Tribute to Michèle Paquette

After forty plus years of nursing in gastroenterology, Michèle Paquette will be retiring on July 7, 2010. Michèle is a very extraordinary person who always had a lot of responsibilities, but effortlessly took care of every detail in a highly professional manner. She managed three gastroenterology units at the Ottawa Hospital and has always been an advocate for the patients and her staff. Her priority has always been the safety and comfort of the patient.

Michèle has been a member of CSGNA since 1983, serving in a number of roles both at the local and national level. When she became the national president of the CSGNA from 1993 to 1995, her main objective was for CNA to recognize gastroenterology as a specialty. With her patience, perseverance, dedication and a decade of hard work, she accomplished her goal. Gastroenterology is now recognized as a medical specialty and the first CNA Gastroenterology exam was developed in 2004.

Michèle has made ongoing contributions to the staff and patients of the endoscopy suite by her participation in educating and updating her knowledge on the latest techniques and equipment available for the units. Her leadership, calm disposition and sensible approach, have won her the respect of nurses, physicians and numerous medical companies across Canada.

On a more personal level, Michèle and I developed not only a close productive working relationship, but a true friendship which is very special to me. She is a very thoughtful, caring person who has supported me both professionally and personally and for that I am most grateful.

Michèle we wish you the best in your future retirement.

Respectfully submitted by
Monique Travers
St. Mary’s General Hospital is an adult, acute-care hospital that delivers innovative, excellent care to the residents of Waterloo Region and beyond. St. Mary’s is also a member of St. Joseph’s Health Care System.

In May of 2010, St. Mary’s opened a new state of the art endoscopy unit. There are two procedure rooms, one of which offers negative pressure for bronchoscopies. As well, there is a spacious admission room, ten bright recovery bays and one isolation room.

There is a wide range of interests, skills and expertise among the program’s six gastroenterologists, seven respirologists and eight surgeons. Over the past year, they have performed 4,818 endoscopic procedures including 187 bronchoscopies and 227 ERCPs.

The stand-alone endoscopy unit has four full-time RNs, five part-time RNs and one casual RN. Recently, four part time RPNs were hired in response to the expansion of the program. There are also two dedicated reprocessing technicians in the department, a clerk, two environmental support personnel and several volunteers to help keep things running smoothly.

Staff, physicians and volunteers are delighted to be working in the new endoscopy unit at St. Mary’s.

Respectfully submitted by
Joan McKechnie, RN, CGN(C)
One of the wonderful opportunities I have had as president-elect of the national board is to attend the Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates (SGNA) Course with CSGNA President, Elaine Burgis. Held in Orlando from May 2 to 5, 2010, the theme of *Expanding Our Horizons* certainly describes my personal experience in CSGNA. It has been a time of growth in knowledge as a GI professional, but also personally. Each of you has leadership abilities that would benefit our association and I encourage you to consider becoming more involved locally or nationally.

CSGNA is also expanding. We are growing and getting better! We have been excited at the new supportive relationship that has been fostered with the SGNA executive. Look for their president, Peggy Gauthier, at our conference in the fall and welcome her as they welcomed us.

The bylaws have been reviewed and the changes have been sent to the members for ratification. Please take time to look them over and send in your thoughts and vote by August 15, 2010.

My term as president-elect is coming to a close and in the fall I will step up to the position of president. I look forward to serving you in our society.

Respectfully submitted by Joanne Glen, RN, CGN(C)
President-elect 2008-2010
1 REVIEW/ADDITIONS/ADOPT THE AGENDA: The agenda for today's meeting was accepted with an addition of standards and guidelines to be added. A motion was made to adopt the agenda by Pauline Porter and seconded by Mabel Chaytor.

2 APPROVAL FOR THE NOVEMBER EMAIL MEETING: A motion was made to accept the minutes of the November 2009 teleconference meeting minutes by Yvonne Verklan and seconded by Susan Drysdale.

3 PRE-MEETING REPORT: Reports from all executive members were circulated and reviewed prior to the meeting.

4 WELCOME: Elaine welcomed everyone for attending the meeting. We have a very busy agenda for the meeting.

5 REPORTS: Canada West, Center and East: all the chapters are doing well except for Okanagan, Kamloops and Barrie. The end of the year report has not been received from some of the chapters. Okanagan is planning some educational activity. In western Canada, there are a number of presidents who are involved with practice issues. The one issue they are working on is the nurse administered propofol protocol. In Barrie, there is a nurse who gives propofol, but there are anaesthetists at the local hospital should a need arise for medical assistance. We need to look for a statement about propofol use from a nursing regulatory body. Sue will look into all the regulatory legislations. Some of the regulatory bodies look at the professional group for guidance. In Ontario, the College of Nurses is the regulatory body. We need to have a position statement; however, some position statements can be vague. We can go to the regulatory authority for practice guidance at the college level and obtain their input. One example of the nursing group who has the guidelines are the OR nurses. The guidelines are sometimes set up locally. The college needs to provide a statement. We have to be very careful as a board that we do not give personal anecdotal advice. The advice needs to be backed up by the provincial regulatory body. There has been no report from South Western Ontario chapter. Multiple attempts have been made to contact the chapter executives. The end of the year financial report has not been submitted. In the east, everything is okay.

6 WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER: The new website will be ready by March. There have been some delays due website personnel changes. However, the website was reviewed two days ago and they have made some progress. All the CSGNA application forms are on the website for members to print and submit. Currently, they are working on the dropdown menus. There will be a calendar on the home page which will allow us to post all the educational events for CSGNA. They also would like some testimonials from the members to post on certain pages. New icons will also be added to help navigate around the website. A question was raised about changing the pictures on the website. We were informed that the pictures have to be professional looking; therefore we cannot post our own pictures. We need to work on the educational material for the website. The Guiding Light has been printed on glossy pages on a trial basis. The final edition of the Guiding Light will be posted on the website.

7 EDUCATION: The Gastroenterology Nursing Journal (GNJ) is now finalised. We will be billed after they have mailed journals to CSGNA members. The proposal includes the print copy, as well as online journal. The 12 digit number on the journal will allow access to the online journal. A members list will be sent by Palma. The new member will receive all the instructions. It is the responsibility of the member to update the contact information with Palma. The GNJ price will go down in 5 years to $15 per year per member.

8 PRACTICE: Have received a few emails about practice issues. One of the emails was from Donna McKay regarding how many nurses are required per endoscopy suite. RN/RPN role: A question was raised by a nurse clinician from Brantford about the RN/RPN role in endoscopy. She wanted to know what CSGNA says about this issue. The College of Nurses of Ontario has a statement, but it is very vague. We need to contact both the College of Nurses as well as the Canadian Nursing Association and ask for their position statement regarding the role of the RPN in the endoscopy suite. RPNs are also asking what...
they can do in the endoscopy suite. If we are going by what is stated by the College of Nurses, the RPN cannot monitor sedated patients. Each province and hospital has their own regulation. We cannot provide guidance; however, we can refer them to their own institution or their local provincial regulatory authority. Today’s RPNs are better trained and are similar to the college prepared RN’S. 

**Propofol Use:** If we move forward with propofol in the endoscopy suite and an anaesthetist is present in the room, the RN is not required in the endoscopy suite. 

**Educational hours:** We have received questions from members about the numbers of hours required to maintain the endoscopy nurse status. One suggestion is to refer to the CNA certification criteria set for maintaining GI certification. In addition, we can refer them to their institution guidelines.

**IV Push Certification:** Does everyone have this certification and if so, can this be a transferable skill from one institution to another? Again this is something that is institutional specific and we cannot regulate.

**9 AWARD AND RESEARCH:** There are a number of scholarships available, not directed toward attendance of the CSGNA annual conferences. A summary and eligibility criteria for all the scholarships can be found on the website.

**10 TREASURER’S:** The education account has some money; however, the operation account balance is the same as last year. We would like to receive the chapter summary in a timely fashion and on the newer, revised account summary forms. This year, I would like the annual chapter summary submission to be changed to the end of November instead of December. The chapter summary form can be sent by Palma to the new chapter executives; alternatively, the form can be posted on the website. The new chapter package will be sent to all the chapters and this will also include the annual chapter account summary form.

Sarah Lawson is in the middle of scanning all the old bank statements. The 2009 conference expenditure is not finalised. It appears we are in the deficit of $56,000; the bank balance is the same as this time last year. We cannot keep up at this rate. The planning committee in Toronto worked hard but they did not get the money they were promised. This year we have opened a new account for the conference expenses and hopefully this will make the conference accounting easier to track. In addition, we have also made changes by transferring the national board activity expenses out of the conference expenses which will give a true reflection of the conference expenses.

**11 PUBLIC RELATIONS:** Marianne is working on on-line learning; however, in her absence I have been working with Abbott who would like CSGNA to be involved with some of their educational initiatives.

**GI Day Poster:** Three posters were submitted for GI day. This year we asked for both the pictures, as well as the text, to back up the picture. Not everyone has the artistic ability to enter the pictures. I think we need to give them an option to submit to either the picture or text. This may produce more submissions in the future.

**12 MARKETPLACE:** Items remaining from 2009 include lab jackets, retractable badge holders, beverage openers and luggage tags. For 2010, suggested items include emery boards, stress balls, letter openers and post-it notes. Discussions are in progress with the Hosting Committee regarding whether we should have a 50 / 50 ticket draw during the conference. Our Marketplace provider in the past has been 4 Imprint. We’ve had a few problems in the past. There are other suppliers available such as The Bargains Group (www.bargainsgroup.com) and Allied Printers for starters. Please feel free to provide any ideas or suggestions.

**13 PRESIDENT ELECT AND BYLAWS:** The bylaws committee has been reviewing the changes required to the bylaws. The changes include simultaneous local and national involvement, website and public relation role. We currently have three board members who are holding two positions. Numbering will be changed appropriately. Bylaw 11.8 states no officer shall hold two positions. With the current nursing environment, nobody is stepping forward to take on either the chapter or national executive positions. We are all finding ourselves very exhausted. We need to look for new members and provide them with information about CSGNA and the benefit of membership, as well active participation as an executive. Anyone coming on as a national executive should relinquish chapter executive responsibilities. There need to be boundaries between chapter and national executives.

**14 2010 EDMONTON NATIONAL CONFERENCE:** The planning committee would like a nutritional break. For the opening ceremony, we are waiting to hear back from the Mayors office. The drum ceremony will cost money; we have the bagpipers reserved if the drums are too costly. The opening will be by two military nurses and they are asking for...
The Guiding Light

community funds. The closing will be a plenary session. We need some guidance about what we are going to pay for the speakers at the plenary session. We have 10 speakers in three plenary sessions. The plenary session will last longer; therefore, do we pay them more? We have four concurrent sessions with physicians, dieticians and nurses. Can each speaker have an honorarium? We also have local nurses who are dynamic and are willing to come and talk. The program supports the GI certification requirements. There are some good ideas for the conference, with all the concurrent sessions. The only concern is having 17 honorariums which can get very costly. In addition, the other concerns are the number of plenary sessions which does not bring the group together. We need to get the group back together at the end of the day as well during the day. The research topic at the end of the day will not be well attended. Some rearranging is required to the program to have the plenary after lunch and then have the concurrent session. Having the group together allows us to make general announcements such a silent auction. We need to make some changes to the program and cut down on the number of speakers. We do not have funds to support the honorarium for all the speakers. A meeting is schedule for April 10th with the planning committee. The brochure needs to out by the second week of May. The programme can be changed until it goes to printing. A draft conference budget with proposed expenses was presented by Heather. With 275 estimate attendees and registration fees of $475 as an early bird registration and $575. This registration is comparable to other nurse’s conferences, however, the other conferences do not offer food and this is where they can make the money. We do not have seed money for the conference. The conference needs to be self sufficient. There is no accommodation for the planning committee; we only offer the five conference registrations for the planning committee. There will be one room for the chair of the planning committee member. 2011 Ottawa conference: There is a new convention centre which will accommodate 400 delegates. Our membership is around 800 and we are speculating there will be an increase in the attendance. We can attract some nurses from USA if we advertise the conference in the GNJ. If the cost of hosting the conference at the convention centre is not within our budget, we may want to go back to having the conference at a hotel. Heather will look at hotel availabilities at the end of October.

15 POLICY AND PROCEDURE: These were reviewed and there were very little changes. Procedure for privacy, scholarship and registration refund policy was changed as per last year. We need to adhere to submission for refund within 30 days of the event. Conference Planning Manual: A revision is being conducted by Joanne and Elaine and will be ready for September. Chapter package: The chapters are requesting a one page summary which outlines chapter responsibilities. A draft chapter summary document will be emailed to the board members for review. A final chapter summary document will be posted on the website for the chapter executives. A question was also raised from the chapter executive about having the CSGNA logo available for use. The board decided that the CSGNA logo will be available to the chapter president, however, there will be guidelines provided for the use of the CSGNA logo.

16 DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING: The pre-conference meeting will be on Wednesday, September 30, and the post-conference meeting will be Sunday, October 4, 2010.

Respectfully submitted by
Usha Chauhan
CSGNA Secretary

Future CSGNA Conferences
EDMONTON, ALBERTA
September 30 – October 2, 2010
OTTAWA, ONTARIO
2011
In early May, Joanne Glen and I attended the SGNA Annual Course in Orlando, Florida. Beyond the excellent educational offerings, Joanne and I enjoyed the opportunity to once again meet up with SGNA outgoing President, Theresa Vos and incoming President, Peggy Gauthier. These vibrant women provide leadership to their association of over 8,000 members. In addition, we were able to spend time with Kathy Baker, editor of the GNJ. We were able to convey to Kathy our membership’s positive feedback in adopting the GNJ as our official journal as a benefit of membership, providing all our members an excellent resource for our practice. I would encourage our membership to consider attending an SGNA Annual Course as an educational adjunct to their professional development.

Our new website is a reality after a long development process. I hope everyone has had an opportunity to log in and participate in the discussion forum. Membership renewal, as requested by our members, was available online for the first time and well received. We are proud of our new website and envision further growth by providing additional online educational opportunities to our members. If you are experiencing difficulties in logging into the website, assistance can be provided by calling our National office.

As I approach the end of my term as President, I would like to thank the members of the present and past Boards who, during the last 7 years, have been committed to Gastroenterology nursing and CSGNA. I would like to thank Helga Sisson and Yvonne Verklan for their commitment to our association, and wish them well as they move on to other ventures. I would like to thank Maryanne Dorais, Sue Drysdale, Betty Kennah, Cindy James, Usha Chauhan, Pauline Porter and Donna Bremaud for their untiring, continued dedication to CSGNA during my presidency. I would like to welcome Lisa Westin and Joan McKechnie to the Board and wish them the same enriching experience that CSGNA provided me. I would like extend my heartfelt best wishes to Joanne Glen as our new President, and Mabel Chaytor as she assumes the role of President-elect. Under their leadership, CSGNA will continue to be leaders in Gastroenterology nursing in Canada.

In addition, I would like to express my gratitude to my work colleagues who have been supportive of my CSGNA roles and the demands that come along with a National Board position. Mostly, I would like to thank the CSGNA membership for their support during my term. I thank you for the opportunity to lead our association, for the professional growth I experienced and personal satisfaction that serving CSGNA provided me.

Warmest regards,
Elaine Burgis, RN, CGN(C)
CSGNA President 2008 - 2010

C.S.G.N.A. DISCLAIMER
The Canadian Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates is proud to present The Guiding Light newsletter as an educational tool for use in developing and promoting your own policies and procedures and protocols.

The Canadian Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates does not assume any responsibility for the practices or recommendations of any individual, or for the practices and policies of any gastroenterology unit or endoscopy unit.

Guidelines for Submissions to “The Guiding Light”

- Submit all materials by email to the newsletter editor in word format.
- Submissions must be received by the first of the month preceding each issue i.e.: Feb 1st for March issues, June 1st for July issues and Oct 1st for November issues.
- Include all references using APA referencing.
Closing dates are fast approaching for the scholarships. Still up for grabs are the following awards:

Michelle Paquette Certification/Recertification Scholarship – July 31st
Chapter of the Year Award – June 30th
Associates Scholarship (RPN, LPN, TECHNICIAN) – July 31st
Patricia Coughlin Memorial Scholarship (sponsored by Olympus) – July 31st
Olympus $500 draws – July 31st
SciCan Scholarship – July 31st

We have added a new scholarship that is the RPN/LPN/Technician Annual Scholarship. The criteria for the scholarship are the same as that for the Annual scholarship. Activity in the local chapter will be first and foremost in this scholarship. It was created to help the LPN, RPN, and technician working in the endoscopy suite to attend the annual conferences. I feel that it is important for the other endoscopy suite staff to have a chance to further their education, and as more and more units are employing RPNs, LPNs or technicians, education funding should be available to this group as well.

There will also be a $500 scholarship available to any nurse involved in writing a research paper. We are still in the developmental stage but I am hoping that we can see clear to have the criteria for it ready for a fall announcement.

All scholarships are available on line with the criteria required.

Good luck to all who have applied. I look forward to reviewing all the applications.

Respectfully submitted by
Donna Bremaud
Director of Awards and Research

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Central Ontario Chapter
Chapter President, Donna Bremaud, reports that they held an educational evening in November with Dr. J. Toth speaking about esophageal cancers and esophagectomies. They are planning another evening in late May, with a physician speaking about his work in the Congo. Another topic will involve a review of abdominal pressure.

Greater Toronto Chapter
Greater Toronto Chapter Treasurer, Donna Joncas, reports that they held an educational evening in November. The topic presented was proper body mechanics in the endoscopy unit and a tour of the Kensington Colorectal Cancer Screening Clinic. The Chapter hosted a full day conference on May 15, 2010. Topics included ERCP in the altered anatomy, upper GI bleeding and ethical issues in GI nursing. A few Greater Toronto area nurses gave excellent presentations on their GI units.

Golden Horseshoe Chapter
The Golden Horseshoe Chapter held a day conference in April. It was a conference For Nurses by Nurses. The topics covered by the nurses were infection control, documentation in the endoscopy setting, effective abdominal compression and benchmarking in endoscopy. The speakers were all registered nurses and the presentations were excellent, as well as informative.

Don’t forget to register for the 2010 annual CSGNA conference being hosted by the Edmonton Chapter. It promises to have something for everyone, in whatever area of GI nursing you practice in; be it at the bedside, in research or in pediatrics.

Respectfully submitted by
Betty Kennah, RN, CGN (C)
Canada Centre Director
**CANADA EAST DIRECTOR REPORT**

It is hard to believe another year has come and gone. It has been a challenging time with the H1N1 crisis.

The plans for upcoming education sessions are outlined on our new website. So many wonderful things are happening. Check the website often for updates and new events.

All the chapters have received their Chapter Status award, thanks to the dedication of their Chapter Executives. The scheduled half and full day education sessions provided practical workshops and opportunities to share specialized knowledge and expertise in gastroenterology. Once again, thanks to the executives for their dedication and contributions.

The exciting National 2010 CSGNA Annual Conference, GI PATHWAYS, in Edmonton, AB, will be from September 30 to October 2, 2010. I look forward to seeing many of you at this upcoming wonderful event.

We need you to get involved with CSGNA. Please contact the executive for more information about National Board positions.

It has been a very rewarding experience, both on a professional and personal level, to be a member of the CSGNA Board. I would like to encourage those interested to check out this wonderful opportunity. The CSGNA board and staff are working very diligently and hard for you.

**Newfoundland Chapter**

The Newfoundland chapter President, Sandy Stone, reports that the chapter has had several meetings during the winter and spring. New members have been successfully recruited, with plans in place to further increase our membership.

The chapter is busy planning and organizing a full GI education day for June 25, 2010. As well, there will be a full day reprocessing course running concurrently on June 26 for all staff involved in reprocessing and care of endoscopy equipment.

The Newfoundland and Labrador government has recently announced a new colorectal screening program for the province to begin this fall. This will definitely impact our GI units; therefore, the need for continuing education is vital. We are looking forward to an exciting future in gastroenterology in our province.

**Nova Scotia Chapter**

Chapter President, Edna Lang, reports that the chapter has been quiet this spring. I am looking forward to the CSGNA / AAG meeting here in Halifax, June 25 & 26, 2010. The Nova Scotia Chapter will be hosting our annual Education day in early November 2010. If there are any topics our members would like to have presented please contact any of the chapter executive. Congratulations to Marleen Spencer for achieving certification in gastroenterology. Have a safe and happy summer.

**Marketplace**

This venue supports our scholarships and educational funds. If anyone has any suggestions, please let me know. Do not hesitate to share your ideas.

Thank you so much. It has been a privilege to be your Canada East Director.

Have a safe sunny summer.

Respectfully submitted by

Mabel Chaytor, RN, CGN(C)

CSGNA Canada East Director

**CANADA WEST DIRECTOR REPORT**

**Vancouver Island Chapter**

Corrie Osborne reports that the Vancouver Island Chapter has had a successful year. The chapter hosted three educational events. The first one was a four hour session sharing highlights from the national conference. The second event was an evening dinner. The speaker, Dr. Petrunia presented Patient Centered Colonoscopy, in which he shared his UK experiences. Just recently, the chapter had a very successful education day with a great variety of topics. They were fortunate to have had the support of 16 vendors for this event. The chapter was able to fund five RNs to go to the national conference, plus one RN was an Olympus scholarship recipient. Two endoscopy units were lacking the Core Curriculum so the chapter presented each of them with a copy. They are also funding any members who wish to attend the upcoming Victoria-Kelowna Digestive Diseases weekend. The chapter is also assisting their members by subsidizing their membership fees.

**Vancouver Regional Chapter**

Judy Deslippe reports that the Vancouver Chapter had planned to host an educational evening on bowel preps sponsored by both the Pico Salax and the Klean Prep representatives, however, it was cancelled due to poor commitment of attendees. Judy Robinson and Judy Deslippe will be meeting with Cathy Good regarding the education for the GI Nurses education sessions for the GI Forum on October 14 and 15, 2010. Judy would like to thank Gill Lazarian for her work as our treasurer the past 5 years. She has decided to resign from this position June 1, 2010.
Okanagan Chapter

Bethany Rode reports that the Okanagan Chapter held a dinner education talk with Dr Robert Penner on March 8, 2010. Dr. Penner spoke on Crohn’s Disease management and the event was sponsored by Abbott Canada. It was a great event and focused on case studies and round-table discussion. The members were also involved with their hospital (KGH) on April 30 in running an information booth at the annual Spring Skills Fair for new Nursing Grads and focused on therapeutic endoscopy. They had samples of everyday equipment and current photos to help these new Nurses to see what can be done for patients in our endoscopy suites. At the most recent chapter meeting, it was decided that Bethany would stay on as president during her maternity leave so that there will not be any changes to the chapter’s current representation.

Kamloops Chapter

Maryanne Dorais reports that the Kamloops and Region is very busy with work related issues.

GI Nurses day will be celebrated and shared with fellow colleagues in ACU. The GI nurses in Kamloops are participating with a preceptor to mentor students our future GI nurses. Maryanne reports that one room will be running on Thursday, Sept 30, 2010 and the Endoscopy suites will be closed on Friday, October 1, 2010. She further reports that all GI CSGNA certified nurses will be attending the national conference in Edmonton. All endoscopy nurses will be attending a Charge Nurse workshop.

One nurse will be attending the conference in Fort McMurray on May 15, 2010

Alberta Southwest Regional Chapter

Barb Harbers reports that the Alberta Southwest Regional chapter held two workshops and two sessions within the confines of chapter meetings for a total of four hours education this year. The following content and presenters were included:

1. 2009 National CSGNA Conference update – Corrie Forbes RN and Merrill Wight RN.
2. Colorectal Cancer Screening program – Dr. Tony Gomes and Pat Ramage RN. Attended by 32 people.
3. GERD and Esophageal diseases – Dr. David Koegler and Dr. Shane Mortimer. Attended by 40 people.
4. 2010 Red Deer Conference update – Barb Harbers RN, BN

Central Alberta Regional Chapter

Audrey Pennycook reports that the Central Alberta Regional Chapter just finished their third all day conference entitled Odd and Unusual on April 24, 2010. Again, it was another success with lots of positive feedback. They had 75 people attend this year. 45 attendees were non-members. 13 sponsors attended the conference and set up displays.

Calgary Chapter

Connie Wescott reports that the Calgary Chapter has been a bit quiet lately. A journal article review was held earlier on this year. It was an informative and well attended event. The topic was related to Propofol use and CAG’s position statement on same. They will be having an evening education session in June (date still to be determined), with Dr. Christian Turbide speaking. Some of their members attended the Red Deer education day and the response was quite positive. Many of the Calgary members are anticipating the Edmonton Conference this fall.

Edmonton Chapter

Yvonne Verklan reports that planning continues for the 2010 CSGNA Conference, GI PATHWAYS, which is being held in downtown Edmonton September 30 to October 2, 2010. The Edmonton Chapter looks forward to seeing you there! A one day conference is being held in Fort McMurray, AB on Saturday, May 15, 2010. GI Didn’t Know That! is being planned by our Edmonton Chapter members from that center.

Every month, from February forward, has seen an evening education session which has offered a continued good variety of GI topics. The month of May will have our efforts directed towards our CSGNA Membership Drive. We will close our education year in June with a journal review, and reconvene in again in September. Our best wishes and congratulations go to Kathy Korner, our chapter member, and her co-worker Adina Tamerat, who are preparing for a two week voluntary mission in Africa this June. These endoscopy nurses will take part in the June 2010 continuing medical education initiative with the Ethiopia North America Association (ENAHPA), along with Gastroenterologists and the OR Biomed person from the Royal Alexandra Hospital. While this team provides gastroscopy and colonoscopy procedures, they will be giving information and education to the health care professionals in the Ethiopian center.
**Regina Chapter**

Connie Bender reports that in April they had an educational evening which was enjoyed by all. They discussed the principles of electrosurgery. Monopolar, bipolar and argon were reviewed. Pad placement, electrical currents and patient safety were also reviewed. It was great to have some of the new staff in attendance. The chapter has also been busy planning their annual GI open house. They usually have a great turnout and people enjoy touring the units. The chapter has also been discussing the national conference and the opportunity for scholarships. The next chapter meeting will be in June, in order to finalize some of our plans for the October GI Day.

**Manitoba Chapter Report**

On February 4, 2010, an educational evening was held at the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba Board Room. The topic was capnography and was presented by Steve Ellis from Oridion and John Moffat from Vitaid. Attendance for the evening was good and a wide variety of the endoscopy units in the province were represented by the attendees.

Ongoing educational journal articles are shared with the members on a regular basis. No formal journal club meeting was held recently.

On April 8, 2010, Dr. Gerald Minuk presented a lecture entitled Drink Wine Not Water. Sue Drysdale renamed his lecture and caused a bit of a stir, but all ended in a very professional and enjoyable evening.

Sue Drysdale and Carol Reidy attended the SGNA annual course in Orlando in April/May and returned with educational materials and copies of the educational sessions to share with the members. As usual, they appreciated the opportunity to network and learn from colleagues in the SGNA.

The decision to support members for CPR recertification was made by the membership this year and the first group of nurses attended their course in May. The members all supported a decision to subsidize the chapter member’s cost of CSGNA membership renewal in an effort to retain members.

The chapter is busy planning the annual chapter conference which will be held at the Samuel N. Cohen Auditorium and Atrium on June 5, 2010. It is anticipated that this conference will be a success. We are striving to reach a variety of nurses in disciplines other than gastroenterology. We are anticipating a number of out-of-town attendees and Yvonne Verklan has promised to come to Winnipeg for the conference. She will also stay to attend the CAG GI Forum at the Health Sciences Centre on June 11. We are all excited to have Yvonne share her energy and incites with the members. We hope to advertise for our CSGNA Fall Annual Conference in Edmonton at this conference and Yvonne is just the candidate for that job!

Sue Drysdale was recently honoured by the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba for the work she has done in the voluntary role of CSGNA Manitoba Chapter President. The college recognized Sue for “dedication and commitment to Registered Nurses and the people of Manitoba”. The awards reception was held on May 11, 2010 and various people were recognized and awarded certificates of appreciation by the college. This award is appreciated and cherished by Sue and she shares it with the CSGNA Manitoba Chapter members.

Respectfully submitted by
Susan Drysdale, RN, BA, CGRN, CGN(C)
CSGNA Canada West Director

**EDUCATION DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

I have had several emails from many of you requesting information on becoming certified in gastroenterology nursing. Certification validates the GI nurse with acquired knowledge and skills in many practice settings. Certification keeps your skills current. It increases your self-confidence and gives you a feeling of accomplishment. It may also enhance career opportunities. The knowledge demonstrated is indicative of two years of experience in the specialty. The exam measures core knowledge and skills.

This year, the certification exam was held on April 17, 2010. This year, 25 individuals took the challenge. Congratulations to those who registered and committed to writing the exam. We are very proud of all of you. Certification recognizes the expertise in our practice as gastroenterology nurses. The most important thing is that you increased your knowledge and now you are able to apply that knowledge to your practice. This information you have obtained is beneficial to your patients, colleagues and the facility you are employed. Achieving certification may be one of the best career choices you can make.

I want to congratulate all 37 of the GI certified nurses who achieved their 100 continuous learning hours and renewed their gastroenterology certification. For those of you renewing, the guidelines and requirements can be found on CNA’s website. There are several options outlined by CNA to fulfill the required educational hours. CNA is in the process of completing a final number of total certified nurses for 2010. In 2009, we had 231 GI certified nurses.
Dr. Connie Switzer, Yvonne Verkan and I attended a CSGNA Fort McMurray Conference. This conference was very well attended by attendees from the Fort McMurray region. Topics included UGI Bleeds and Therapeutic Interventions in Endoscopy, ERCP and APC: What to Use, When and Why, Pancreatitis and Stricture Dilations by Dr. C Switzer, Gastric Antral Vascular Ectasia by Dr. M Sauve and GI Certification by myself. The conference ended with music and singing from the Honey B’s, a Fort McMurray coral group. It was a very entertaining and wonderful day had by all. A huge thank-you to Dr. C Switzer, Dr. M Sauve, Kim Bernard and her planning committee, Yvonne Verkan and all of the vendors for their support.

The annual conference will be held in Edmonton this year from September 30 to October 2. Yvonne Verkan and the Edmonton planning committee have been working very hard and have an absolutely fabulous program outlined for you, GI Pathways for Nurses. You can set your own ‘pathway’ for learning in Advanced Practice, Endoscopy, Hepatology, Medicine, Nurse Practitioner, Pediatrics, Surgery and Transplant. The delegate will choose what presentation they would like to attend. There will be several knowledgeable and very entertaining speakers. You will not want to miss this conference! Make your plans now to attend this conference.

Abstracts are an educational opportunity for you to share with us your knowledge, skill and expertise. We can learn from each other. We have several abstract submissions for the Edmonton conference. Kudos to all of you who submitted. We look forward to meeting the presenters and viewing these submissions.

I hope you are all enjoying the Gastroenterology Nursing journal. There are several educational articles. For instance, in the March / April 2010 issue, A Literature Review of the Safety and Efficacy of Using Propofol for Sedation in Endoscopy is a very interesting study. Take the time to read these informative articles when this magazine arrives.

We have an exciting new website. We want to thank Helga Sisson and her committee for the wonderful job they have done getting this website operational. This opens the doors for CSGNA and CSGNA members. This has been a vision of mine. Our plan is to have online learning available to the membership. This will be an exciting new feature. This is in the process of being developed.

I look forward to meeting with you all in Edmonton.

Respectfully submitted by
Maryanne Dorais, RN, CGN(C)
CSGNA Education Chair

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

As my term will be coming to an end in September, I would like to thank you all for your support and the wonderful opportunity of serving you over the past two years. I have enjoyed my experience immensely!

I really encourage everyone to consider being involved with the Board as a director or as a member at large. I have met a lot of new people throughout my travels to different conferences with CSGNA, with CAG, other nursing specialty groups and community groups. It has been my pleasure to represent CSGNA at these events.

Of late, I have attended Alberta conferences in Red Deer and Fort McMurray. I will be attending the Manitoba Chapter conference this weekend, followed by the GI Forum in Winnipeg. I continue to enjoy my affiliation with CAHN as a member on their Awards Committee, and my networking with CCFC and the Canadian Liver Foundation.

Thank you to everyone who has contacted me with requests for information, updates or networking opportunities concerning their practice or with changes in their work process. I have tried to help out to the best of my ability. Being involved with you has also helped me to enhance my knowledge and grow in my work environment.

One of the most important partnerships CSGNA has is with our industry. We are very fortunate to have a dedicated force of companies and their representatives who support our educational needs continuously. Due to their generosity in time, effort and funds, we are able to enjoy our local and regional events and our yearly annual conferences. It is at these events that our industry experts are also turning to us for our experiences and advice.

I have been fortunate to participate on an advisory board which is planning a GI Nurse Education Program. I would like to thank Maryanne Dorais, Education Director, for her insight on future opportunity for CSGNA members to have access to on-line learning modules through our website.

Congratulations to all who wrote their GI certification exam and who have re-certified! It takes a great deal of commitment and dedication to prepare, but it is a road well worth taking. This brings a sense of personal satisfaction along with
Layered Mexican Dip

1 can (14 Ounce) refried beans
2 generous tablespoons picante salsa sauce
1 cup sour cream
1 ½ cups Guacamole Dip*
1 cup picante salsa sauce
1 cup shredded medium cheddar cheese
½ cup black olives, sliced
¼ cup green onions, sliced
1 medium tomato, chopped

METHOD:
In saucepan or microwave oven, heat the refried beans until warm. Add 2 tablespoons salsa. Mix well. Spread bean mixture on large round serving plate into 10 inch circle.

Top with the sour cream and spread to within one inch of the beans. Top with guacamole and spread to within ½ inch of the sour cream. Continue to layer each ingredient to within ½ inch of previous layer. Finish with chopped tomatoes in centre of layered dip. Serve with tortilla chips.

Yield: 6-8 servings

Guacamole Dip*
1 large or 2 small ripe avocados, mashed
½ cup mayonnaise
2 tablespoons finely chopped red pepper
2 tablespoons finely chopped red onion
2 tablespoons picante salsa sauce
1 clove garlic, minced (more is better-up to 6 cloves is great)
1 tablespoon lemon juice
½ teaspoon salt

METHOD:
Combine all ingredients in small bowl. Stir well to mix.

YIELDS 1 ½ CUPS

NOTE:
This recipe can be made a healthier choice by using non-fat sour cream. Whole grain tortilla chips go great with this dip.

The original version of this recipe was originally published in a holiday recipes booklet published by the Manitoba Hydro many years ago.

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As I finished putting everything together for the July issue of The Guiding Light, the final issue I will edit, I found myself reflecting on my experience in endoscopy and being on the CSGNA National Board. It was been an exciting ride. I have witnessed and been a part of many changes to our organization over the past few years. CSGNA has grown and evolved into a professional organization, one I am proud to be a member of. One of the most exciting changes has been the launching of our new website. There, you will find an events calendar, a discussion forum, a members-only section and more. Our members now have the ability to register on-line for our National Conferences and register and renew memberships. I encourage you to visit and utilize our site and the features available there.

Being a member of the board has been a very rewarding experience, one I will remember for many years. I would like to take this opportunity to say that it has been a pleasure working with all of the board members, past and present. This experience has enriched my life both professionally and personally. Thank you to the membership for giving me this opportunity to serve you.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Edmonton. Have a safe and happy summer.

Respectfully submitted by Helga Sisson, RN, CGN(C)

Please contact me about any comments you may have about this newsletter or any ideas for future issues.
Helga Sisson, Newsletter Editor.
Email hsisson99@rogers.com

MEMBERSHIP RUNS FROM JUNE 1ST TO MAY 31ST ANNUALLY
What an amazing experience from start to finish! This was my first CNA Convention, but it will not be my last.

On June 5, prior to the conference, the 38 CNA Associate, Affiliate and Emerging Groups (AAEs) held their networking session. It is amazing how connected we are and how much we share in common. At the Conversation Café, it was hard to choose just three tables to join. Leslie Patry of CNA Certification, Micheline Jaworski of NurseOne and the self-led groups had us sharing and talking well past our sessions. Of course, we went out for dinner and continued talking with our new found friends, no pun intended. The next day, was the CNA pre-convention workshop “Unleashing the Power of Medical, Surgical Nursing”. It was a very well worthwhile session as they celebrated their certification journey. We share the same multigenerational workforce challenges.

Again, we continued into the night with a lobster dinner and fantastic East Coast entertainment.

All proceeds from the event went towards the Nursing 4.0 Campaign of the Canadian Nurses Foundation.

On Monday at the Annual Meeting held in the World Trade and Convention Center, over 900 nurses were in attendance. It was very formal. The parliamentary style meeting evoked a true business atmosphere. You could hear a pin drop as all listened to the “Meet the Candidates” session. Then came the open discussion forum. What an opportunity to share!

On Tuesday, the Opening Keynote Speaker was Diana Swain, a National celebrity and Gemini Award winning CBC broadcaster who gave a powerful “good-for-the-soul” quiet leadership talk that was inspirational and reminded us of the power of nursing. The panel discussion, “Innovative Roles in Nursing Practice” was highlighted by the Honourable Lucie Pépin. Her story telling and refreshing motivation were most enjoyable. That night I attended my first Awards Gala Banquet. What an honour to be present and hear from passionate, outstanding, award winning nurses. Barra MacNeils, one of the world’s greatest Celtic entertainers, performed late into the night.

Wednesday was another day of activity. The morning panel discussion, “The Big Picture – Global Policy Trends”, was moderated by Diana Swain. The three panel members were very controversial. Chantal Hébert won the round hands down in my opinion.

That day, the Canadian Nursing Student’s Association (CNSA) luncheon was held. The “Meet and Greet” was refreshing. Their passion is very much alive as they go out meeting the challenges of a new nursing career. They are not overwhelmed by the information speedway. Clicking, listening, browsing, reading and messaging their hearts out are part of their networking skills.

The afternoon panel discussion, “Mobile Professionals and Public Safety: A Balancing Act” was very informative, especially since I had a chance to sit and chat with Anne Carrigan earlier at the Exhibit Hall.

The closing Keynote Speaker, Kerry Jeanice, delivered her address “Lessons Learned from Katrina”. This was the finishing touch to an awesome conference. All emotions poured out as we watched the video.

During the closing ceremonies, Kaaren Neufeld gave a quiet unifying speech encouraging RNs across Canada to stay focused on nursing and promoting our not-for-profit health care system for the good of the public. Now at the helm, Judith Shamiam, is a strong voice wanting to hear from all nurses from the local, regional and national regions. She will be taking the lead in moving CNA forward into the future.

Halifax, Nova Scotia was the host and is to be congratulated on the rich tradition of hospitality and the many cherished memories we all shared.

Thank you for this great experience. I am looking forward to the 2012 CNA Convention.

Respectfully submitted by

Mabel Chaytor
Canada East Director
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Société canadienne des infirmières et infirmiers en gastroentérologie et travailleurs associés
CSGNA Membership ends May 31st each year
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