

## APGNN EXECUTIVE BOARD

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### *President's message*

Dear Membership,

I now completely understand the saying “the days are long, but the years are short”. It is hard to believe that I have completed my 2 years as President of APGNN. I think the best emotion to describe how I am feeling right now is bittersweet. I learned so much and participated in things I never thought I would be involved in during my tenure. At times it was overwhelming, but most of the time, just energizing! After every board conference call or retreat I never felt like we were taking on too much. I felt like collectively, we had limitless potential.

Throughout this newsletter you will read about all the exciting things we are working on. Our annual meeting just wrapped up and was outstanding. This was Nannette Martin's first year as the program chair and she exceeded all expectations. I can hardly wait to see how our agenda shapes up for next year!

In 2018, we videotaped our meeting that was held in Hollywood, Florida. I am excited to say, that we have launched 2 CE modules to the [NAPNAP PedsCE site](#). The first module was the session on the Multidisciplinary Approach to Disordered Feeding – MADF. The second module was the session on Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders – FGID. For those of you unable to attend our annual meeting last year, these were fantastic modules and I think you will learn a lot from listening to these speakers. Each module is approximately 90 minutes. APGNN members can take these modules at a reduced cost of \$10. Please see page 8 for further instructions and access to the codes.

Prior to the conference, I collected information about our membership that I shared at the meeting, but think everyone might be interested in. We currently have about 400 members. Roughly, we have about 150 RN's, 120 APRN's; 74 members hold a master's degree, but did not list what capacity they were practicing, and we have 15 doctorate members – a mix of both DNP and PhD. We also have 9 PA's, and a few LPN's, MA's, industry professionals and researchers. We have 42 people who have been members longer than 10 years. Seventy-five have members for 6-10 years, and the majority, 288 have been members for 5 years or less. We would love to see the number of members grow, and our committees are working hard to retain members as well!

When I initially joined APGNN, there were many years I did not participate in opportunities offered by the organization. I didn't know anyone at the time and I felt too busy. Never once did I think I would be the President. But now that I have had the opportunity to be an active member of APGNN, I would highly encourage all of you to become involved in this organization as your time allows. You will not be disappointed, you will meet amazing people, develop great friendships and your contributions will directly impact the care we deliver to our patients and families.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve in this role.

Best,

Amy Donegan, APRN



## MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ELECT

A big thank you to all members new and veteran who attended our annual meeting in beautiful Chicago! The turn out was outstanding, and we had a great program this year thanks to your Program Committee! I am also so very grateful we were able to honor Sue Peck, Rosemary Pauley, and Robin Robinson. These are three amazing roll models! Our group is filled with talented teachers/mentors and leaders, so keep up the momentum! Nominate your fellow nurse leader/mentor for next year!

As the next President of APGNN I would like to honor all those who came before me, each person putting in extra hours everyday to support the committees with their work and members with their needs. In the end, these efforts have elevated the professional level of APGNN!

With that being said, I need to thank President Amy Donegan for being an amazing leader over the past 2 years! She has fostered the growth of every board member, encouraging us to “dig deep” and find the leaders within ourselves. I believe as members of APGNN we are ALL leaders! I hope you ALL get involved and share in the excitement of the next 2 years!

Three of the hardest working women in Chicago: Amy, Sharon, and Oprah (still looking for her...)



## PROGRAM

I hope you all enjoyed the APGNN conference as much as I did! A special shout out to Julie Shotwell, who not only gave an interesting talk on new testing for functional GI disorders but also suggested Claire Coyne as our keynote speaker. Dr. Coyne was dynamic, energetic and provided excellent information on how to better care for transgender children. Goldie Markowitz and her fellow speakers gave us the most recent evidence on medical, dietary and psychological management of obese children. Rachel Rosen updated us on the new GERD

guidelines and Carlo Di Lorenzo enlightened us on ROME IV and the products, such as the MDCP tool, to better manage our functional GI patients. The information Dr. Snyder provided about school integration for children with functional GI disorders was invaluable. The IBD transition panel of experts was well received. It was interesting to see how each center works to move children with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis to adult care. Doug Fishman's talk on interrogation of the small bowel was good information for me as I no longer practice at a tertiary center. Sanjiv Harpavat reminded me to continue to

respect the liver! Of course, feeding disorders is near and dear to my heart. It's exciting to see how colleagues across the country have come together to improve care for children who do not eat. Please continue to give feedback in your evaluations. I am already getting suggestions from members about potential speakers for our 2020 conference in San Diego!

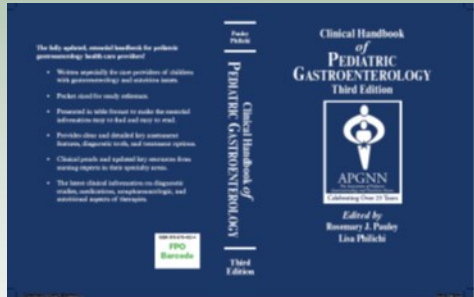
Nannette Martin, CPNP

APGNN Program Chair

[Pedzfeedz@gmail.com](mailto:Pedzfeedz@gmail.com)

# SECRETARY-TREASURER

The APGNN Board has done an amazing job at soliciting funds for our annual meeting. We are receiving grants from Mead Johnson, Abbott, Nutricia, and Nestlé for a total of \$15,700! This helped defray over half of the cost of the annual meeting and the rest was funded from our dues.



The third edition of the clinical handbook was made available at the meeting and given free to any new members who signed up.

Thanks again to all our generous member authors who were giving of their time and expertise freely for this project and to Mead Johnson for underwriting the production

I am so pleased to welcome Kerry Reed RN, MS, CPNP-PC from the University of Colorado to the role of secretary/treasurer. She will be fabulous in this role!

As of October 1ST, 2019 TOTAL ASSETS = \$ 102,245.11

Checking Account Balance \$ 47,133.38  
 Savings Account Balance \$ 55,111.73

## MEDIA COMMITTEE

Hello everyone! I hope your holidays were wonderful! The weather has been crazy in Cleveland, it's hard to know what season it actually is.

You may have noticed we skipped the Fall edition of the newsletter this time around. In order to make the newsletter more informative, bring the membership more worthwhile content, we've decided to space the newsletters to biannual. But this means we need your help! As members, we want to know what you're

doing at your center! Working on a research project? Tell us about it! Is there a conference in your area? We can help get the word out! The newsletters will still include information regarding conference scholarships and board openings so make sure you keep on the lookout.

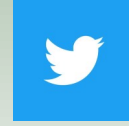
- Sharon Perry, Media Chair

[sharon.perry@uhhospitals.org](mailto:sharon.perry@uhhospitals.org)

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Follow us on Instagram @apgnn1



## PATIENT AND FAMILY EDUCATION

We had a fun time in Chicago at the Annual Meeting, and it was great to see so many members in attendance! As you know, I am transitioning out of the Chair position in the Patient & Family Education Committee and into the President Elect position. I wanted to thank the committee again for an incredible two years full of lots of educational development and collaboration among our APGNN members and NASPGHAN. Katie Rowell will be taking over the committee and is an amazing advocate for nursing education – you will be in great hands! The upcoming year will focus around “gap topics” that still need to be developed for the newly improved [GIKids.org](http://GIKids.org) website. Please consider volunteering for a topic. Lastly, congratulations to Barb Drobic from Nationwide Children's Hospital! Barb won the Excellence in Education Award for her development of IBD Education videos. You can check them out on our [APGNN website](http://APGNN website)! If you have any questions, please email me at [elizabeth.burch@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:elizabeth.burch@childrens.harvard.edu) or Katie at [Kathryn.R.Rowell@gunet.georgetown.edu](mailto:Kathryn.R.Rowell@gunet.georgetown.edu)

Warmly,  
Liz Burch, CPNP  
Outgoing Chair – Patient & Family Education Committee



## MEMBERSHIP

We had a wonderful time at our Annual Meeting on October 18 and 19, 2019. The membership committee had awarded the following:

Three **APGNN Conference Scholarships** – that covered the registration and a portion of the hotel fee.

- ◆ Mary Alice Dombrowski, CFNP, APRN, DNP Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital
- ◆ Melanie Oates, RN-BC, BSN Nationwide Children's Hospital
- ◆ Maureen Egan, PNP Alfred I. DuPont Hospital for Children
  
- ◆ **Excellence in Nursing Practice** – awarded to **Rose Pauley, RN, MSN, APRN**, who has shown excellence in the care of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition patients
  
- ◆ **Excellence in Mentoring** – awarded to **Robyn Robinson, RN, MSN, CPNP** who was nominated by Jazmine Bustos for being instrumental in her professional development in Pediatric GI, Hepatology, and Nutrition

We had a Scavenger Hunt during the Conference! The winner is Lisa Philichi, RN, MSN, CPNP who won an Amazon gift card

We had 8 new members sign up for new APGNN memberships and had a raffle. Maria Nguyen, MSN is our winner!

Welcome our NEW APGNN members! We are 400 + members strong! Tell your friends in Pediatric GI to join us and be part of a dynamic group working to improve the care of our patients

## APGNN Member Spotlight

Melanie Oates

My name is Melanie Oates RN-BC, BSN. I work at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio where I am a Pediatric IBD Nurse Coordinator. I have practiced nursing for 29 years and have spent the past 4 ½ years working in the Pediatric Gastroenterology division.

I am a proud mother of two children. My 24-year old son is engaged to be married and my daughter is a junior at Bowling Green State University. While my passions is nursing, I enjoy staying active, working out, cooking and spending time with friends. I enjoy traveling and recently had the opportunity to travel to Italy.

I joined APGNN three years ago after attending a conference. Last year I won the Abbott Travel Scholarship and presented my poster: Utilization of Quality Improvement Methods to Improve IBD Teaching in Newly Diagnosed Patients. This year after receiving the APGNN travel grant I presented a poster: Optimizing Nursing and Pharmacy Collaboration in the Care of Pediatric Patients with Inflammatory Bowel Disease. I have enjoyed being a part of this nursing organization and intend to stay involved with committee work.



# APGNN Membership Application 2020

## Type of Membership

**Full** – Nursing professions (RN, APRN, LPN) working in GI or has interest in GI; not Industry/Pharma

**Associate** – Non-nursing professions (PA, RD, Social Worker, Psychologist, etc.) working full or part time in GI, resident outside US/Canada, or anyone (including nursing professions) working in Industry/Pharma

**Joint NAPNAP Membership** – Applicants who are members of NAPNAP will receive a 20% discount

**Institution Group Payment** – Buy 3 memberships and get the 4<sup>th</sup> one free. This offer is available to both new and renewing members from the *same institution*. New Member Applications and Renewal Invoices for current members must be submitted together with a *single payment* from the institution in order to qualify.

## Information:

## Today's Date:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Degree/s: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_  
Position (LPN, RN, NP, PA, MA, SW, Psych, Research, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Setting: \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax#: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ (Gmail, Yahoo, AOL, Hotmail, etc.)  
Preferred Mailing Address:  Work  Home  
Years in GI Practice: \_\_\_\_\_ Area of Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

## Please select the APGNN committee(s) you are interested in:

**Program** – Planning of the annual APGNN conference content (topics, speaker recruitment, etc.)

**Research** – Review grant applications and input on research projects and initiatives

**Patient & Family Education** – Development of patient and family educational materials

**Membership** – Involved in recruitment and retention, revise benefits, review award applications

**Clinical Practice** – Development of nursing education modules in a multi-media format

**Media** – Contributes articles/ideas to quarterly newsletter and social media platforms, updating members to pertinent information (hot topics, deadlines) through these avenues

## Mentoring Program:

Would you be interested in being a mentor or would you like to have a mentor to help you work on your professional or career goals?

Yes, I would like to be a Mentor  Yes, I would like to have a Mentor  No

## Payment:

Annual Dues - \$90 Full Membership / \$55 Associate Membership / \$72 Joint Membership

Optional (please check if you would like to include in your initial payment):

**\$ 60 Subscription to Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology & Nutrition - \$60.00**

**\$ 10 Clinical Handbook for new members while supplies last**

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO **APGNN**

Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Verification Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

## Once application is completed send with payment to:

Kim Rose, APGNN Membership Liaison (krose@naspghan.org)

Mail: NASPGHAN 714 N. Bethlehem Pike, Suite 300, Ambler, PA 19002 Fax # 215-641-1995

Questions about membership please contact Bernadette Diez at [bdiez@psvcare.org](mailto:bdiez@psvcare.org)

## RESEARCH & QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

At the 2019 NASPGHAN Conference in Chicago, the APGNN Research Committee accepted 20 abstracts for poster presentation, which is double the volume of 2018. We are excited to announce the winners of the 2019 APGNN poster of distinction awards: Julie Perkins, Boston Children's Hospital and Annette McCoy and Alicia Smith, Children's Hospital Colorado. In addition, Karie Robinson, Children's Mercy Hospital was awarded the 2019 Susan Moyer Foundation Grant. We want to thank all who assisted with review of the 2019 submitted abstracts and encourage anyone interested to join the Research Committee to help with this in the coming years.

Continuing to advance our mission, the Research Committee is soliciting EBP, QI or research questions from our members in the form of "Ask the Expert" to include in our quarterly newsletter. Please feel free to reach out to Kerri Fournier ([Kerri.Fournier@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:Kerri.Fournier@childrens.harvard.edu)) or Sara Fidanza ([Sara.Fidanza@childrenscolorado.org](mailto:Sara.Fidanza@childrenscolorado.org)) with questions.

In this newsletter, we would like to highlight an EBP/QI experience from one of our APGNN members, Annette McCoy, who has won a poster of distinction award twice for her nurse driven Vitamin D project entitled "*IMPLEMENTATION OF STANDARDIZED DOSING FOR VITAMIN D SUPPLEMENATATION ACHIEVED NORMAL SERUM VITAMIN D LEVELS IN CHOLESTATIC BILIARY ATRESIA PATIENTS 2 YEARS OF AGE AND YOUNGER*". Annette has been employed at Children's Hospital Colorado for over 20 years with experience in NICU, PICU, Liver Transplant and Hepatology for the past 12 years. Annette is an expert in the field of pediatric hepatology, she shares her knowledge nationally and is also a member of the AASLD.

"Vitamin D Evaluation and Supplementation: The journey of a nurse driven protocol to Improve Vitamin D status in a cohort of children with Biliary Atresia"

As a clinical nurse in the Liver Center of Children's Hospital Colorado, my Vitamin D journey began several years ago with outside lab entry. As I entered vitamin D results into the EMR on several patients, I noticed vitamin D levels were often low or not routinely evaluated systematically. This finding, along with a few patients exhibiting major bone fractures with simple tasks due to vitamin D deficiency, escalated my attention and clinical inquiry to vitamin D levels, routine screening, and supplementation for children with a diagnosis of Biliary Atresia. During my investigation, I found less than 40% of these patients had normal serum vitamin D levels putting them at risk for osteoporosis and fractures.

Initially setting a goal to establish routine screening and documentation of serum vitamin D levels in BA patients age 2 and younger with cholestasis brought awareness that not all patients at risk were routinely screened. Therefore, vitamin D screening guidelines were established: (1) Quarterly vitamin D screening for patients with a normal level and monthly screening for patients with a low vitamin D level. The nurse provided care coordination which included sending reminders to the liver providers that vitamin D levels were due and closer monitoring occurred. The normal serum vitamin D level increased in over 75% of patients just with routine screening.

Phase 2 of the project introduced standardized dosing guidelines for vitamin D supplementation in addition to the timing of screening for serum vitamin D levels. Many providers inched up on dosing but did not follow any standardized dosing guidelines. Many patients remained with low serum vitamin D levels with small incremental dosing adjustments. Implementation of a standardized dosing guideline for vitamin D supplementation provided consistency with dose adjustments and variation to often bigger dose adjustments than the physicians were accustomed to. With standardized dosing implementation, patient's serum vitamin D levels rose and 70% of Biliary Atresia patients age 2 years and younger reached normal serum vitamin D levels.

Clinical inquiry and investigation by one nurse in a large liver practice (7 physicians) prompted leadership to change how vitamin D is clinically monitored and supplemented, using a standardized methodology to drive a clinical practice change that resulted in improved patient care and quality outcomes. This project is evidence that nurses can make a difference in patient outcomes!

Sara Fidanza, MS, RN, CNS-BC, CPNP-PC

Chair, APGNN Research Committee

### NAPNAP PedsCE: Online CE for Pediatric-focused APRNs

<https://ce.napnap.org/>

Functional Gastrointestinal Disorder (FGID)

#### FGID

This certificate entitles you to a discount of \$10.00 at NAPNAP PedsCE: Online CE for Pediatric focused APRNs

Please visit us at <https://ce.napnap.org/> and enter the code **FGID** at checkout to obtain your discount.

Valid until 10/31/2021.

Maximum one use per customer.

May be used for any of the following:

Functional Gastrointestinal Disorder (FGID).

### NAPNAP PedsCE: Online CE for Pediatric-focused APRNs

<https://ce.napnap.org/>

Multidisciplinary Approach to Disordered Feeding

#### MADF

This certificate entitles you to a discount of \$10.00 at NAPNAP PedsCE: Online CE for Pediatric focused APRNs

Please visit us at <https://ce.napnap.org/> and enter the code **MADF** at checkout to obtain your discount.

Valid until 10/31/2021.

Maximum one use per customer.

May be used for any of the following:

Multidisciplinary Approach to Disordered Feeding

## Clinical Practice

Cold weather has finally arrived in Texas! Or at least what we call cold. I hope this finds you all doing well.

The Clinical Practice Committee has been busy over the last year on numerous projects.

We are excited to say that we have two new liver modules near completion, one on Basic Liver Disease and one on Acquired Liver Disease. We are just waiting on some illustrations to make them complete. Once finalized these will be available on the APGNN website for CE credit.

The APGNN Constipation Telephone Triage has been updated and sent to the NASPGHAN Clinical Care and Quality Committee for review.

We are excited to announce that Boot Camps are coming soon! We will be creating Boot Camp Multimodality Education Modules on a vast array of common GI Topics. These modules will allow the GI nurse or advanced practice provider to go from novice to expert in a variety of topics. CE's will be available upon completion. APGNN is so fortunate to partner with the NASPGHAN Clinical Care and Quality Committee on these modules. The FTT/Malnutrition and Constipation module are already under way and will be joined by many other topics in the coming months.

We are actively recruiting APGNN members to join the Clinical Practice Committee to help create these modules. I can be reached at [dkgarner3@gmail.com](mailto:dkgarner3@gmail.com) or [dkgarner@texaschildrens.org](mailto:dkgarner@texaschildrens.org) Please email both when responding.

I look forward to a great year ahead!

Donna Garner, MSN, APRN-CPNP  
APGNN Clinical Practice Committee Chair