



APGNN

The Association of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition Nurses

SEPTEMBER 2007
VOLUME 17 ISSUE 3

President's Message

Summer 2007

Boy has this year flown by! It seems as though summer just started and now our annual meeting is around the corner. I think this year's meeting will be the best yet! It is important that we continue to build interest and excitement in the group through this event. We have steadily increased attendance and as we have been growing the NASPGHAN home office has been very helpful in organizing our membership, helping collect the dues and assisting with the meeting set up. Our keynote address on Developmental Issues Affecting Adherence sets the stage for our meeting theme "*Working Toward Adherence*". This will be the focus of all our speakers as we address issues we face in our everyday practices. **Lindsay Wilson** has done an excellent job organizing the program and it promises to provide the useful, practical and the most up to date information. Due to positive responses from last year, we will continue to have our poster presenters provide a brief oral report on their submission rather than have the walk around session. At the request of many from last year's meeting we will also plan to initiate an annual social event on Friday night to enhance out networking opportunities among nurses and other mid-level health care providers. Although we did receive some industry support for our meeting we also needed to increase annual conference fees this year to help secure our rooms, provide food and cover the speaker expenses. On Friday, registered attendees will receive a continental breakfast set up in our lecture room, a meal at the annual noon business meeting as well as snacks/beverages for the social event. Saturday breakfast will be available in the exhibit hall and all APGNN members are free to attend the NASPGHAN business meeting and lunch.

I know many of us face tight budgetary issues in our institutions but I really challenge everyone to spread the news about this conference to all mid-level providers, nurses, RDs, social workers and anyone involved in the care of children with GI issues. Next year is the World Congress in Brazil and we will not be able to have a formal APGNN meeting again until 2009 so I would like this to be a stellar event.

Elections by paper ballot are being held this fall for a new Chair of the Research Committee, Chair of Patient/Family Education Committee and Treasurer. **Lynn Mattis** is the outgoing Research Chair and she has been a long-standing asset to our group in this role (and numerous others throughout the years) and words cannot express our sincere THANKS to her for everything she has done for this organizations. **Patty Bierly** (Treasurer) and **Lillian Sablan & Karen Sherry** (Patient/Family Education Chairpersons) have all graciously agreed to run for office in second terms and we owe them a big thank you as well. As we move forward we hope to soon have electronic balloting for new vacancies and we will keep you posted on this progress.

Continued.....

APGNN Board and Committee Chairs

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President:

Rosemary Young

President Elect:

Mary Alice Tully

Past President:

Adelina McDuffie

Secretary:

Kristin Peterson

Treasurer:

Patricia Bierly

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership:

Lisa Philichi

Newsletter:

Robin Shannon

Patient/Family Education:

Karen Sherry & Lillian Sablan

Program:

Lindsay Wilson

Research/Publication:

Lynn Mattis

Clinical Practice:

Helene Bacha

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

As I addressed previously, our group was facing budgetary challenges in 2007. Because of this the Board has decided to put a vote to our membership to consider a bylaw change to raise our annual dues. This will be voted on at the annual business meeting and if passed would take effect in 2009. Our annual membership cycle to renew will change from October to January as well.

Robin Shannon has worked to continue development of our newsletter and although it has been a struggle we hope to continue to provide valuable information by featuring articles of interest and medication updates. With **Lisa Philichi's** help keeping membership updated we have been able to distribute this electronically with efficiency and saving a few trees in the process!

Lisa Philichi and I are continuing to push forward with the Clinical Handbook. It is in final review and ready to be printed. We hope to have it available at the fall meeting. Both of us want to thank again all those who have helped author what I feel will be an excellent resource to all who care for children with GI issues.

Once again I encourage you all to contact myself or board members with your questions or concerns; we want this group to provide you with quality information. Hope to see you all soon in Salt Lake City!

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemary Young, NP-C, MS, RN

President, APGNN



UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Please bear with us as we continue to make plans to update our website

Continued Administrative support from NASPGHAN is greatly appreciated and instrumental in allowing us to keep connected via conference calls, mailings and up to date on all the fine details involved in planning the October conference. Thanks to Margaret Stallings, Sandy Fasold and Kim Rose for all of their assistance!



Send in those Ballots...

Addie McDuffie, CPNP
APGNN Nominations Chair

First a big Thanks to our Members Karen Sherry, Lillian Sablan, Clare Ceballos, Nancy Murray and Patricia Bierly who agreed to be on this Year's Ballot. Their willingness to serve is greatly appreciated and extremely important. Always keep in mind that APGNN is a **Volunteer Organization** and without the continued dedication and interest of membership – APGNN's future will be in jeopardy.

This year, 255 Ballots with stamped self addressed return envelopes were mailed to Membership in early August. As of August 21st, Less than 25% had been returned. An email reminder was sent out courtesy of our Membership Chair on August 22nd. Your Nominations Chair is now anxiously awaiting the deluge of returned Ballots. Please keep my local Post office *very busy* in the next couple of weeks by sending in those outstanding ballots. Assure that YOUR vote counts.Thanks!

Hope to see you in Salt Lake.

Addie McDuffie, CPNP
Past President, 2007 Nominations Chair



ANNUAL MEETING AND
POSTGRADUATE COURSE
GRAND AMERICA HOTEL SALT LAKE CITY UTAH
OCTOBER 25-27, 2007

*The APGNN Annual Meeting is Friday October 26th and Saturday October 27th
Working Toward Adherence*

October 26

- 7:30 am** Registration/Breakfast
- 8-9 am** Keynote Address: **Jill Weissberg-Benchell, PhD**/Developmental factors affecting adherence
- 9-9:50** Update on GI medications: **Carmen Cuffari, MD**
- 9:50-10:10** **Break**
- 10:10-10:50** Adherence in IBD: **Laura Mackner, PhD**
- 11-12 noon** Transitioning the pediatric IBD patient to adult care: **Sue Moyer, MD & Pam Morgan, RN**
- 12-1:30 pm** APGNN Business Meeting Luncheon (all registered APGNN members invited)
- 1:30-2:10** Pseudo-obstruction: **Manu Sood, MD**
- 2:10-3:10** Esophageal motility disorders: New insights using new technology: **Rachel Rosen, MD**
- 3:10-3:30** **Break**
- 3:30-5:00** Concurrent Sessions (1, 2 & 3 will be repeated):
1. GI IOI: **Mary Alice Tully, RN, MSN**
 2. Nutrition: **Lynn Mattis, RN, MSN**
 3. Trouble shooting gastrostomy tubes: **Karen Sherry, RN, CETN & Lillian Sablan, RN**
 4. The role of the nurse practitioner in Pediatric GI: **Robin Shannon, MS, RN, CPNP**
- 6-8 pm** **APGNN Cocktail Party**

October 27

Breakfast in the Exhibit Hall

- 8 am-9:30** Eosinophilic Esophagitis: **Amir Kagalwalla, MD/Sally Ritz RD**
- 9:30-10** Break
- 10-11:15** Excellence in Education Award/ Poster Presentations
- 11:15-12 noon** ZEBRAS: **Kristin Peterson, ER, BSN; Millie Boettcher, RN, MSN, CPNP; Noelle Bates, RN, MSN, CRNP**
- 12:15-2:00** NASPGHAN Luncheon/Annual Business Meeting
- 2:00-2:30** APGNN Committee Meetings
- 2:30-3:20** Autoimmune Hepatitis: **Judy O'Connor, MD**
- 3:20-3:40** Break
- 3:40-4:10** Hirschsprung's Disease: Diagnosis & Surgery: **Earl Downy, MD**
- 4:10-4:40** The evaluation and treatment of problems after surgery for Hirschsprung's Disease: **Sam Nurko, MD**

YOU CAN REGISTER FOR THE MEETING ON-LINE

www.naspghan.org

Correction

In the June issue of the APGNN newsletter the author of the *Disease Information* entitled "Is there an acceptable minimal gluten exposure?" was inadvertently omitted. The author was *Rosemary Young, MS, RN*

DISEASE INFORMATION: CALPROTECTIN
by Paula Kehm, BS, BSN, RN
Gastroenterology, Children's Hospital, Omaha, NE

Calprotectin is a calcium-binding protein secreted by neutrophils. It is found in both plasma and stool. Calprotectin levels have been used since 1980 as markers for diseases associated with increased neutrophil activity, such as infectious processes and inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). (1)

Reference ranges for fecal calprotectin have been established in healthy adults and children. Numerous studies have been conducted showing an increased calprotectin level in patients with active IBD. Increased calprotectin levels in IBD have also been confirmed by histological and endoscopic findings. (2)

Obtaining a fecal calprotectin level on a patient is simple, non-invasive and low cost (approximately \$70). According to Genova Diagnostics, calprotectin is stable in a fecal sample for 5 days. It is much simpler, not to mention more cost effective, to obtain a stool sample from a patient who may be experiencing flare symptoms rather than immediately proceeding with a colonoscopy. It does, however, take 7-10 days to obtain a calprotectin result. But, when completing an initial work-up for patients where IBD is suspected the use of calprotectin levels may help practitioners avoid unnecessary invasive procedures. (3) It is important to be aware that calprotectin levels can be falsely elevated in patients who are using NSAIDS in excess.

In our practice, calprotectin levels have become part of a basic work-up for patients with suspected IBD. We are also using calprotectin levels in known IBD patients who present with symptoms such as diarrhea and increased cramping to help us determine if there is inflammation occurring and if we need to proceed with colonoscopy. A common example is the population of individuals who do not present with elevated CRP, ESR or platelets when their disease flares. In our practice we are finding that despite normal laboratory investigations, a flare can be targeted with elevated calprotectin levels as high as 1900-2100. This suspicion of disease flare is then confirmed histologically.

References

- (1) Alic, M. *Am. J. Gastroent* 1999 Nov 94 (11): 3370-1.
- (2) Konikoff, MR, et al. *Inflamm Bowel Disease* 2006 Jun, 92 (6): 524-43.
- (3) Canan, RB, et al. *J. Ped Gastroent Nutr* 2006 Jan, 42 (1): 9-15.



*All APGNN members are invited to develop a future article submission for either “**Disease Information**” or “**Medication Update**”. Please contact your Newsletter Committee Chairperson for more information:*

Robin Shannon
[*rspnp@comcast.net*](mailto:rspnp@comcast.net)

PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES

We will vote on the dues increase and change in calendar year for dues at the fall meeting, if passed we will plan to invoice later in 08—to match NASPGHAN’s billing cycle for 2009. The plan was to submit a vote to Membership for raising Full Membership to \$75/year and Associate Membership to \$50/year to take effect January 1, 2009.

Current bylaws state:

ARTICLE IV: DUES

Dues shall be assessed annually (October 1) in the amount stipulated by the Board of the Director and ratified by majority vote of the membership at the annual meeting, or by mail ballot. A dues notice will accompany the letter of acceptance for new members. Dues notices for renewing will be mailed by August 1 for the following year by the membership chair. Late dues notices will be mailed out by the Membership Chair for dues not received by December 1.

New members accepted after April 1 will be assessed a prorated fee equal to one half the current membership fee for their first membership year.

ARTICLE IV: DUES PROPOSED CHANGES

1. Dues shall be assessed annually (**January 1**) in the amount stipulated by the Board of the Director and ratified by majority vote of the membership at the annual meeting, or by mail ballot. A dues notice will accompany the letter of acceptance for new members. Dues notices for renewing will be mailed by **November** for the upcoming year by the membership chair. Late dues notices will be mailed out by the Membership Chair for dues not received by **March 1**.

New members accepted after **June 1** will be assessed a prorated fee equal to one half the current membership fee for their first membership year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

If you have any questions about membership or becoming a member, please contact Membership Committee Chair, **Lisa Philichi** at Lisa.Philichi@multicare.org Please make sure to contact Lisa if any of your contact information changes so that you continue to receive important information from APGNN. When updating your membership profile, please list only 2 professional titles to help keep our information stream-lined.



APGNN WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Leah Powers, NP
Marion Cook Goldman, RN, MSN
Lissa Dore, RN, BN
Leslie Fitzharris, CPNP
Janet Goodell, RN, BSN
Beverly Gursky, ARNP
Paula Kehm, RN, BSN
Tamra Kehoe, CPNP
Jerrienne Kuntz, RNC
Ashlie Marsh, RN, BSN
Susan Miller, CNP
Nancy Murray, RN, MSN
Jaina Olesen, RN, BSN
Susan Self, RN, BSN
Keri Spiker, RN, MS
LeAnne Vitito, APRN
Jennifer Willoughby, RN, BSN

Updating Membership Profiles

Go to www.naspghan.org

Click: Members Only

Click: Members Directory

Log in: Your e-mail address (your most recent address given to APGNN) PASSWORD: APGNN

Click: Edit Membership Profile if you need to change your e-mail address

If you cannot access your Membership Profile please e-mail

Kim Rose at krrose@naspghan.org

New Orleans, LA
Bethesda, MA
Halifax, NS, Canada
Dayton, OH
Lansing MI
St. Petersburg, FL
Omaha, NE
Portland, OR
Mays Landing, NJ
Little Rock, AR
Cincinnati, OH
Omaha, NE
Denver, CO
Little Rock, AR
Ann Arbor, MI
Omaha, NE
Cincinnati, OH

CLINICAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE REPORT

On behalf of the clinical practice committee, I wish to invite you all to the Poster Presentations at the upcoming annual meeting in Salt Lake City. This year again we are fortunate to have the contribution of numerous members who are willing to share their knowledge and expertise. We hope this exercise will encourage you to attempt a poster transmission of “best practices”. It also helps recognize the value of our expertise to the rest of the medical community. Also, we hope that this exercise will encourage YOU to be more involved in the different committees. At the meeting you will have the opportunity to exchange with different members of APGNN and share your experiences for all APGNN members.

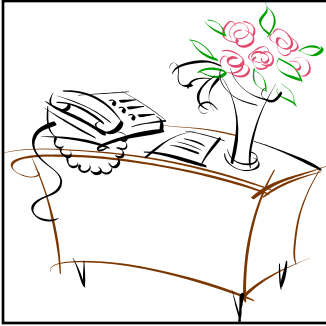
Helene Bacha, Bsc.N.CGN

Clinical Practice Committee Chair



APGNN Committee Meetings in Salt Lake City are on Saturday October 27th from 2:00–2:30. Please consider joining a committee and contributing your valuable talents and expertise! Committee Members are a vital part of our organization! Time commitments are usually small and most work is done via e-mail and occasional conference calls. **TRY IT OUT!**

FROM THE EDITOR



PLEASE REMEMBER: This is YOUR newsletter!! Contact me if you would like to “publish” an article or contribute in any way. We are always looking for new ideas and perspectives!

Robin Shannon, Newsletter Committee Chair

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