As a chapter we have been blessed and enjoyed many successes. When we sat down to consider how this is achieved we found many strategies that have worked for us and have stuck to them with variations.

Initially we were a small group with a few eager individuals who enticed us in. We now are a chapter of 20 registered members as well as a few participants, who are considering membership. To attract and keep our members we have found that providing educational opportunities to promote certification and maintain registration are our main focus. We advertise throughout the hospital, region and college to entice all avenues of nursing practice. We have set up booths for GI Nurses Day in the hospital and at the college to create awareness of CSGNA and what it has to offer. We participate in charities and provide fundraising. We enter a team in the CCFC walk called “The GI Janes” and provide a charitable donation to the Liver Foundation this spring. We find that by giving back to the clients that we focus on in our everyday nursing careers makes us feel good. We have also found that when we discuss with enthusiasm amongst ourselves at work it becomes contagious and people are hooked and interested.

We hold a meeting at least every two months except the summer. We conduct them in the evening so more people may attend. We hold them at the hospital so people can come right from work. We ensure that an educational component is offered at each meeting whether it’s by members, vendors, or other professions. Everyone’s input is valued and we have a wide range of participants: RNs, LPNs, a Unit Secretary and even our Nurse Manager. We try to keep our meetings to two hours and our secret weapon is providing great food. We all take turns bringing potluck and the vendors are always eager to provide supper too.

When planning an educational event we plan a theme for the day. This year on April 21 we are planning an entire day on the liver. It is entitled “What Makes Your Liver-Quiver”. We are very excited about this one and ensure that we access all avenues of speaker options: physicians, specialty nursing, technicians and even a donor recipient.

We organize ourselves with committees and everyone signs up to participate. The committees range from food, decorating, speakers, vendors, door prizes and of course set up and clean up. With everyone contributing to the event, it lightens the load and creates ownership and pride in the accomplishments. We

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have adopted a mascot called “GI Joe” who we use as a symbol of humor and incorporate him into the theme of the event. He is on all our brochures, posters and advertisement for our events and has become recognizable as our chapter’s symbol and involvement. We have rewarded members for their contributions with complimentary memberships to inspire involvement. We try to provide topics to draw many aspects of nursing – medicine, surgery, pediatrics, and endoscopy. To encourage awareness, we have spoke about CSGNA and what membership can provide at our educational day. Our educational days are always on a Saturday so more people can attend and of course our secret weapon is, again, providing great food. We have found an amazing caterer so we don’t have to worry and we make breakfast special by supplying homemade cinnamon buns. People ask specifically for them now.

When we achieve at the local level, we win at the national level. When we succeed individually, we excel as a group. Many of us take pride in accomplishing our certification and always enjoy the national conferences. We support and encourage certification in our group. Learning more about our profession makes us better nurses and provides better care for our patients. I decided CSGNA doesn’t just stand for Canadian Society of Gastroenterology and Associates but could stand for many other themes. They include CONTRIBUTION (by colleagues and to clients), SUPPORT (for education both locally and nationally), GROWTH (through education), NURTURING (for ourselves, future members and patients), ACCOMPLISHMENT (certification, education and goals achieved).

We entered our submission, out of pride, and to help other chapters achieve success as we have enjoyed and hope to continue to enjoy. Our plan is to continue to provide relevant education for ourselves and others. We hope this can be of use to others. We want to see CSGNA grow and continue to be a successful organization.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Klaus RN CGN(C)
CSGNA President Central Alberta Chapter

C – CONTRIBUTION
S - SUPPORT
G - GROWTH
N - NURTURING
A - ACCOMPLISHMENT

****
Chapter educational events are posted on the website.

****
Membership application forms are on the website.

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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.

CSGNA 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.
The Moncton Hospital is a large regional hospital that provides care primarily to patients in southeastern New Brunswick. We also see many patients from northern New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and on occasion, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.

Endoscopy has been available at The Moncton Hospital since 1974. It has been moved to many locations over the years as services have expanded. In 2009, we were lucky to be able to move into Clinic E in the new addition, The Irving Ambulatory Care Center. We moved from a very small area in the oldest part of the hospital to the newest, most modern area. Prior to 2009, it was a 3 procedure room, 7 bed observation unit but has now expanded into a clinic four times its size. We now have 4 general procedure rooms, 1 EUS room, 1 Motility/Capsule Endoscopy room and an on-site ERCP/Bronchoscopy suite. As well, we go to the trauma room in the Emergency Department, the OR and ICU for emergency cases during the workday. The clinic also has expanded to include a Minor OR procedure room and 2 Cystoscopy rooms all running simultaneously. Needless to say, after only 2 years our beds are full and we presently have no room to expand our services.

For the Endoscopy Clinic, we have 4 gastroenterologists (a fifth one is in the works) as well as 7 surgeons and 3 respirologists. We provide therapeutic, diagnostic and emergency care to over 250 patients per week. These include patients for Capsule Endoscopy (we are one of the highest users of capsules in the country), Esophageal Motility/Impedance monitoring, Endoscopic Ultrasound, Bronchoscopy, Endoscopic Bronchial Ultrasound, Double Balloon Endoscopy and our latest addition, the Barrx Radiofrequency Ablation System. Due to the wonderful support from our hospital foundation, The Friends of The Moncton Hospital, we have been able to purchase state of the art equipment to provide all these services.

Because many of these services are only available at this center, we often get referrals for patients from all across Atlantic Canada.

Our daily staffing for the whole clinic is 18 RNs, 4 LPNs, 3 Clerks, 1 Ward Aide as well as 6 Reprocessing Aides. There is a Respiratory Therapist available for bronchoscopies 4 mornings per week. The general procedure rooms are staffed with either 2 RNs or 1 RN and 1 LPN, our ERCP/Bronchoscopy room has 2 RNs and the other rooms have 1 RN. We are open from 0700-1700 hours but do have an on-call rotation for after hour procedures and holidays for emergency procedures. These emergencies can include anything from food bolus’s, GI bleeds, OR cases or ERCPs. Five of our RNs have their GI certification and 3 more plan to write their exam next year when they have the required hours.

Some of our staff have been here for more than 20 years but the majority were hired for the move to the new clinic 3 years ago. They are very eager to learn all they can from our skilled endoscopists. They have come to realize there is much more involved in Endoscopy Nursing than just an “easy clinic job”. Because they have all come from a wide range of specialties, they have much to contribute to making our clinic a wonderful place to work. We are all very proud of the wonderful reputation our GI clinic has.

Respectfully submitted by
Cathy Arnold Cormier RN BScN CGN(C)
CSGNA Education Director

The Guiding Light
We received this inspiring email and news article from Pentax Canada. The CSGNA supports ongoing education in reprocessing. Congratulations to Kerry Meyers for achieving a perfect score on the certification test.

Patient Safety-I-Care Certification Ceremony in Orillia, Ontario

I want to inform you about an award presentation that we were involved with at the Orillia Soldiers’ Memorial Hospital (SMH). On October 13, 2011 the SMH nursing and the Surgical Processing Department (SPD) staff completed our i-care Scope Handling and Reprocessing Essentials course. What made their session different than all previous ones, however, was that Kerry Myers, a member of the SPD department, was the first to ever score a perfect mark in the final exam. Several of us from PENTAX HQ went to Orillia to do a formal presentation of the certificate and the story made it onto the CTV 6 o’clock news and the local newspaper. It’s a great story to tell about the amazing job that the nurses and SPD staff from Soldiers’ do every day. Their passion and attention to patient safety shows every day and was made more evident by their amazing results in the course. Considering some of the patient safety issues that have arisen and are still occurring in GI in other parts of the country, I thought that the CSGNA would like to be aware of a positive story.

Submitted by,
Mariano Franco
Pentax Canada Inc

Local news article in the Orillia Packet newspaper:

Perfect SMH?staffer makes history
By Sara Ross

An Orillia Soldiers’ Memorial Hospital staff member has earned a Canadian first. A shocked Kerry Myers burst into laughter on Thursday upon hearing she achieved 100% on the Pentax Canada certification test. “It’s just awesome. I’m really thrilled, really surprised,” Myers said on Thursday. “I knew I was going to pass but I didn’t think I was going to get 100%.” Myers works in the surgical processing department (SPD) and is among 13 others who are responsible for cleaning, disinfecting and sterilizing all of the hospital’s medical equipment.

Pentax Canada recently became Soldiers’ Memorial’s endoscopy supplier, so all SPD members had to take a certification course to learn how to properly clean the equipment.

The test consists of a four-hour hands-on learning program and a written exam. The company has been conducting the test for a year and 114 people across the country have been trained through it.

Mariano Franco, marketing manager with Pentax medical division says the company is excited to hear someone achieved a perfect score.

“We want to make sure all our customers know our equipment well and all that translates to the patient. That’s very important to us,” Franco said.

Myers’s accomplishment speaks volumes about Orillia’s hospital, said Pentax instructor Matt Buttle, who trained the Soldiers’ staff.

“It’s never been done before and it shows the skill of the staff members here.”

Every member of the SPD passed the test which requires a 80% score to pass. The highest score reached before Myers’s perfect mark was 98%, Buttle said. “It’s been close” he said. There are 10 Pentax sales representatives across the country and none of them have ever got perfect, says territory rep, Rory Walker. “This is what we do and none of us have got perfect; it’s tough,” Walker said.

Myers began working at Soldiers’ 28 years ago in the security department. She also worked in housekeeping before moving to the SPD about 10 years ago. The achievement will make Myers more confident in her work, she says.

“Up in that department, you have to be 100%, there is no room for mistakes because of the patients and every patient is like family or friends,” Myers said.

Prior to Thursday, the staff knew someone earned a perfect score but didn’t know who.

Darlene McLean, the SPD supervisor, wanted to keep it a secret. “I wanted it kept quiet so we could announce it in front of everyone,” she said.

The SPD staff have a stressful job ensuring equipment is clean so operating rooms run on time, McLean said, adding she wanted to add some fun to their day.

“It’s a very stressful department and everyone works really, really hard here. It’s a good mood thing for everyone to be here to hear (this news).” McLean said she is excited about Myers’ accomplishment.

“It’s not always going to be perfect but when we have someone that gets perfect, job well done.”

Soldiers’ in-house trainer, Stewart Blackwell is now a certified Pentax trainer.

“Our first and utmost important goal in reprocessing is patient safety,” he said. This week is Patient Safety Week across Canada.

“Every day is about patient safety here at Soldiers’,” McLean added.

sross@orilliapacket.com

Orillia Soldiers’ Memorial Hospital staff member Kerry Myers was shocked to learn Thursday that she had become the first person in Canada to receive 100% on the Pentax Canada certification test. Pentax supplies Soldiers’ with endoscopy equipment.
1. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES AND AGENDA: A motion was passed by Cathy Arnold Cormier and seconded by Betty Kennah to adopt and accept the agenda and minutes as circulated prior to the meeting, with no additions.

2. REPORTS: There were no new reports received from the Directors for the meeting.

3. TREASURER: The financial picture of the Ottawa conference is not yet clear as updates are still needed from the conference planner. Financial reports have been received from three chapters. Chapter presidents have been notified of the acceptance of national treasurer’s position by Jacqui Ho. Cindy James and Jacqui have attempted to make a smooth transition of the treasurer’s role.

4. NEWSLETTER: Sponsorship by Olympus for publishing the Guiding Light has ended as of the November issue. Letters have been sent out to companies requesting continued sponsorship. With the dawning of our website, the relevance of the newsletter is being considered by the Board. Membership could provide feedback about the need for the newsletter now that we have an active website.

5. WEBSITE: We are in the process of providing education modules online. Education hour credits that can be applied towards certification will be awarded.

6. BYLAWS: Mabel Chaytor is formulating a written policy on conflict of interest whilst in an elected executive position for CSGNA.

7. PRACTICE: No new information to report. Position statements and guidelines on radiation safety, ICD’s and electrocautery are being prepared by Pauline Porter, Practice Director.

8. AWARDS AND RESEARCH: Nothing new to report.

9. EDUCATION: Our Education Director Cathy Arnold Cormier has been working on having an educational program promoted by a company, to be downloaded on to the CSGNA website for our members. The expectation is that the educational modules will have a post test and a certificate that could be printed.

10. COMMITTEE: In recognition for being an important reprocessing stakeholder, CSA Standards of Canada have requested the participation of CSGNA, in the development of a new addition of one of our core standards, decontamination of reusable medical devices. The position did not require a nursing representative. Joanne Glen and Lisa Westin recommended Audrey Boyce, a surgical processor at Red Deer Regional Hospital, who has many reprocessing credentials that qualify her for the position. She is a member of CSGNA and has her certification in reprocessing. Her contact person on the board would be Cathy Arnold Cormier, Education Director.

11. MONTREAL 2012 There was no new information to report as the conference planner was unavailable.

12. FACE TO FACE MEETING: A one day face to face meeting will be held in Toronto on Saturday February 18th 2012.

Respectfully submitted by Lorraine Majcen RN BScN CGN(C) CSGNA Secretary

CSGNA Membership Cards

In order to streamline the renewal process for our administrative assistant, we have decided to eliminate membership cards which are time consuming to create and costly to mail. Online renewal receipts will display the membership number and chapter. For manual applications and renewals, this information will be included on receipts which are mailed out.

GI Nurses Day

Remember to celebrate GI Nurses Day on May 11, 2012. Highlight your unit and the important work you do to the rest of your hospital or to the public at your clinic. Let’s be proud to be GI.
**President’s Message**

**Will CSGNA Survive?**

That is the question that was posed to me: “will CSGNA survive?” It gave me pause for thought. There is no doubt that we, like all similar organizations, are struggling with declining membership, an absence of willing candidates for local and national executive, no definite location for future conferences and now, sadly, a chapter that has dissolved. The whole country is dealing with an economic downturn which creates more challenges in planning for the future.

I still believe in the vision of those GI nurses who founded our organization in 1984 and those who worked to have GI recognized as a specialty through the Canadian Nurses Association with the first exam which was offered in 2004. There have been other milestones along the way that were all reached through the dedication of members with a passion for GI nursing. I am thankful to them and will not let them down. What are you willing to do to see this organization remain vibrant? If you have benefitted from the education that CSGNA has provided through conferences, journals and in the future, online learning, please show your gratitude. Become involved! I believe that CSGNA will survive because there are many enthusiastic and committed GI nurses who are capable of making this association strong and I believe that they, like me, will not let it die. This is your organization and it needs you to keep it alive.

Respectfully submitted by
Joanne Glen RN CGN(C)
CSGNA President 2010-2012

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**Deadline for Scholarships**

- **June 30, 2012**
  - CSGNA Research Scholarship

- **July 15, 2012**
  - CSGNA Annual Scholarship Award
  - CSGNA Chapter of the Year Award
  - GI Professional Nurse Award nomination
  - Michele Paquette Certification/Recertification Scholarship
  - CSGNA New Member Scholarship Award
  - CSGNA Annual RPN/LPN/Technician Scholarship Award
  - SciCan Education Scholarship nomination (each chapter is invited to nominate a member)

- **August 15, 2012**
  - Olympus Patricia Coghlin $1500 Scholarship
  - $500 Scholarships

- **45 days prior to event**
  - CSGNA Professional Development Scholarship Award
  - CSGNA Chapter Executive Professional Development Award

- **December 1, 2012**
  - CAG Nurse Scholarship

Information and application forms will be posted on the website at www.csgna.com

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**BOARD POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

The following Board positions are available this September. They are:

- **President Elect**
  (must be a board member)

- **Newsletter Editor & Website Director**

- **Canada Centre Director**

- **Research & Awards Director**

- **Public Relations Director**

- **Practice Director**

These are two year positions commencing in the fall of 2012. The job descriptions can be found on our website at www.csgna.com. Please submit your nomination to the current CSGNA President via mail or email by April 15th of the current year. Please consider stepping out of the box and submitting your nomination. You will grow as a person; not to mention the wonderful experiences and friendships you will gain.
2012 is a time to be positive and hopeful. CSGNA has a strong history and a bright future.

Celebrate Gastroenterology Nursing from coast to coast. Please share your stories in the next Guiding Light by sending photos and articles to our Newsletter Editor and Website Director. Don’t hold back. Sharing experiences is part of what makes nursing great. It is what we do.

Join CSGNA. Be a member. It is one of the best things that ever happened to me. It is your time to consider becoming involved in CSGNA. The nomination form for a Board position is just a click away on our website under scholarships and forms.

It is an absolutely fascinating experience, being part of CSGNA locally and nationally. You can help CSGNA grow and improve.

Feel free to contact any of the 2012 Executives. We look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully submitted by Mabel Chaytor RN CGN (C)
CSGNA President Elect

Nova Scotia Chapter
The new executive met in October 2011. They are planning an education day for the chapter in May 2012.

PEI/NB Chapter
The executive is busy planning their next education day which will be held on May 5, 2012.

Newfoundland Chapter
This chapter has already held their first meeting of the New Year and are busy planning several education sessions for their members. They are also deciding who will attend the Atlantic GI Meetings in June and who will attend the CSGNA National Conference in September.

I would like to thank all the provincial executive members for a job well done, also for their time and commitment to CSGNA.

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Marshall RN, CGN(C)
CSGNA Canada East Director

We haven’t had much of a winter in southern Ontario, but I’m still looking forward to spring. I’m traveling to the Maritimes in a few weeks, so I’m sure I’ll get my fill of winter while I’m there.

Good luck to those nurses who will be writing their GI certification exam and as well to those who will be recertifying.

The Ottawa Chapter is planning an educational evening titled “The Utility of Fecal Calprotectin in IBD”. It will be sponsored by Aptalis and Abbott.

The Montreal Chapter is planning a spring conference in March. It will be about patient assessment, including respiratory, cardiac and abdominal assessment. They will also include a session on how to take care of your feet. They are very busy as well, planning for the National Conference in September.

The Greater Toronto, London and Area, Golden Horseshoe and Central Ontario chapters are busy planning their spring educational days and I hope to be able to attend a few of them.

I will be stepping down as Canada Centre Director so if you are interested in serving on the National Board, please let me know. It has been a great experience and very rewarding.

Respectfully submitted by Betty Kennah RN CGN(C)
CSGNA Canada Centre Director

Manitoba Chapter
There was a transition over the summer of 2011 to a new president and myself, Carol Reidy took over from Sue Drysdale who did an exceptional job in her position. Our group will forever be grateful for her hard work and dedication to GI. Without her efforts and contributions, we may have disbanded over that period.

We also started with a new secretary, Laurie Heide who took over from Barb den Boer and a new treasurer, Marie Barrett who also took over from Donna Lagimodiere. We thank the past executives for their service.

The Ottawa Chapter is planning an educational evening titled “The Utility of Fecal Calprotectin in IBD”. It will be sponsored by Aptalis and Abbott.

We thank the past executives for their service.

Our activities for my part started on October 25, 2011 with our first educational meeting sponsored by Boston Scientific representative Tim Haight. The educational presenter was general surgeon Dr. Ashley Vergis who presented on bariatric surgery and “does size really matter?” We had an exceptional turn-out. There were 13 members in attendance out of the 25 members...
we had at the time and 21 non-members. All our meetings take place at the CRNM building (College of RN of Manitoba).

Our second meeting was held on December 13, 2011 with another general surgeon Dr. Jason Park who presented on rectal cancers and their treatment modalities. This educational meeting was sponsored by Cook Canada. This session was not as popular with only 8 members and 7 non-members, as the subject matter perhaps was not as sexy but course very relevant to our area.

As a benefit to being a member of the Manitoba Chapter of CSGNA we offered to pay for CPR recertification for our members, as many of the health authorities no longer provide this education in the hospitals (only code blue in-services are provided). We sponsored two consecutive Monday evenings in January 2012.

Sue Drysdale, Education Chair has provided the chapter with GI related topics each month by way of email distribution. Each review offers education hours upon completion.

Our first educational meeting of the New Year was presented by gastroenterologist Dr. Alexandra Ilnyckyj on February 7, 2012. The topic was “What happens in the GI Lab?”. Dr. Ilnyckyj is department head of the GI lab at St. Boniface General Hospital where all GI motility assessments are done. It was an interesting presentation. Report by Manitoba Chapter President Carol Reidy RN CGN(C)

**Regina Chapter**

Our October education day was a huge success! We used a new facility which gave the conference a very professional atmosphere. We had a record attendance of participants who were treated to very knowledgeable speakers.

In the New Year we will be working on planning our 2012 educational day.

Reported by Regina Chapter President Trina Korbo RN BSCN

**Edmonton Chapter**

Seven of our chapter members went to Ottawa for the 2011 National Conference last September. Congratulations to the Ottawa Chapter for a very educational and exciting event!

This year’s educational endeavours are being planned and hosted by our members from sites around Edmonton and Fort McMurray.

We would like to thank Karla Heintz and Bill French from Cook Medical for providing an evening with dinner and facilitating their GI 360 program on Malignant Biliary Disease Management. As well, we are very grateful to Shane Morson from Boston Scientific and John Holmes from Aptalis for supporting our evening education session on “Esophageal Motility Disorders” and “Video Capsule Endoscopy”. This session was organized and hosted by our members at the Royal Alexandra Hospital.

Dana Letto stepped down and Monica Astle was nominated and voted in as our new secretary at our December meeting. We took advantage of the many members at this meeting, to discuss our upcoming education session suggestions, updates and plans.

Interest in CSGNA seems to be growing because of chapter events locally and provincially, the networking opportunities and the Gastroenterology Nurses Journal subscriptions. Welcome to our many new members.

We are very pleased to announce that we have one member who will be writing the GI certification exam this April and is receiving ongoing support and mentoring from certified members.

Congratulations to our member, Lucie Greffard-Aubin. She is an endoscopy nurse at the Grey Nuns Hospital who has just returned from Old Crow, Yukon. A team of gastroenterologists, endoscopy nurses and scope reproprocessors volunteered to go to Old Crow to scope people in this community due to a higher incidence of H. Pylori.

Reported by Edmonton Chapter President Yvonne Verklan RN CGN(C)

**Alberta Southwest Chapter**

Hello and Happy New Year from the Alberta Southwest Regional Chapter of the CSGNA. As we start 2012, we are in full planning mode for our educational day on March 23, 2012. This year’s focus is on Crohn’s and Colitis and we have some great speakers lined up. We are really excited to put on another full day
The Guiding Light of education and look forward to a positive showing.

We are in our third year as a chapter and continue to do well. We have 11 members right now and everyone is very enthusiastic about sharing the workload and new information. We are still trying to integrate in-services into each meeting but sometimes this does not come together. However, this is still the standard to which we aspire and so we will carry on.

Best wishes to all the chapters for 2012.

Reported by Alberta Southwest Regional Chapter President Barb Harbers RN BN CGN (C)

Central Alberta Chapter
Our first meeting of the New Year was held on January 9. We are preparing for our next education day, which will be held April 21, 2012. Our topic of focus for the day is the liver and is entitled “What Makes Your Liver – Quiver”. We are planning to cover diseases of the liver, transplants and care of the patient pre and post operatively. We will also have a donor recipient speak. We will donate the money raised from several silent auction items to the Liver Foundation as a show of our chapters support.

Lisa Westin is providing us with education at our evening meetings. She is speaking on the topic of IBD and covering the subject over seven modules. Each member will be provided with a certificate at the end of the sessions.

Two members were successful in achieving re-certification in Gastroenterology. Congratulations go out to you both Bev Herzog and Judy Klaus.

Thanks go to all the members of our chapter for continuing to make it fun, effective and worthwhile.

Reported by Central Alberta Chapter President Judy Klaus RN CGN(C)

Calgary Chapter
The Calgary chapter finished off the year with a well attended dine & learn evening at the end of November. Our guest speaker was Dr. Stephanie Wilson, who spoke on Contrast Enhanced Ultrasound & its Applications. Dr. Wilson was an excellent presenter with a profound passion for her field.

The chapter is now trying to complete its planning for a dine & learn education evening in May/June. The education day on April 14, 2012 has been cancelled due to a large number of educational venues available this month. We are working on a poster for display for GI Nurses Day in May for all 5 sites in the chapter. Also in the planning is a trial with journal articles via email. The chapter is also trying to find new ways to recruit new members to the chapter and to improve function attendance.

Reported by Calgary Chapter President Connie Wescott RN CGN(C)

Okanagan Chapter
The Okanagan Chapter had the opportunity to send 3 chapter members and another GI staff nurse to the National Conference in Ottawa. A huge thank you again to the Scholarship Committee and CSGNA for making scholarships available to members – what a wonderful event it was! We have had a great time sharing our learning with the rest of our chapter and GI group in Kelowna. We are all looking forward to Montreal this year. We will have to get busy with our fundraising.

The Okanagan Chapter is currently organizing some in-house education sessions with our gastroenterologists, aided by some of our wonderful representatives. Our entire GI Endoscopy Unit is being moved at the end of May into a beautiful new building so we

MEMBERSHIP RUNS FROM JUNE 1ST TO MAY 31ST ANNUALLY

Missed the Deadline for Recertification!

Contact the Canadian Nurses Association at www.cna-aiic.ca to extend the deadline so you do not lose your hard-earned credential.
don’t have any larger events in the works as this has been taking most of our time and energies.

One of our Members, April Schuster, will be writing the upcoming certification exam this spring and is diligently studying.

Our current education plan is to introduce some journal review sessions with the goal being to make this a monthly event in hopes of attracting new and keeping existing members. It will be a fun year.

Reported by Okanagon Chapter President Bethany Rode RN CGN(C)

Respectfully submitted by Connie Wescott RN CGN(C) CSGNA Canada West Director

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

I have been focusing on strategies to support the chapters in recruiting and retaining engaged members.

The theme of the Nurse’s Week cover page contest “What are you waiting for-join the CSGNA” was won by Judy Klaus of the Central Alberta Chapter. Her creative approach to envisioning the strengths of membership in the CSGNA exemplify the commitment and collaborative effort that makes the Central Alberta Chapter so successful.

A request for Special Interest Group status was submitted to the Alberta nursing body CARN A and we have recently received recognition. I have approached nurses in northern Alberta regarding development of a chapter in their area as there have been a number of GI Nurses attending our National Conference from that area. I continue to seek out opportunities for collaboration and networking between CSGNA and other nursing associations.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Westin RN MN CGN(C) CSGNA Public Relations Director

EDUCATION DIRECTOR REPORT

I am very excited about being appointed to the National Board as the Education Director. In the last couple of months I have continued to carry on Maryanne’s quest for increased access to educational material in Gastroenterology Nursing for our members. We have been working on a project that would provide CSGNA members with online learning on our website. It is a long process but we are making headway and hope to have something up and running by the fall at the latest. This will give access to education hours for RN’s wanting to re-certify. It will also provide educational hours to be applied to the educational requirements needed for yearly provincial licensing.

As the Education Director, I was able to attend one of the Montreal planning committee meetings and I am sure you will all be thrilled with the outcome for the 2012 National Conference “La Vie en Rose” to be held September 27-29, 2012 in Montreal.

The abstract submission deadline for the National Conference has been extended to April 1, 2012. We want to see several poster and oral presentations at the conference. This is a great opportunity to share your knowledge and interests with colleagues.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Arnold Cormier BScN RN CGN(C) CSGNA Education Director

REPORT OF AWARDS AND RESEARCH

The scholarships have all now been revised and reformatted. I have created a singular application form for all the scholarships. The Olympus and SciCan scholarships are still dated for last year as I have not sent the letters of request to them as of yet. Historically, the letters go out immediately following the CDDW. I do not anticipate that there will be any change to either of those scholarships.

I added the photo release portion to the application form as requested. It should be able to go to the Webmaster for enabling online registration.

We had two applications for the CDDW scholarship and the winner was Eileen Bourne as decided by the CAG committee. Congratulations to Eileen.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Bremaud RN CGN(C) CSGNA Awards and Research Director

Please contact me about any comments you may have about this newsletter or any ideas for future issues.
Joan McKechnie, Newsletter Editor.
Email newslettereditorwebsitedirector@csgna.com

New CSGNA Members
Join today and get your memberships at no extra cost until May 31, 2013.
La vie en rose

CSGNA 2012

MONTREAL
SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2012

www.csgna.com
Call for Abstracts

The 2012 CSGNA Annual Conference in Montréal will be your next opportunity to share your knowledge about a GI topic you are passionate about, disseminate research results or present an innovative project that will advance GI Nursing and associated practice.

We encourage you to prepare an ORAL or POSTER presentation for the 2012 Annual Conference — la vie en rose

September 27 – 29, 2012
Hilton Montréal Bonaventure Hotel | Montréal, Quebec

The following guidelines will assist you in developing your abstract and planning your presentation.

**ABSTRACT PAGE:** Abstract is to be no more than 300 words in length, single spaced, 12 point font and include:
- Title: reflects content of presentation
- Background: problem or purpose of study
- Methods: discussion of project plan or sample and data collection
- Results: evaluation or outcomes (no graphs, charts or tables)
- Conclusions: implications of your study or project for your patients, practice or profession

**COVER PAGE:** Submit with Abstract — include title of abstract, names of presenters/authors, credentials and employment affiliation.
- Indicate format of presentation: ORAL or POSTER.
- Include name of main contact, telephone, fax number and email address.

**GUIDELINES:**
- **ORAL:** 35 minute presentation including Q&A
- **POSTER:** maximum poster dimensions ~ 4 feet high by 8 feet wide
- Abstracts received before the deadline will be reviewed and an acceptance letter will be sent to the main contact providing further details of the presentation.
- Acceptance of the abstract does not waive attendance.
- fees (registration, transportation, accommodation, etc.)
- Language of abstract submission would be the language of presentation.

**Potential Topics**
- Hepatology
- Surgery
- Medicine
- Advanced Practice
- Endoscopy
- Transplant
- Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- Staff & Patient Safety
- Nurse Practitioner
- Infection Control
- Nutrition
- Pharmacology
- Pediatrics
- Research
- Management

**DEADLINE:** April 1, 2012

**SUBMIT via:** email: hreid@innovcc.ca (with file attached)
mail: CSGNA 2012
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Canadian Society of Gastroenterology Nurses & Associates
Société canadienne des infirmières et infirmiers en gastroentérologie et travailleurs associés
The Canadian Standards Association has again asked CSGNA to provide a representative for the development of a new edition of one of their core standards, CSA Z314.8 – Decontamination of reusable medical devices.

I am happy to announce that long-time CSGNA member, Audrey Boyce, has agreed to represent us in updating this important document.

Audrey has been employed at the Red Deer Regional Hospital for the past 27 years. She started out working in the CSR department and the past 22 years in Endoscopy. Two years ago she was given a supervisory position. She also has obtained certification in flexible endoscope reprocessing.

As Central Zone Supervisor for Endoscope Reprocessing she writes policies and procedures, and performs yearly competency assessments on all staff that reprocess endoscopes. She has been involved in planning the renovation project. We are currently redesigning our Endoscope Reprocessing Unit, which will be opened in March 2012 and will be the first in western Canada to have a new layout which includes pass-thru designed automatic endoscope reprocessing machines.

In addition, some of you may remember the poster, The World Series of Endoscope Reprocessing that Audrey authored and presented at the GI Pathways conference in Edmonton 2010. Audrey was also selected to receive the SciCan Award for significant contribution to GI advancement and education in her hospital.

If there is one way to describe Audrey, it is that she works “by the book”. She has always been an advocate for following manufacturer’s recommendations. I am confident that Audrey will represent us well at the CSA Standards table.

Respectfully submitted by Joanne Glen RN CGN(C)
CSGNA President 2010-2012

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