



# APGNN

*The Association of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition Nurses*

December 2007

Volume 17 Issue 3

## President's Message

December 2007

Happy Holidays and a Healthy New Year to all!

I am thrilled and honored to be your new president and thank you for this challenging opportunity. I always return from our annual meeting inspired and energized to accomplish great things. The source of my inspiration and energy, of course, comes from all of you. The commonality of our focus to promote excellence in the care of families with children with gastrointestinal and nutrition disorders and the level of expertise of our members is so impressive. We truly have so much to share.

I want to thank our outgoing president, Rosemary Young, for her years of dedicated service to our organization. Rose, you will be missed. As many of you know, Rosemary was a founding member of APGNN. Through the years she's been an active member of our executive board in various capacities and most recently, the co-editor with Lisa Philichi of our hot-off-the-press **Pediatric GI Clinical Handbook!** Make sure you get a copy.

Allow me to also recognize the contributions of our departing two-term Research Committee Chair, Lynn Mattis who has done an outstanding job promoting pediatric GI nursing research both as a mentor to many and by procuring financial awards for APGNN presenters. Welcome to Clare Ceballos our new Research Chair. It will be a very exciting term as we develop a substantial pediatric GI nursing research grant from CHDNF. More to follow regarding this exciting APGNN grant in future newsletters and on our website.

I say thank you to outgoing Newsletter Chair, Robin Shannon, and welcome her with open arms as our President-elect. Being book-ended by Robin and Addie McDuffie as Past President, bolsters my confidence in my ability to lead our organization.

Welcome to Diane Kocovsky who will be our Newsletter chair. I'm certain she could use some committee members to help her and newsletter submissions are always appreciated. Our perennial leader, Sue Peck, has graciously accepted another mission as Website committee chair, a new committee dedicated to improving our dynamic website. Calling for website committee members too! Thank you, Sue and welcome back to the executive board.

Please read the 2007 Board Member/Committee Chair Reports included in this Newsletter for all the updates.

Next year, the NASPGHAN meeting will be in Brazil at the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress of Pediatric Gastroenterology Hepatology and Nutrition from the 16th to the 20th of August 2008. Due to the World Congress, regrettably, we will not be able to hold a 2008 APGNN meeting in the Fall. At the last World Congress in Paris, APGNN members presented a symposium and submitted poster presentations. While I am truly aware of the expense involved in going to Brazil, I remain hopeful APGNN will be represented. Please check website for information ([www.wcpghan2008.com](http://www.wcpghan2008.com)) and note the abstract submission deadline is February 28<sup>th</sup> 2008. Please also be aware a visa is required for entrance into Brazil. I will keep you posted regarding APGNN plans for this meeting and if any scholarships might be available for presenters to subsidize travel expenses.

In closing, I make a plea to all our members to stay in touch by e-mail or phone. It was so stimulating meeting so many of you in Salt Lake City and I missed those who could not attend. I value your input, so please contact me if you have any ideas and suggestions on how to keep our organization vibrant.

Sincerely,

**Mary-Alice Tully MSN, APRN, BC**

**President APGNN**

### Executive Board Members

**President:**

Mary-Alice Tully

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**Past President:**

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**Membership:**

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**Newsletter:**

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Lillian Sablan

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**Program Chair:**

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**Research/Publications:**

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**Clinical Practice:**

Helene Bacha

[Helene.bacha@muhc.mcgill.ca](mailto:Helene.bacha@muhc.mcgill.ca)

## Past President's Report

### I. Nominations/Elections

3 Board/Committee Chair positions were up for re-election: Treasurer, Patient Family Education Chair and Research & Publications Chair. All members were invited to self-nominate or suggest candidates via our Newsletter and Email. Of 250 ballots mailed with stamped, self addressed return envelopes, 81 ballots were returned.

Our Current Treasurer and Patient Family Education Co-Chairs were eligible for a second term and generously agreed to run for a second-term. No other candidates came forward for these 2 positions. No write-in names appeared on the ballots. I am pleased to announce that Patricia Bierly, RN, MSN, CPNP was elected to serve a 2<sup>nd</sup> term as APGNN's Treasurer, and that Karen Sherry, RN, BSN and Lillian Sablan, RN, BSN were elected to serve a 2<sup>nd</sup> term as APGNN's Patient Family Education Co-Chairs. It will be a pleasure for serve together again.

Two highly qualified Candidates were recruited to run for the Research and Publication's Chair position: Clare Ceballos, MA, AP RN-BC, WOCN, PNP and Nancy D. Murray, RN, BSN, MS. Congratulations to Clare Ceballos elected incoming Research and Publications Chair. Of special note, Nancy Murray also received quite a number of votes and has graciously agreed to join the Research committee and assist the newly elected Chair. Thank you to both.

A special election was held at the Annual Business Meeting for a new President-Elect, as Mary-Alice Tully is assuming the Presidency. I am delighted to announce that Robin Shannon RN, MSN, CPNP, who has served as our Newsletter Chair, graciously agreed to be nominated and was elected to serve APGNN in this important capacity. Thank you Robin! Her clinical and leadership skills will serve APGNN well. Diane Kocovsky, APRN, and colleague of outgoing President Rosemary Young, was recruited/ appointed Newsletter Chair by the Board. A big thank you to Diane for her willingness to serve.

In order to have the customary 2 year term for incoming President and President Elect from 2007-2009, that leaves a vacancy in the Past President term 2008-2009. Due to personal reasons, I am unable to simply extend my term as Past President. Susan Peck, MSN, CRNP a founding APGNN Member, Role Model to many including myself, and two time APGNN President/Past President, has generously agreed to step in for that year and resume her role as Past President so that the APGNN Board remains complete. I can't think of a more-qualified candidate.

### II. TAP Sponsored APGNN Excellence in Education Award

Although TAP changed their Educational Grant Procedures for 2007, they generously agreed to honor this 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the original 3 year Grant written/approved under the old system. APGNN received \$2000 to provide conference travel, Hotel, and Registration costs as well as a Crystal Award to the winner. Members were once again invited to apply for this Award through Newsletter, and E-Mail announcements. Board Members/Committee Chairs Mary-Alice Tully, Karen Sherry & Lillian Sablan, & Helene Bacha as well as Carol Donner (Education Specialist from CHOP), and Dr Attard (Physician Representative) served as this year's judging panel. Congratulations to Paula Stanley, RN, BSN for her Award winning Program "Education Information Packets for Parents and Children in Gastroenterology Clinic." She presented her award-winning Program on Saturday morning of our conference.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

*Adelina F. McDuffie*

**Adelina F. McDuffie, MS, RN, CPNP**

**APGNN Past President**



## President Elect Report

First, let me thank all APGNN members present at the recent APGNN Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City who attended the Business Lunch and voted for me to become President-Elect. I have been involved in APGNN for many years and it is truly an honor to represent you in this way. I look forward to many more years of service.

One of my responsibilities as President-Elect is to handle any changes to our By-Laws. We discussed 2 possible changes at our board meeting in Salt Lake City:

1. Eliminate the "inactive" membership status
2. Allow for future electronic voting

You will be receiving a ballot in the near future asking you to vote, by mail, about eliminating the "inactive" membership status. Our Membership Committee Chair, Lisa Philichi, will give more details about this.

The possibility of going to electronic instead of mailed ballots/elections will require much more work. We receive support from NASPGHAN for all of our mailings and will need to explore how we could proceed with an electronic format.

Finally, join me in welcoming Diane Kocovsky as our Newsletter Committee Chair. I have really enjoyed the last three years as your "editor" and know Diane will do a terrific job!

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Robin Shannon, MS, RN, CPNP**

## Secretary Report

As secretary of APGNN I am responsible for compiling and distributing the meeting minutes for our yearly board meeting, and the conference calls for the board as well as the program committee. I am also responsible for updating our website leadership team. Over the last year I assisted our newsletter chair in obtaining volunteers to write the quarterly newsletter columns for medication and disease updates. An additional responsibility I will have for this upcoming year is assisting our past President with ballot voting; distribution and counting.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Kristin Peterson RN, BSN**



**Advertise here!**

**If your organization is interested in posting future opportunities, contact Diane Kocovsky at [kocovskyd@boystown.org](mailto:kocovskyd@boystown.org) for more information.**

## Patient and Family Education Committee Report

With the help of our committee members we reviewed and revised 3 pamphlets: Infantile Colic, Constipation in Children and Intestinal Gas.

In the Spring of 2007 we updated our current committee members list.

We completed the chapter on Feeding Tubes for the GI Clinical Handbook. Hope you all own a copy!!

We participated in the selection process of the 2007 Nurse Excellence in Education Award.

Throughout this year we had ongoing discussion among our committee members via email on development of GT/GJ/NG NASPGHAN pamphlets. Committee members are divided on this topic. It is felt that with the publication of the GI Clinical Handbook that there is a resource for healthcare professionals. Yet, it is also felt that these individual pamphlets are still needed for patients and families. This issue will continue to be addressed.

Goals for 2008

1. Improve member participation in development of educational materials.
2. Continue to serve on the NASPGHAN Public Education Committee and review educational pamphlets as they become available.
3. With participation from the Pt/Ed Committee members we will review and identify resourceful websites that can be linked to the NASPGHAN/APGNN website.

We would like to welcome several new members that expressed interest in joining our committee:

Marie 'Denise' Young, Cathy Eddington, J. Ellen Schonfeld, Laura Ohara and Tammy Tran.

If other APGNN members are interested in helping improve the Pt/Family Education materials please email us.

We will be sending out another group email by the end of this year. Please keep your eyes open for it and would appreciate your response.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Karen Sherry**

**Lillian Sablan**

## Membership Committee Report

Key Committee Responsibilities:

- Receives and reviews applications for new members to evaluate eligibility for membership
- Works closely with the NASPGHAN Membership Coordinator
- Solicits nominations for the APGNN Excellence in Mentoring Award
  1. The committee has four members: Linda Anderson, Janet Goodell, Diane Kocovsky and Jessica Lessing.
  2. As of 10/1/07 54 new members have joined APGNN this year for a total of 280 members .
  3. APGNN members, Jessica Lessing and Janet Goodell reviewed the APGNN Excellence in Mentoring Award nominations. Anne Wuerth, MS, RN, CPNP is the award recipient.
  4. Ensuring all members have current email addresses as APGNN communication is becoming primarily electronic and preparing for the 2008 Membership Directory will be the committee focus during the next several months.

**Prepared by Lisa Philichi, RN, MN, CPNP**

## Treasure's Report

### Beginning Balance

#### FY-2007

#### Income

Dues	\$11,329.00
SHS-EE speaker	\$2,500.00
Excellence in Education	\$2,000.00
Mead Johnson Esophageal motility	\$5,292.00
Ross-conference	\$8,032.00
Shire-conference	\$5,000.00
Handbook Grants	\$3,200.00
IRS Penalty Refund	\$2,344.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$39,697.00</b>

#### FY 2007

#### Expenses

APGNN Expense	\$2796.38
Website	\$1220.00
'06 Conference Cost	\$1841.75
'06 Meals at Conference	\$10657.24
'06 AstraZeneca(Martha Curley)	\$6323.35
'06 Centocor Conference cost	\$1538.85
Excellence in Education	\$1186.91
Posters of Distinction	\$450.00
Handbook	\$20200.00
Administrative Cost	\$1888.68
Tax (IRS, Appeal, Fee)	\$826.00
'07 SGNA CEU	\$410.00
'07 Excellence in Education	\$375.00
Reimbursement for JPGN	\$202.00
<b>Total Expenses.....</b>	<b>\$49,916.16</b>

Where are we now?

Account Balance- \$45 247.19

We need to pay-----

Conference cost including meals

Excellence in Education

Administrative Cost

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patricia Bierly**

## Newsletter Committee Report

### Accomplishments this year:

1. All newsletters are now sent to members electronically. After posting the newsletter on the website, Lisa Philichi sends an e-mail notification to all active members letting them know the newsletter is ready for viewing
2. Electronic format appears more professional and provides for easy links to other sites and e-mail addresses
3. Two new recurring columns have been added to the newsletter: Disease Information and Medication Update. The purpose of these columns is to make the newsletter more interesting to our members rather than simply an overview of what the Board and Committees are doing. This is also a chance for members to submit articles and become more actively involved in our organization.
4. All finished newsletters are now sent to Sandy Fasold at NASPGHAN to be shared with their Board so they can be updated on what APGNN is working on.

### Challenges and Goals for upcoming year:

1. Getting material for each newsletter continues to be a challenge. Goal is to have EACH Committee Chair submit a brief overview of what their respective committees are working on for each newsletter. At the very least, this is a chance to solicit members to become involved in committees.
2. Finding authors for the two new columns has been very difficult. Goal is to have authors "lined-up" at least 1 month before next newsletter is due. Authors are not coming forward on their own despite my pleas to do so in each newsletter. We will all need to continue to encourage members we know to step forward. This is a wonderful opportunity to mentor and also encourage members outside the Board to become more involved in APGNN.
3. Keeping updated e-mail addresses for each member will be pivotal in keeping them informed about newsletter postings.
4. Once the website is functional in the future, the newsletter access will be Members Only.

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Robin Shannon, MS, RN, CPNP**

## Internet Committee

This is a new committee chaired by Sue Peck. This new committee is dedicated to improving our dynamic website. Sue and her committee will be working to make our website meet the needs of the membership. This committee is looking for members that are interested in providing feedback regarding the website. Computer skills are not necessary. Members will be providing feedback in order to maximize the benefits of the website and keep it up to date. Contact Sue Peck at [PECK@email.chop.edu](mailto:PECK@email.chop.edu) for more information.



# APGNN Program Chair Annual Report

## Primary responsibilities:

- a. Recruit enthusiastic members for the Program Committee
- b. Plan APGNN Annual Course
- c. Identify topics and recruit speakers
- d. Conduct conference call meetings throughout planning stages for each conference
- e. Communicate with the Executive Director of NASPGHAN regarding conference needs (rooms, AV equipment).
- f. Send speaker packets to confirmed speakers 5-6 months prior to the conference.
- g. Delegate responsibilities to the committee members as needed.
- h. Organize syllabus
- i. Complete and submit contact hour application to certifying board.
- j. Tally evaluations and report back to APGNN Board after conference.
- k. Complete post-conference contact hour paperwork and submit to certifying body.

## 2007 APGNN Program evaluation Summary:

APGNN Annual Course October 26-27, 2007

### *Working toward Adherence*

Salt Lake City, Utah

140 conference attendees

85 evaluations were received

We received conference support from Shire, Mead Johnson, Nestle Nutrition, Ross, Nutricia and TAP.

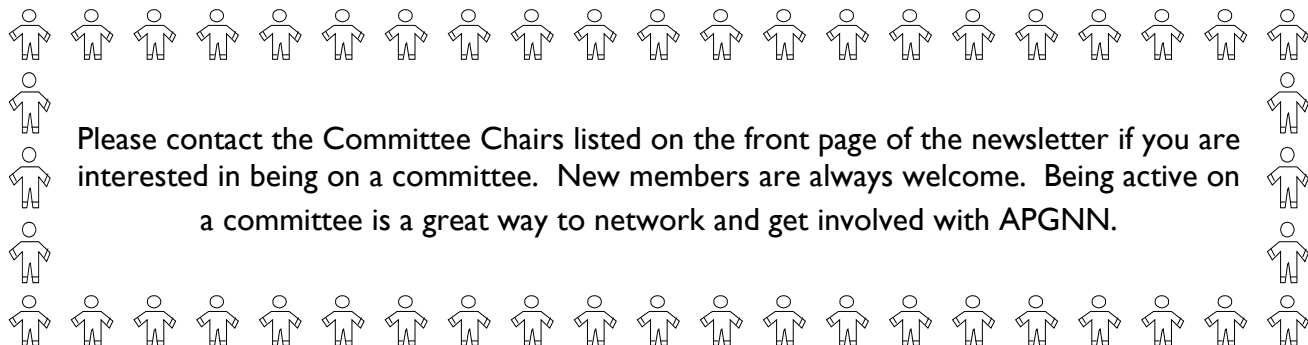
The program was approved for 12 contact hours by the Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates, INC., an accredited approver of continuing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

## Goals for 2008/9

- 1. To put evaluations online for future conferences
- 2. To look into putting syllabus on CD, although NASPGHAN has some concerns about getting speaker slides far enough in advance to do this. Another possibility is to put syllabus online.
- 3. To decide on theme for 2009 course

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Lindsey Wilson**



## Clinical Practice Committee Report

Active members: Shari Huffman (Past Chairperson), Millie Boettcher, Lori Hartigan , Debbie Whitehurst, Margo Kinservik, Dian Downen, Sheila Bell, Allison Laney, Jennifer Hill. Added in Salt lake city 2007: LeAnne Vitito, Teresa Carroll, Mary Witzlib, Julie Bender and Laura Ohara.

This year was considered as a transition year with the change of chairperson.

Therefore the committee was less active in ongoing projects. The addition of new members is encouraging especially for the planning of next years goals and the development of new projects.

This year at the annual meeting in salt lake city 4 clinical practice posters were submitted. We had as a goal for 2006 to increase to 5 clinical posters. In the previous newsletters members were encouraged to submit as well as links to articles to guide them was provided. Hopefully this will encourage more submissions for the next conference.

The clinical practice committee has been asked to participate in the IBD committee formed by NASPGHAN. 2 members of the committee will share the attendances to get maximum exposure.

NASPGHAN Clinical practice committee : As Chairperson I have been copied communication with the NASPGHAN CPC . I have attended a conference call discussing the organization of the annual meeting.

Also projects for 2008 is the review of Clinical practice guidelines which we will be involved in.

### Submitted by

**Helene Bacha, Chairperson**



### Editors Note

There was so much to cover after our meeting in Salt Lake. Although the reports took much of the December newsletter, I felt it was important to communicate the efforts of our Board and Committee members. Thanks to all the Committee Chairs that provided their reports. In future newsletters, look for the columns Disease Information or Medication Updates. I will be frequently requesting submissions for the current columns and accepting suggestions for new ones. I plan to work closely with the other Committee Chairs to keep the membership up to date with each committee. With next years meeting being a World Conference, I hope that you will find the newsletter a way to stay connected until our next APGNN meeting. Please remember that this is YOUR newsletter. Your ideas and perspectives are valued and appreciated. Look for our next edition in the Spring. Have a happy and safe holiday season.

Please submit articles for the Medication Updates and Disease Information columns by February 15th in order to be printed in the March issue of the APGNN newsletter. If there is something you would like to see addressed in the upcoming issues of the newsletter, submit ideas to

**[kocovskyd@boystown.org](mailto:kocovskyd@boystown.org)**



**APGNN Welcomes new Members**

Judy Anderson, CPNP	Indianapolis, IN
Stephanie Barber, CRNP	Birmingham, AL
Michele Birch, RN	Bosie, ID
Deborah Canfield, RN	Southgate, KY
Jeanne Cinotti, RN	Providence, RI
Karen Clement, RN	Branford, CT
Susan Conrad, MSN	Nashville, TN
Cathy Eddington, RN	Shreveport, LA
Kathi Evans, RN	Vancouver, BC Canada
Cheryn Gillespie, RN	Wichita, KS
Patricia Hampton, RN	Lexington, KY
Susan Hilk, PNP	Oakland, CA
Faith Kelly-Blundin, RN	Elkridge, MD
Alison Laney, NP	Oakland, CA
Jody Mackling, CPNP	Dallas, TX
Susan McVay, RN	Spokane, WA
Denise Mollenkopf, FNP	Asheville, NC
Julie Mulligan, RN	Willow Grove, PA
Mollie Nordgren, RN	Holladay, UT
Laura Ohara, PNP	San Jose, CA
Cathy Paulchek, RN	Pensacola, FL
Cynthia Rickson, RN	Burlington, VT
Elizabeth Ruben, PNP	Oakland, CA
Vicki Schlickemeyer, LVN	La Mirada, CA
J. Ellen Schunfield, NP	Orange, CA
Elsie Stines, CRNP	Lexington, KY
Tammy Tran, PNP	Longbeach, CA
Karen Whitfield,	Norfolk, VA
Sara Wollwerth, RN	Jacksonville, FL
Marie "Denise" Young, RN	Roanoke, VA

## Upcoming Vote on Bylaws Change

**As addressed by President Elect, Robin Shannon, in her report, two possible bylaw changes will soon be voted upon. Below find a complete explanation of the current membership options offered by APGNN. You will be receiving a ballot in the future asking you to vote, by mail, about eliminating the “inactive” membership status.**

### **Full Member**

An individual who has the privilege to vote in APGNN elections, submit nominations to office in the Association, serve on any committee, and be a committee chair (must have a minimum of one year experience in Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition and one year full membership in APGNN). Full membership also permits attendance at meetings and social events, consideration for scholarship funding, receipt of newsletters and membership directory and listing in the membership directory. A full member is either a licensed registered nurse or licensed practical nurse who performs supervisory, teaching, clinic, research, technical or administrative duties in the field of Pediatric Gastroenterology and/or Nutrition and must be employed either full or part time.

### **Associate Member**

This member is a nursing student, foreign applicant, physician, commercial company representative, or any person engaged in activities relevant to the practice of Pediatric Gastroenterology and/or Nutrition who does not qualify for full membership. The associate member may attend meetings and social events, receives the newsletters and membership directory, and is listed in the membership directory but does not have voting rights.

### **Inactive Member**

An individual who has not renewed her/his dues. The inactive member will receive the newsletter and mailings but is not eligible for the discounted “Members Rate” at the annual conference. After one year as “Inactive” the member will be removed from the membership directory and a new application will be required to reactivate membership.

APGNN is a professional organization and the inactive member status does not support the goals of the Association. Member participation is vital to the ongoing success of APGNN. Inactive members cannot be involved in the organization or contribute to its development.

