



APGNN

The Association of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition Nurses

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President's Message

Another change of seasons, I'm just about ready for a lazy sunny summer. You too? "Hah!" I hear some of you saying. Summer always flies by way too quickly for me. With that in mind, I hope you have looked ahead to your November schedule. I can't wait to see you in National Harbor, November 13 and 14th for our annual APGNN meeting and education program. It was a big loss not having our usual APGNN educational meeting last fall because of the World Congress. I don't think we want to let that happen again. Now is the time to start thinking about our meeting in November and plan ahead. I recognize that many of us are dealing with difficult economic constraints. Budget tightening measures often include conference and travel reimbursement. Many institutions stipulate that you must be presenting in order to get compensation. If this describes your situation, the deadline is fast approaching to submit an abstract on your research or a clinical vignette. **The submission deadline is August 1, 2009.** You may also apply for the **Excellence in Education Award**, which would give you a chance at having **all** your expenses covered. Speaking of awards, I also ask you to take a moment to think of that person that helped guide you professionally in your career and nominate him or her for the **Mentor Award**. Applications can be found on our website, www.APGNN.org. We continually try to improve our website and recently took over content management. We now no longer have to go through a middleman to have the website updated and our newsletter posted. Hopefully our website will be current. Please make sure to let all your colleagues (social workers, dietitians, feeding therapists, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists and physicians) know about our November meeting. We have a wonderful program with a focus on multidisciplinary practice. Also let them know that they are more than welcomed to join APGNN as associate members and receive reduced registration fees.

Our committees continue to be busy. LeAnne Vitito, our Practice chair, just published a continuing medical education activity, "*A Case-based Monograph Focusing on Pediatric IBD*". You should have received one in the mail. She wrote it in conjunction with the NASPGHAN IBD committee and CDHNF. Our organization provides many opportunities for collaboration such as this. Just let me know your interest and I'll be more than pleased to help you get connected.

Stay in touch and looking forward to seeing you soon.

Your president,

Mary-Alice Tully MSN PNP- BC

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Save the date!

Plan on attending APGNN's 20th Annual Meeting

This year's annual APGNN course *Working Together: Collaborative Practice* will be held November 13 & 14 at National Harbor, near Washington, D.C.

Program Description:

This year's meeting will highlight a multidisciplinary approach to pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition-related problems. Selected topics include advocacy for children with Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Treatment of IBD with Biologics, Fatty Liver Disease, Intestinal Failure, Functional Abdominal Pain, Failure to Thrive, Vitamin D and Inflammation.

Concurrent sessions on Gastrostomy Tubes, NP postgraduate educational requirements, Publishing & Research and Interpretation of lab (liver) tests will be presented. We will also have case presentations (Zebras) by social workers, physician assistants, dietitians, occupational therapists and nurses as well as abstract presentations.

We will hold an allied health professionals networking luncheon for all attendees and a social event to celebrate APGNN's 20th Anniversary.



Join Us in Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of APGNN

In 1994 an article was published in the NASPGHAN newsletter to solicit interest of Pediatric GI and Nutrition Nurses in forming a professional support network.. Forty five responses were received. This idea of a sister organization was endorsed by NASPGHAN in 1988. Six nurses were invited and attended the NASPGHAN Annual Meeting in Chicago that year. In 1989, the NASPGHAN subcommittee was formed to pursue the organization of a pediatric GI/Nutrition organization. The subcommittee was led by Jay Perlman, President of NASPGHAN and Claire Stackhouse, MSN. Initial officers were Calire Stackhouse, Chair, Marianne Buzby, Co-chair and Susan Peck, Secretary/Treasurer. The organization was named Association of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition Nurses. The mission included promoting nursing research and education in pediatric gastroenterology and nutrition, establish standards of nursing practice, created nursing network to enhance professionalism in the discipline and support role development of pediatric gastroenterology and nutrition nurses.

In 1989, the First Annual Meeting of APGNN was held. 25 nurses attended. In 1996, 3 APGNN members attended the World Conference in Toulouse France. In 2000, the World Congress was held in Boston. A three day educational course for nurses was planned and presented by APGNN. In 2004 at the World Congress in Paris, a GERD symposium was presented by APGNN members and 3 research posters were presented by members. In 2007, the APGNN Clinical Handbook of Pediatric Gastroenterology was published by QMP. The editors, Rosemary Young and Lisa Philichi worked closely with members to develop the book. In 2008 the current president of APGNN, MaryAlice Tully attended the World Congress in Iguassu Falls, Brazil. In 2009, we are almost 300 members strong and continuing to grow.

This year's APGNN Annual Meeting marks the 20th Anniversary of our organization. Come join us as we celebrate our history and make plans for our future.



Patient and Family Education Committee

Hi everyone,

On behalf of the APGNN Patient/Family Education Committee,

Karen and I attended the Public Education subcommittee meeting of NASPGNN held at DDW in Chicago, June 1st. We submitted 6 NASPGHAN brochures listing top 3 helpful website links to be added on each brochure.

Our current assigned project is a major review of Non-alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease brochure.

If any committee members want to participate in this major review, please contact us. This major review needs to be completed by end of August 2009. Plans are to submit the completed review by the next Public Education Committee meeting which will be in November 2009.

We want to welcome 2 NEW members to our committee. They are: Viviana Monzon, PNP. Email at monzonv@bellsouth.net and Laura Olexa, RN. Email at laura.olexa@cchm.org.

We presently have 40 members listed on this committee. Karen and I would like to update our list. Please email us with your updated contact information, or if you want your name deleted from the list, let us know.

We want to thank everyone who contributed to finding great websites for each of the 6 submitted brochures. We welcome you all to provide input on the above brochure review. We will be sending out more information on this brochure to all committee members.

Have a great, safe summer!!

Karen Sherry ksherry@chw.org

Lillian Sablan lsablan@chw.org

Patient/Family Education Co-Chairs

APGNN Welcomes New Members

Viviana Monzon, PNP

Miami, Florida

Laura Olexa, RN

Cincinnati, Ohio

Rebecca Ratcliff, RN

Oakland, California

Emmala Shonce, NP

Charlotte, North Carolina

Chantal Shouldice, RN

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Congratulations to Lisa Daigle, this year's APGNN Conference Scholarship Recipient!! See you in National Harbor, Maryland in November.



The APGNN Excellence in Mentoring Award

This award recognizes a mentor that has provided guidance and direction toward nursing excellence to an APGNN member during the past 36 months. The only exclusion criterion is that one can not be a recipient for two consecutive years. The mentor who is selected as the recipient of the award will be honored with a check in the sum of \$250 - to be presented by his/her nominating APGNN member during the Annual Meeting.

If you have a special Mentor in your career, please consider submitting a letter summarizing how your mentor has fostered your professional development to Lisa Philichi, Membership Chair at lisa.philichi@multicare.org. Additional information regarding the mentor nomination process is included in the accompanying guidelines. The Membership Committee will then blindly review all submissions and select a recipient. Wouldn't it be nice for your mentor to be able to list *APGNN Excellence in Mentoring Award* on his /her CV from now on-I can't think of a better way to say thank you, can you?



APGNN Excellence in Mentoring Award Guidelines for Submission/Evaluation

Deadline for submission of nominations: September 15, 2009

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
- ❖ Provides excellent model of professionalism

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 will honor the memory of Susan Moyer, MD, who helped to secure funding, will be awarded for the first time at the APGNN meeting in Maryland, November 2009. Applications will be accepted from January to June 2009. 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 \(http://www.cdhnf.org/wmspage.cfm?parm1=129\)](http://www.cdhnf.org/wmspage.cfm?parm1=129).

To help you plan in the meantime here are some highlights of the process:

- **The applicant must be a 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 June 2009**
- **The winner will receive the award at the next APGNN meeting in November 2009 & 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



Attention APGNN Members

Do you have an interesting clinical case, patient care issue, treatment outcome or other clinical information that would be educational for your colleagues? Then please consider submitting a Clinical Vignette Abstract to be presented at the **ASSOCIATION OF PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGY & NUTRITION NURSES ANNUAL MEETING** in *National Harbor, Maryland (November 26-27, 2009)*.

You can find the abstract form on the APGNN website under the research tab. The deadline for submission is Aug 1, 2009. We look forward to receiving your submission. Thank you for your professional involvement. Any questions please contact LeAnne Vitito at Lvitito@unmc.edu.

Editor's Note

Summer is finally here!! As you can see there is a lot going on in our organization. Please take every opportunity to participate in all that the upcoming Annual Meeting has to offer. Join us for the 20th Anniversary Celebration! Look for the next Newsletter in September. Have a safe summer!

Diane Kocovsky

Newsletter Committee Chair

kocovskyd@boystown.org