Dear APGNN Members,

Your APGNN Board, Committee Chairs and Committee Members have been busy working on several projects as well as our Annual Meeting plans for October. Please take some time to read through this newsletter for important updates and opportunities to become involved in your organization.

Please pay close attention to changes made to the submission process for abstracts. We will be utilizing an online process through NASPGHAN. The deadline is earlier than in previous years. Don’t miss the opportunity to submit your work.

The August election of officers is just around the corner. Please contact Lisa Philichi at Lisa.Philichi@multicare.org if you are interested in running in the election or would like to nominate a colleague. Details on open positions will be available soon. Descriptions of the positions can be found in the Officers Handbook found on apgnn.org. If you have additional questions, please don’t hesitate to contact current board members. They will be happy to provide you with details about their roles.

Maureen Egan, Program Chair, and her committee have begun work on our October 2015 annual meeting, which will be held in Washington D.C. We are working closely with NASPGHAN to provide a two day course that meets the needs of our diverse membership.

For the first time ever, APGNN has sent a member to DC to advocate for the GI health care of the children and families we care for. Rosemary Pauley-Hunter recently attended the Nurse in Washington Internship offered by the Nursing Alliance Organization. Look for a summary of her experience in the newsletter. This is another example of the benefits of APGNN’s ongoing involvement with the Alliance.

If you have colleagues who are not currently members of APGNN, please share this newsletter and our website with them. Show them our “Benefits of Membership” content. There are many awards, grants and scholarships available to Full and Associate members. Associate members can be PA’s, social workers and others who have a sustained interest in pediatric GI. We welcome all!

Hope to see you in D.C.!

Diane Kocovsky
President APGNN
CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
NASPGHAN and APGNN Annual Meetings
October 8 - 11, 2015
Washington, DC

Abstract Receipt Deadline: June 2, 2015

The North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, NASPGHAN and the Association of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition Nurses, APGNN, are now accepting scientific abstracts and clinical vignettes for presentation at their Annual Meeting, October 8 - 11, 2015. All submissions will be completed electronically and there will be a link from the APGNN website to the NASPGHAN website with the submission information. The cost is free for all APGNN member abstracts. Abstracts will be reviewed and evaluated by a team of physicians and advanced practice providers. The APGNN abstracts will now be included with the NASPGHAN abstracts for greater visibility. There will be a ZERO tolerance policy for late submissions so please pay attention to the new deadline. APGNN abstracts may be submitted at no charge. Abstracts and clinical vignettes will be competitively reviewed and presented as follows:

Research abstracts for APGNN will be presented in poster format and will be published in the Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition.

Clinical vignettes will be presented in poster format and will not be published.

Video Abstracts will be selected for oral presentation.

APGNN abstracts will be presented in poster format and will not be published.

We encourage unpublished abstracts to be submitted. Abstracts submitted or accepted for publication (AT THE TIME OF ABSTRACT SUBMISSION) but not yet published IN A PRINT EDITION OF A JOURNAL will be considered. Abstracts submitted to other scientific meetings including DDW and ASSLD in the same academic year will also be considered. Abstracts submitted to local meetings in any calendar year will also be considered. There are some helpful resources for constructing the best abstract. A few links are provided below:

http://www.sccur.uci.edu/sampleabstracts.html

www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3136027/

https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/706/1/

Please conform to the word limits and specification in the abstract instructions.

For questions, please contact Kerry Reed or Goldie Markowitz.
A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ELECT

As president elect, I have been learning from Diane, our current president and have been fortunate for her mentorship and transparency. I have also had the privilege of participating on the program committee and can assure you we have a phenomenal conference planned this year! I have also spent some time investigating the possibility of pursuing formal pediatric GI certification, which is going to be a daunting but worthwhile process. Following conference calls with ANCC and ANA, our first course of business is going to be in regards to addressing scope and standards of practice in the field of pediatric GI. We will be including some survey questions to the membership to gauge interest at our upcoming conference. If you would like to join an ad hoc committee to work on this project, please contact ryan.shonce@carolinashealthcare.org.

Ryan

APGNN Wants You!

Consider being a candidate, or nominating another member, for the following 2016 board positions:

- **President-Elect** - 2 year position in preparation for President (2 years) and Past President (2 years)

- **Research and Publications Chair** – 2 year position

- **Patient and Family Education Chair** – 2 year position

Responsibilities of each position can be found on the APGNN website under membership/board position openings. The Ballot will be sent to members in August.

Contact Lisa Philichi: lisa.philichi@multicare.org if you have any questions and/or to give your nomination!
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Roles and Responsibilities:
Pediatric GI nurse: I assist providers in the clinic as well as with procedures in the OR. I also do phone triage.

Most Rewarding Aspect of your Job:
Watching children as they grow and improve throughout their treatment plan.

Most Challenging Moments:
Being an advocate for a patient with a challenging social environment.

New Goals or Plans for the Future:
Return to school to complete a graduate program. I also want to continue to improve as a GI nurse.

SECRETARY/TREASURER’S REPORT

AS OF MARCH 1, 2015 TOTAL ASSETS = $57,197
CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE = $27,134
SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE = $30,063

If anyone has any fundraising ideas they would like to share please don’t hesitate to drop me an email at rosemary.pauley-hunter@boystown.org

My report always seems boring so excuse the cartoon. But seriously our overall financial health is stable. Although our assets are down from last year, we are anticipating a stable year as far as income and expenses go. We will again be seeking funds for the annual meeting from last year’s sponsors—Mead Johnson, Shire, and Nutricia. We also hope to secure some funds from Abbott who has been generous to us in previous years.
Research Committee

Spring is a time of much anticipation. Our committee has enthusiastically been working alongside with NASPGHAN and their Research Committee in order to further foster a more collaborative relationship.

Exciting changes to be on the alert for this season (and these do not increase allergies):

Improvements in our submission process for poster abstracts. Our members will now be able to use the same submission process as NASPGHAN. This will allow for improvements in the ease of your submissions; ensure blind review; and foster awareness within NASPGHAN of our projects.

The Research abstracts will be included in NASPGHAN’s conference handout.

We have formalized the process for the Susan Moyer Research Grant. The subcommittee will comprise of 2 members from the APGNN Research Committee and 2 from NASPGHAN Research committee.

Our committee welcomes your input in quality improvement and research initiatives. We have recently been approached for interest in collaborating on an initiative with ASPEN and NG tube feeding (the NOVEL project). We are also working towards having a visible presence as pediatric journal article reviewers. If you are currently a reviewer or have any contacts, please feel free to contact us. We continuously strive to support you and your practice in order to have current evidence based nursing practice.

Thanks!

Warmly

Goldie Markowitz, MSN, CRNP
Chair, Research Committee
Email: markowitzg@email.chop.edu
Phone: 267 42607899
Nursing internship in dc

Nurse in Washington Internship (NIWI) Update
Rosemary Pauley-Hunter

I attended the NIWI conference in Washington DC this week. The event was hosted by The Alliance—the nursing coalition that APGNN belongs to. The first day and half we sat in on lectures which provided the 73 attendees information on “the business” of the Congress. We were instructed on lobbying techniques and provide information specifically on what our lobbying activities would consist of. On Tuesday members met with at least 1 or 2 House Representatives and with both Senators for their respective states. Our 3 “asks” were:

1. Funding support for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs
2. Funding support for the NIH Nursing Research grants
3. Sponsorship of a bill to Improve Veterans Access to Quality Healthcare—this would allow NP’s to provide primary care without needing physician oversight

Recently published!!

Congratulations to our Secretary/Treasurer Rosemary Pauley-Hunter on her recent publication!
Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology & Nutrition:
Fermentation Pattern of Infant Formulas Containing Different Prebiotics.
Vanderhoof, Jon; Ferguson, Paul; Pauley-Hunter, Rosemary; Prestridge, Laurel

Abstract

Prebiotics play a role in the development of intestinal flora. When exposed to unabsorbed food, such as prebiotic carbohydrates, intestinal bacteria produce hydrogen. Increases in hydrogen may signify a slower rate of fermentation or digestion. In this blinded, crossover study, infants (n = 13) consumed formula containing either 4 g/L galacto-oligosaccharide (GOS) or 4 g/L of polydextrose (PDX) + GOS, and breath hydrogen was measured. Breath hydrogen was higher in the PDX/GOS group vs. GOS alone (Mean +/- S.E.; 25.35 +/- 2.87 ppm vs. 13.69 +/- 2.87 ppm; p = 0.0001). These results indicate that the formula with PDX/GOS may have undergone slower digestion.

(C) 2015 by European Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition and North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology
The clinical practice committee has been hard at work creating many new educational handouts for our patients and their families. They include information on anorectal malformations, EoE, Remicade and Probiotics to name a few. Look for these to be added to the website soon! If you have any questions or suggestions for new material, please contact Amy Painter, committee chair.

**EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD**

**Excellence in Education Award APGNN**  
**Recognizing Educational Programs of Distinction**

Application Requirements. Deadline: August 1  

**Purpose:** To honor, recognize and promote excellence in pediatric GI nursing educational activities that improve patient care and provide educational ideas/templates for use with colleagues at APGNN and NASPGHAN. This will in turn help APGNN achieve its objective to be the recognized leaders in GI nursing and family education by members, physicians, nurses, and healthcare consumers.

**Award:** The winner will be invited to present his/her award-winning program at the APGNN Annual Conference. Funding will be provided for conference expenses: up to $500 for travel, 2 nights hotel stay at conference rate, and complimentary APGNN registration. Details about the awards and the awards submitted will be featured on the APGNN and/or NASPGHAN newsletter and websites as well as presented to members or the public for dissemination and use.

**Eligibility:** Any APGNN member or other pediatric gastroenterology nurse who has designed and implemented an educational activity (patient/family, peer, or community) that addressed an unmet need may apply. The project may be an individual or collaborative effort where the applicant has held a leadership role or been an integral part of the endeavor.

**Coaching:** Board members, exclusive of the judging panel, will be available to help identify and coach applicants through the process. The primary coach will be the APGNN Patient Education Committee Chair, Amy Painter who you may contact at amy.painter@gmail.com.

**Application Submission:**

Applications are due on: August 1  

Applications (as pdfs) should be submitted to the APGNN Patient Education Committee Chair, Amy Painter at amy.painter@gmail.com. Applications will then be blinded before being sent to the judging panel.

Please type your application in Word. To save as a PDF go to File: Save As and change the format to .pdf.
Program Committee

Maureen Egan and the program committee are working hard to put together a conference that will meet the diverse needs of our members. While the agenda is not yet set in stone, the foundation will include many dynamic speakers that are experts in their fields so we are assured to come away with the most up to date information. Please pay close attention to the website and emails updating you on the final agenda!

Message From the Media Chair

Happy spring everyone! As I type this message it is snowing in Ohio. Hopefully soon the grass will be green and the flowers will bloom. This newsletter is packed with information from all the committee chairs. There are numerous examples of opportunities that are possible for our members. I encourage all of you to become active participants in this organization. Initially, I had no idea how to become involved, then one committee chair reached out to many of us in a group email and asked if we were interested in helping with a telephone triage protocol for IBD. It was this one small, easy task that helped me get involved. After I met all the dynamic leaders of this organization I felt compelled to remain involved. I have learned so much from my involvement with this organization and it has provided important opportunities for professional growth. With that said, this committee is officially a committee of more than one! Welcome members Kathryn Bauk, Judith Ragan, and Carley Magyer to this new committee.

If anyone else has an interest in website management, social media and newsletter publication please contact me at amy.donegan@nationwidechildrens.org.

Job Opportunity

Announcing a new position available for a full-time nurse practitioner to work in our outpatient pediatric GI practice at Columbia University Medical Center (see below). If you are interested in this position, or know someone qualified who is interested, please contact me at kjpg2133@cumc.columbia.edu.

Kara Margolis

Outpatient Nurse Practitioner: Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition

This is an exciting opportunity for a pediatric nurse practitioner to work in an academic setting with a multi-disciplinary team comprised of gastroenterologists, dietitians, nurses, and medical assistants. The Division cares for patients from birth through young adulthood who have a variety of GI conditions, as well as patients with other primary disease who require nutrition support.

The pediatric nurse practitioner will, in collaboration with the medical staff, manage a panel of patients. The PNP practice will be to care for patients with a variety of digestive diseases. The PNP will also have the opportunity to be involved in the academic and research activities of the division.