



## ISONG Nomination Form Candidate Overview

**Name: Mallory Perry**

**Degrees/Credentials: MS, BSN, RN, CPN**

**Board Position: Student**

Please provide a personal statement of interest (maximum 400 words) for inclusion in the ballot information. You should include comments on the following areas:

- Your involvement in, and service to, ISONG, including any leadership roles
- Background information you want the membership to know about you in relation to your interest/involvement in genetics education, research and practice
- Reasons why you are interested in serving on the ISONG Board.

Though I am a relatively new member of ISONG, as of 2016, I had the pleasure of attending my first world congress last year in Reston, Virginia. Attending the world congress opened my eyes to how receptive and supportive ISONG membership is to its students. I presented a poster of my general exam findings, an integrative literature review of genetics and racial disparities in pain management. Being my first international conference, I was nervous to say the least. Though the support and ideas garnered by fellow ISONG members was uplifting and prompted me to run for the position of student representative. I have remained in contact with several colleagues and fellow students, whom I met at congress. My initial exposure to ISONG was at the Summer Genetics Institute (SGI) held at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland in June 2016. SGI exposed me to the realm of personalized and precision nursing science, through didactic and hands-on learning experiences. I am currently a PhD candidate at the University of Connecticut. My dissertation focuses on the biopsychosocial implications of the transition from acute to chronic pain in children who have undergone spinal surgery. Through the analysis of differential gene expression, it is my overarching goal to determine a predictive model of children who may be at an increased risk for chronic pain. In doing so, novel therapies and individualized treatment plans can be curated for this vulnerable population. Considering that I am fairly novice, having mentorship by Dr. Angela Starkweather, long-standing ISONG member, has been invaluable.

It is my hope that in providing my perspective on the ISONG Board of Directors, that I will create a bridge between students and established nursing genetics researchers. It is important to remember that the student perspective includes, both undergraduate and graduate students alike. While at SGI it was brought to my attention that many practicing bedside nurses, have minimal undergraduate microbiology or healthcare genetics education. Providing the student perspective on such topics may be most beneficial to the Board in recruitment and retention of student membership. Furthermore, being a member of the ISONG Board would provide me with the opportunity to work directly with individuals who are established change agents in precision nursing and healthcare. Creating change in the classroom and bedside is what matters most to me as a future nurse scientist and educator. Thank you for your time and consideration!