to translate genomics to benefit public health
- Prepare a new generation of scientists who can ably contribute to interdisciplinary team science

**Program:**
- Graduate Genetic Counseling Training Program
- Genomics Research Training Program
- Pre-Baccalaureate, postdoctoral
- Broad array of research interests and academic backgrounds
- Public health
- Medical anthropology
- Philosophy
- Molecular biology
- Health psychology/health behavior

**A collaboration between the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health and the National Human Genome Research Institute**

**Program goals:**
- Prepare genetic counselors, with an emphasis on clients' psychological and educational needs.
- Conduct social and behavioral research related to genetic counseling.
- Educate health care providers, policy makers and the public about genetics and related health and social issues.

**Using new research tools to anticipate challenges of genetics communication**

- Evaluates whether priming medical students with scientific information about the role of genetics in obesity will influence clinical decisions for an obese virtual patient
- Research laboratory employing virtual reality technology
- Users view environments in 3D using a head-mounted display; movements in the environment are controlled by real body movement (walking around, head-turning)
- This technology allows users to interact with the environment and its contents in real time, leading to a compelling sense of immersion in research scenarios.
- Example Research Question:
  - How might patients' or providers' social characteristics impact clinical interaction around genomics?

**Example Research Study:**
- Project Assessing Obesity Bias: evaluates whether priming medical students with scientific information about the role of genetics in obesity will influence clinical decisions for an obese virtual patient.