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APGNN

The Association of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition Nurses

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President's Message

Dear Membership,

Now that summer is upon of us, many of you will be looking forward to some well-deserved rest and relaxation. Before you forget, please mark your calendars now for the next APGNN Annual Meeting in New Orleans October 22 and 23: *Future Trends and New Horizons*. Our Program Chair, Lindsay Wilson, and the committee are hard at work to make this a high quality meeting.

APGNN Board Members and Committee Chairs had an opportunity to meet in Philadelphia in April. This was a very productive gathering. One of our top priorities is updating and maintaining our website. To keep costs down, we are trying to do most of the updates ourselves. We are still in the process of trying to make this run smoothly and will keep working on it until it is more functional. Please check back often: <http://www.apgnn.org>

One of my goals as President is to increase our membership. APGNN is a unique organization and the only one dedicated to pediatric gastroenterology nursing. We also offer an Associate Member category for other professional working in pediatric GI. Please encourage dietitians, PA's, social workers and psychologists on your teams to consider membership. APGNN supports research in pediatric GI, provides excellent educational programs and creates opportunities for professional networking. We believe this increases career satisfaction and ultimately improves care for the patients and families we work with. Please share our "Benefits of Membership" document with your colleagues which can be found on our website. (continued on page 2)



**Robin
Shannon,
APGNN
President**

President's Message Continued

Check out award and scholarship opportunities on the website, deadlines will approach quickly. Please read on to get valuable information in this newsletter. There are many opportunities to get involved in committees or in leadership positions. Feel free to contact any of us if you have any questions or suggestions.

Many thanks to all of you who have reached out to APGNN leadership, your input is very valuable and makes us a better organization.

Robin Shannon, MS, RN, CPNP

Call For Nominations



**Lisa Philichi.
President
Elect**

Become involved!! Calling for nominations for the following 2011 APGNN Board Positions:

Treasurer, 3 year term

Membership Chair, 2 year term

Newsletter Chair, 2 year term

Clinical Practice Chair, 2 year term

Secretary, 2 year term

Program Chair, 2 year term

Please refer to the Officer's Handbook for a description of responsibilities. If you or someone you know are interested, please contact Mary-Alice Tully PNP, Past President at maryalice.tully@childrens.harvard.edu. The Officers Handbook can be found at <http://apgnn.org>.

Save the Date

Plan on Attending
APGNN's 21st Annual
Meeting

***Future Trends and
New
Horizons***

October 22-23, 2010

New Orleans, Louisiana

**Committee
Chairs**

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APGNN Excellence in Mentoring Award

**Has
someone
been
instrumental
in the path
your career
as a Pediatric
GI Nurse?**

**Has your
mentor
supported
nursing
excellence and
professional
development?**

Deadline for submission of nominations: August 31, 2010

Purpose

The mentor award was established to honor mentors of APGNN members who support nursing excellence and professional development; to identify role model mentors; to heighten awareness of the need for mentoring; and to encourage broader mentoring participation in pediatric gastroenterology and nutrition.

Eligibility

Served as a mentor to an APGNN member during the past 36 months

Submission Criteria-All nominations must include

- ❖ Two-page (typed, approximately 250 words) letter of nomination that enumerates the ways in which the mentor reflects the purpose of the award; fostering your career development through scholarship, teaching and advocacy
- ❖ Curriculum vitae of nominee
- ❖ Your name and contact information

Award Process

Award to be determined by current Membership Committee Members. The recipient will be awarded a commemorative plaque or certificate and a check in the sum of \$250.00 during the annual APGNN meeting to be presented by his/her nominating APGNN member.

Criteria Used In Evaluating Nominees

- ❖ Respects goals and assists in professional development; inspires, encourages, supports essential strategies for life success
- ❖ Actively guides and assists with clinical work, research and/or education; articulates and encourages high standards
- ❖ Accessible for advice and assistance; takes time to ensure guidance is provided
- ❖ Actively seeks financial or other support for education, research or clinical activities
- ❖ Actively involves APGNN member in clinical, educational and/or research activities
- ❖ Actively involves APGNN member in professional conferences and/or publications
- ❖ Provides assistance to overcome problems or barriers to ongoing professional development
- ❖ Helps to 'network' with other relevant professionals
- ❖ Alerts to career opportunities; helps secure and/or advance employment opportunities
- ❖ Is a strong advocate for pediatric GI/nutrition nurses

Research Opportunity

Have you always wanted to conduct research but felt that you don't have the time? Do you have a research question you want to answer? In this age of evidence based practice we all encounter situations where questions arise – what's the best way to care for this child and family? How can I best prepare them for this procedure? Is it better to use this technique or try something new?

The APGNN has an exciting opportunity for you to investigate answers to your questions. In collaboration with the CDHNF, the APGNN is able to offer a research grant to members to conduct a research project. The grant, up to \$25,000, will be awarded to an APGNN member to fund a nursing research project related to our field of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Nutrition or Hepatology.

The research grant, which honors the memory of Susan Moyer, MD, who helped to secure funding, will be awarded at the APGNN meeting in New Orleans, October 2010. Applications will be accepted from May 1st to August 6th 2010. If you would like to apply for the CDHNF/APGNN Susan Moyer award then start planning now. A full description of the award and an online application will soon be available on the CDHNF website. To help you plan in the meantime here are some highlights of the process:

- ✓ The applicant must be a full member of APGNN
- ✓ The research must focus on nursing care of children and families with gastrointestinal problems
- ✓ The research project must be approved by the IRB in your institution
- ✓ The application must be submitted online prior to August 6th 2010
- ✓ The winner will receive the award at the next APGNN meeting in October 2010 & will be expected to present their research at a future APGNN meeting
- ✓ The grant is for up to \$25,000 and can be used in part for salary support
- ✓ Your institution will need to provide you with a minimum of 10% protected time to plan and conduct your research

The grant is for one year and the researcher must plan to complete the project within that time. This is a wonderful opportunity for APGNN members so start planning your project now! If you have any questions please feel free to email me at clare.ceballos@mountsinai.org.



**Clare
Ceballos
Research
Committee
Chair**

Excellence in Education Award

A call to all members!!!!

Our Excellence in education Award for 2010 will be again presented at our annual APGNN meeting in New Orleans in October. From discussions with our members both at last year's meeting as well as through our on-line access I know that many people are doing an outstanding job at providing educational opportunities to their patients and families. Please consider applying for the award and showing our membership what you are doing at your facilities/locations. An added incentive especially for those that have restricted educational funding is that the award covers the cost of the annual meeting.

The application process is very simple and is located on our APGNN Website Home Page or under the Patient/Family Education tab and then link to APGNN Excellence in Education Award. The nomination/application deadline is fast approaching so please consider submitting your programs.

If you have any questions please contact me and I would be happy to assist you.

Laurie Weber

Patient/Family Education Chair

weber.laurie.l@marshfieldclinic.org



**Diane
Kocovsky
Newsletter
Chair**

Editor's Note

Please take note of the many opportunities in this quarter's newsletter for research, leadership and recognition. I personally have been both professionally and personally rewarded by serving as the Newsletter Chair. The opportunities it has provided me by becoming more involved in our professional organization have enriched my career. As Robin stated in her President's Message, it has increased my job satisfaction which ultimately improves the care provided to our patients. If you are even remotely considering any of these opportunities, throw your hat in!!

See you all in New Orleans, it will be here before we know it!

Diane Kocovsky, APRN
