

# Chicago SGNA Winter Newsletter 2017



## Message from the President -Cindy Shong

I have been in the specialty of GI for 11 years. I know many of you reading this have been in our specialty for much much longer. I count it a privilege and honor to be a certified GI nurse. The care, knowledge and expertise that we bring to our patients is unlike any other. Our patients come to us in various forms- from those who already have a cancer diagnosis, to those having unusual symptoms to the basic screening colonoscopy. It is in these moments of the care we bring that we are able to meet their needs. Emotional needs, education on various subjects in GI, and being that nurse or associate who can make their experience that day the very best it can be by putting them at ease.

I also count it a privilege to be able to serve on this board of wonderful people that work together to bring the education in the best practices of GI. We have representation from many different hospitals in the Chicago/ northern Illinois region all bringing their expertise and skills.

I have really enjoyed getting to know many of you from the region through attendance of the conferences.

What a wonderful and blessed 2017 we have had, and been able to provide 2 excellent conferences this year. Looking forward to 2018, and excited to see what the new board will present.

It is my pleasure to present our 2018 Chicago SGNA board of directors:

President- Amy Granato RN, BSN, CGRN

President elect- Linda Vainer RN, BSN, CGRN

Secretary- Diane FencI RN, BSN, CGRN

Treasurer- CeCe Pezdek RN, MSN, CGRN

Treasurer elect- Brad Hlavacek, RN, MBA,CGRN

Director of Programs- Deb Anders, RN, BSN, CGRN

Co-director of Programs- Sherry Lombardo, RN, MSN, CGRN

Director of Vendors- Kate Healy RN, BSN, CGRN

Director of Membership and Marketing- Karyn Pechinski RN, BSN, CGRN

Membership and Marketing committee- Linda Vainer, RN, BSN, CGRN

Director of media/website services- Brad Hlavacek MSN, RN

Media and website committee- Karyn Pechinski, RN, BSN, CGRN

Have a wonderful holiday season and see you in 2018!



## **OUR MEMBERS MAKES US GREAT!**

Thank you new members! Your membership reflects your pledge to your profession and the positive difference you can make through educational opportunities, networking and volunteerism. We sincerely appreciate your commitment!

**Sylvia Taylor**

**Brad Hlavacek**

**Luke Williams**

**Scott Vesely**

**Lauren  
Hedenschoug**

**Curlett Sampson**

**Susan Price**

**Frances Bader**

**Nicole Foran**

**Christy A.  
Wiscomb**

**Brenda Simpkins**

**Tejalben Joshi**

**Jewel Givens**

**Noreen  
McDonagh**

**Michelle Schmidt**

**Patty Mejia**

**Inna Kopytko**

**Julie A. Forsberg**

**Melissa Huckleby**

**Rod Stiegman**

**Paulina Cholewa**

**Thor L. Sell**

**Leanne R. Brand**

**Joy Dorsch**

**Kathy Quinlan**

**Cathleen F. Thannert**

**Tiffany Mutz**

**Nicole  
Schandelmeier**

**Linda Feldmann**

**Grace Phillipe**

**Jennifer Porod**

**Rebecca Liston**

**Jill Tolentino**

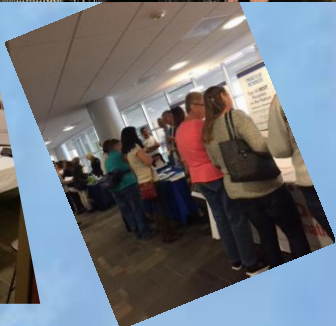
**THE CHICAGO SGNA IS A PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION OF NURSES AND ASSOCIATES DEDICATED TO  
THE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE PRACTICE OF GASTROENTEROLOGY AND ENDOSCOPY NURSING**



# Fall Into GI 2017

## Christ Medical Center, Oak Lawn, IL

Thank you everyone who attended Chicago SGNA's Fall Into GI 2017. A total of 6.25 GI specific CE were awarded to attendees. We know you have busy lives and lots of ways to spend precious free time. Your attendance and commitment is greatly appreciated. A dedicated group of professionals presented topics connecting us to our GI basics and beyond!





# Scholarship Spotlight

Barb Dimeler was Chicago SGNA's 2017 National SGNA Course Scholarship recipient. We asked Barb to tell us how she became interested in GI nursing, how SGNA has helped her achieve her professional goals and what is her proudest achievement. Enjoy this interview with fellow SGNA member and be sure to check out Chicago SGNA scholarship opportunities at <http://www.chicagosgna.org> > membership > scholarship information & application.



I have over 24 years experience in GI. Finances during high school prompted me to begin my medical career in the US Army. After meeting and marriage, a one year stint in Korea, and a bouncing baby girl, I entered college and pursued my Bachelor's in Nursing from North Park College. My first job as an RN was with Northwest Community Hospital (Arlington Hts), where I started on a surgical floor, floated for a bit, and found my home in GI.

I enjoy the aspect of early Diagnosis and treatment in the GI field. It is also rewarding to follow up on patients that have had treatment and return for continued care or follow up.

As a member of SGNA I have been able to easily continue keeping up to date in my field and enjoy meeting and networking with colleagues. Twice a year educational opportunities from our Chicago SGNA as well as other regional conferences make meeting required CEU's an easy way to get er done! Meeting vendors can be an asset as well. They have enthusiasm and sometimes ideas we aren't aware of. Like so many things in our lives the world continues to change and we need to keep up with it to provide the best resources to our patients.

My proudest moments of course would be the astounding accomplishments of my children... and for myself.. the second attempt at becoming certified as a GI nurse (and I must admit.. I was so nervous I was lost on the way.. and afterwards I called my youngest and went for an adult beverage). To be honest I put many hours into studying for the exam the second time around.

# Meet Your 2018 Board of Directors



## **President – Amy Granato**

**My name is Amy Granato and I have been a nurse for 24 years, having spent the last 8 years in endoscopy. I began my GI career at a free standing endoscopy center and then moved to Edward Hospital's endoscopy department where I am a member of the interventional team; performing advanced endoscopic procedures. After two years at Edward I transitioned into the role of Clinical Nurse Educator and am currently the Clinical Leader for the Endoscopy Department. I received my CGRN in 2014. In 2015 I got involved with Chicago SGNA as volunteer and then served as Co-Program Director. I am currently the President-Elect and will serve as President of the Chicago Region in 2018. I am also a member of the National SGNA Practice Committee. This past year I received my MSN in nursing leadership.**



## **President Elect – Linda Vainer, BSN, CGRN, CFER**

**Linda currently works in the Endoscopy Lab at Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital as a Clinical Outcomes Assistant. She has served Chicago SGNA in the past as Director of Membership and Marketing. Linda has been a nurse for 36 years, spending 28 years in endoscopy. Linda took 3<sup>rd</sup> place in SGNA's 43 Annual Conference for a co-authored poster Patient Satisfaction Scores: Measuring Customer Perceptions and Values To Promote Patient Centered Care.**



## **Secretary – Diane FencI**

**Diane FencI RN CGRN I have been on the BOD since 2013 as co program director, treasurer and now secretary. I have worked in GI for 19 years and have been certified since 2007.**





**Treasurer – Cece Pezdek**

**Double Masters prepared in Health Administration and Nursing. I have been in GI nursing for 30 years, maintained certification since 1995. Obtained CFER in 2015. Currently the manager of Endoscopy and Ambulatory Services at Advocate Good Samaritan in Downers Grove for 17 years. Chicago SGNA Board of Directors since 2016 and SGNA inaugural fellow in 2012.**



**Treasurer Elect/Director of Media/Website Services– Brad Hlavacek**

**Brad has been an active member of the Nursing profession for twenty years. He holds a bachelorette degree in Nursing and a master's degree in business administration. His clinical background includes Intensive Care, Operating Room, Nursing Quality, and Endoscopy. Brad currently works at Edward Hospital as the Director of Surgical Services, Endoscopy, and Central Sterile Processing. He has been an active member of CSGNA over the past year working on our website and email blasts.**



**Director of Programs – Deb Anders**

**I have been certified since 1996, a member since 1995. I have been on the Board for the past 4 years. First as Co-Program Director then as Program director.**



**Co-Director of Programs – Sherry Lombardo**

I currently work at Hines VA and have been a GI nurse since 1997. I have been a SGNA member since 2001 and am certified in GI nursing.



**Director of Vendors – Kate Healy**

I have been a nurse for almost 30 years with the last 23 years being in Endoscopy. My GI career began in Tokyo, Japan back in 1990. I worked in an outpatient lab performing procedures and grew to love it. I spent 7 years of my career traveling the world and have seen multiple perspectives of Endoscopy in different cultures. I continued my career in the US and joined SGNA in 2007 and became GI certified in 2011. In 2012 I became a board member of SGNA that oversaw scholarships and I am now currently the Director of Vendors. Endoscopy has been such a great part of my career and I love what I do.



**Director of Membership and Marketing – Karyn Pechinski**

I have been a RN since 29 years and a GI nurse for 18 years and became certified in GI nursing in 2012. I have participated in SGNA national courses with poster presentations and podium talks. I became a volunteer for Chicago SGNA in 2017.



**Spring Into GI**

**April 14, 2018**

**Moraine Valley Community College**

**Please note this change in venue made to  
provide you with the best experience  
possible!**

**Scholarship application deadline for the Spring  
Regional Conference is January 31, 2018**

**Apply Now @**

**<http://www.chicagosgna.org> > membership > scholarship information & application**

