

SAVE THE DATE
Fall Into GI 2019
Saturday, November 16, 2019 @ Elmhurst Memorial Hospital

Chicago SGNA

SUMMER 2019

Letter from the President

I would say happy summer, but I am not sure what season it is in the Chicago region anymore. It seems as though we are experiencing a taste of every season on a daily basis. I am a lover of the summer so I am hoping sunny warm days are just around the corner. We had an exciting start to June as my daughter graduated from Elmira College with her BSN degree, it is so exciting to welcome this new generation into the nursing profession.

This year the annual SGNA Course was held in mid-April in Portland, Oregon and I was fortunate to be able to attend, although a day later than planned due to a flight cancellation. Our Chicago Region was re-chartered at the conference. This was my sixth year attending the national course and I have to say one of the most educational for me yet. I was so impressed with the knowledge shared by each presenter and learned so much from their expertise in gastroenterology and endoscopy.

Because the national course was earlier than usual we made the decision as a board to host the Spring into GI conference on May 4th. The conference was held at the College of Du Page in Glen Ellyn where a total of 149 attendees earned 6.25 GI specific CE. We are so lucky that we live in a region with such amazing endoscopists performing advanced procedures! We have already begun planning our Fall into GI conference. The conference will be held at Elmhurst Hospital on November 16, 2019-Mark your calendars so you are not on call that day!

We had our BOD meeting last week and established our goals for this year. As a board we have committed to providing high quality conferences twice a year, increasing our membership, and to increase our social media presence. Our board of directors and volunteers are so dedicated to our region, and I am so lucky to get to serve with such an amazing group of GI nurses.

Have a relaxing summer and see you in the fall,

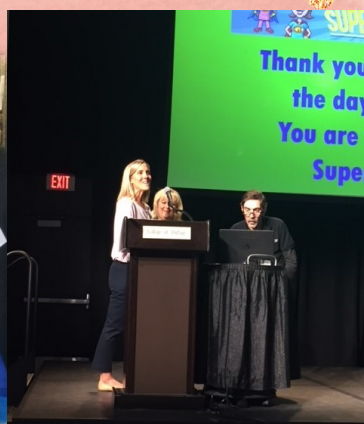
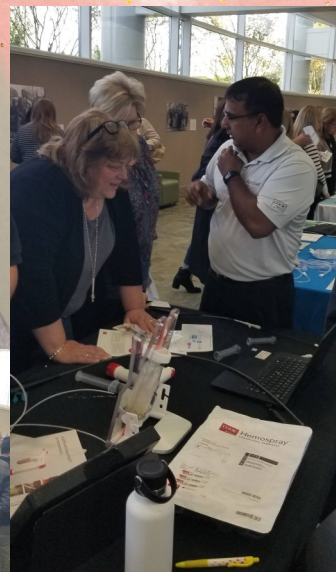
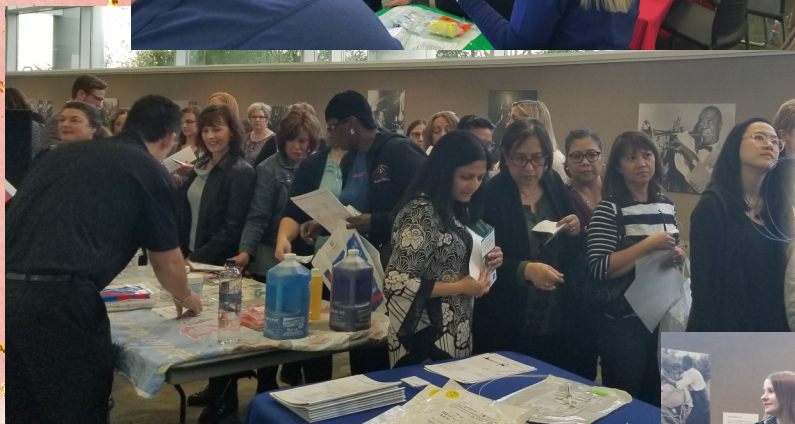
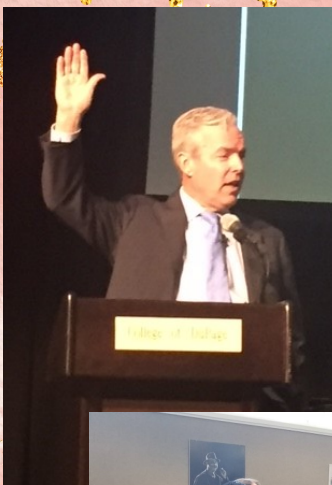
Amy Granato

Chicago SGNA President



Spring Into GI 2019

It was the 149 dedicated GI professionals of the Chicago Region that made *Spring Into GI* great! A BIG thank you to our speakers & vendors who support our mission!



Conference Planning

As Co-Program Director, I am involved in planning and hosting the Spring and Fall Conferences for the Chicago Region SGNA. Many members have asked how we plan our conferences and how we select speakers. Here is a brief explanation of what goes into the planning of our conferences.

The entire Board of Directors (BOD) reviews the evaluations after each conference. We consider all of the comments, compliments, and complaints. We note recommended topics, speakers, and location suggestions for future conferences. We also pay attention to all comments about other things like food selection, prizes, seating set-up, etc. We appreciate all of your comments and do consider each and every one of them, so please take your time and fill out the evaluations. However, when serving such a vast region as ours, it is not always easy to honor all wishes.

Here are some bullet points to show you how we plan:

- Review evaluations to find suggestions for site locations, speakers, and topics**
- Review past conferences to find topics that have not been presented lately**
- Contact venue sites for availability, cost, and ability to hold our group size**
- Decide on a date and location**
- Contact possible speakers for commitments and topics**
- Contact vendors for support**
- Visit conference site to evaluate set-up for conference, vendor display, and food**
- Secure speakers and topics**
- Request outlines and objectives from presenters**
- Apply to ONA (or other governing body) and ABCGN for CE credits**
- Submit Conflict of Interest forms for each speaker and Program Directors**
- Revise objectives and outlines if required for CE credit**
- Continuous communication with speakers to stay on track**
- Secure menu for breakfast, lunch, snacks**
- Develop brochure and e-mail blasts for members**
- Develop site for registration**
- Review presentation content**
- Develop evaluation forms and certificates**
- Develop Power Points, organize raffles and gifts**

This may seem like a lot of work, but the entire BOD participates. We all work together as a team and it all comes together. I have learned so much from my experience as a Co-Program Director, and it is truly rewarding to have the conferences and to help our members achieve their CEs and grow as GI Nurses and Associates.

Sherry Lombardo

National Scholarship Winner

Each year, Chicago SGNA members have an opportunity to apply for scholarships for national & regional conferences and certification/recertification.

This year's national scholarship winner is Julie Carpenter from Advocate Aurora Good Samaritan Hospital. Julie co-presented a podium talk, *Implementing the Direct Access Screening Colonoscopy Program: Decreasing Barriers and Increasing Patient Satisfaction*, at the 46th SGNA Annual Course.



How did you become interested in GI nursing?

I became interested in GI nursing in 2004 when I worked at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. I had always worked in cardiovascular nursing and an old colleague of mine had recently become the charge nurse in the GI lab at NMH. She encouraged me to shadow for a day in the lab and I was hooked. I loved the procedures, the pace, and the collaboration between the nurses and the doctors. I was fortunate enough that they offered me a position and I still enjoy learning something new every time I work.

How has SGNA helped you achieve your personal goals?

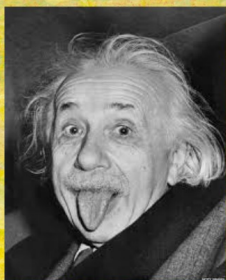
SGNA is a great organization. Up to this point, I had only attended the regional meetings when offered in the spring and fall. The information shared in the presentations is pertinent to best practice and so informative. I always walk out of the meetings wanting to improve and be the best GI nurse I can be. I also appreciate that I have learned about procedures I didn't know anything about, and then several months later, our lab was starting to do the same procedures. I felt better informed and more comfortable with the material because I had already learned about the procedure in a detailed presentation at SGNA.

What has been your proudest achievement so far?

My proudest accomplishment- professionally it was presenting at the national meeting for SGNA

Personally- my family

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS?



**INQUIRING MINDS
WANT TO KNOW**

I am interested in volunteering but am not sure what it entails... if this statement applies to you, keep reading! As we are looking at the future of the Chicago Region of SGNA we need to be thinking about succession planning for our board of directors. If you are someone who attends our regional conferences and you would like these to continue we need you to volunteer. If you are someone who has received a scholarship for a conference or certification and you want that to continue we need you to volunteer. If you want our region to offer more opportunities to support GI we need you to volunteer! Our ability to fill vacancies in BOD positions over the next couple of years, will determine the sustainability of our region.

What is the time commitment for serving on the board?

As we plan for our conferences the majority of the work is done through emails and phone calls. We have approximately four in person meetings each year (quarterly) and two conference calls (preconference). The in person meetings are located at a neutral location and last approximately 2-3 hours. The conference calls typically last one hour. Most of the work happens between these meetings during pockets of time. All of the current board members work full time as nurses at hospitals throughout our region, in the roles of staff nurses, charge nurses, managers, and directors. We are able to balance our family, work, and board member responsibilities with good communication and organization.

What's in it for me?

Each board member receives a stipend for educational expenses. Board members may receive up to \$750.00 annually for educational activities, SGNA renewal, and certification. In order to receive a full stipend, a board member must attend 75% of the regional conferences, BOD meetings in person and telephone conferences. In addition, all board members are able to use an additional \$750.00.00 stipend if they wish to attend the National SGNA conference, with a maximum of \$1500.00 for the year for each board member. With the exception of the President and President-Elect who serve as delegates for the House of Delegates at the national conference.

In addition to the education stipend, board members can submit mileage to and from BOD meetings and Conferences. Board members and committee volunteers are not required to pay the regional conference registration fee.

Even more important than the benefits listed above are the new friendships you will make. Being a member of the board instantly adds multiple new friends who are committed to the same specialty that you are.

How do I get involved?

If you are interested in learning more about a board position, or about volunteering on a committee please email us at chicagosgnaregion20@gmail.com, and we would be happy to give you more information. We have the potential to grow our region and offer more to our members with your help!

Amy Granato

MID-YEAR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If your SGNA membership has lapsed, consider taking advantage of SGNA's mid-year membership renewal program.

As long-time SGNA members and volunteers, the Chicago Region SGNA values the relationships we've built and knowledge we've gained to improve our practice, while advancing the GI specialty.

Because the organization has had such a positive impact on our units, our patients and our careers, we wanted to take a moment and encourage you to come back to the organization now so you can continue to enjoy similar benefits.

SGNA members receive exclusive access to information on industry trends and evidence-based practice, receive free and discounted education, and network with others who are passionate about our field. And SGNA resources help you stay up-to-date on technologies, tools and safety developments, and earn contact hours toward certification/re-certification and licensure.

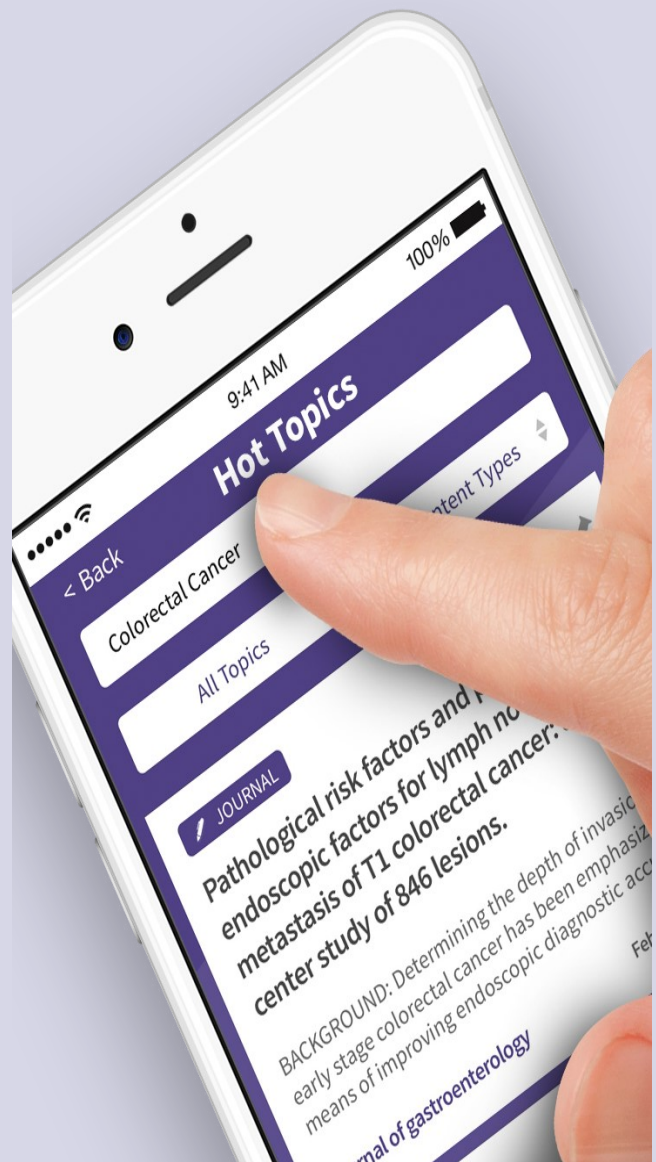
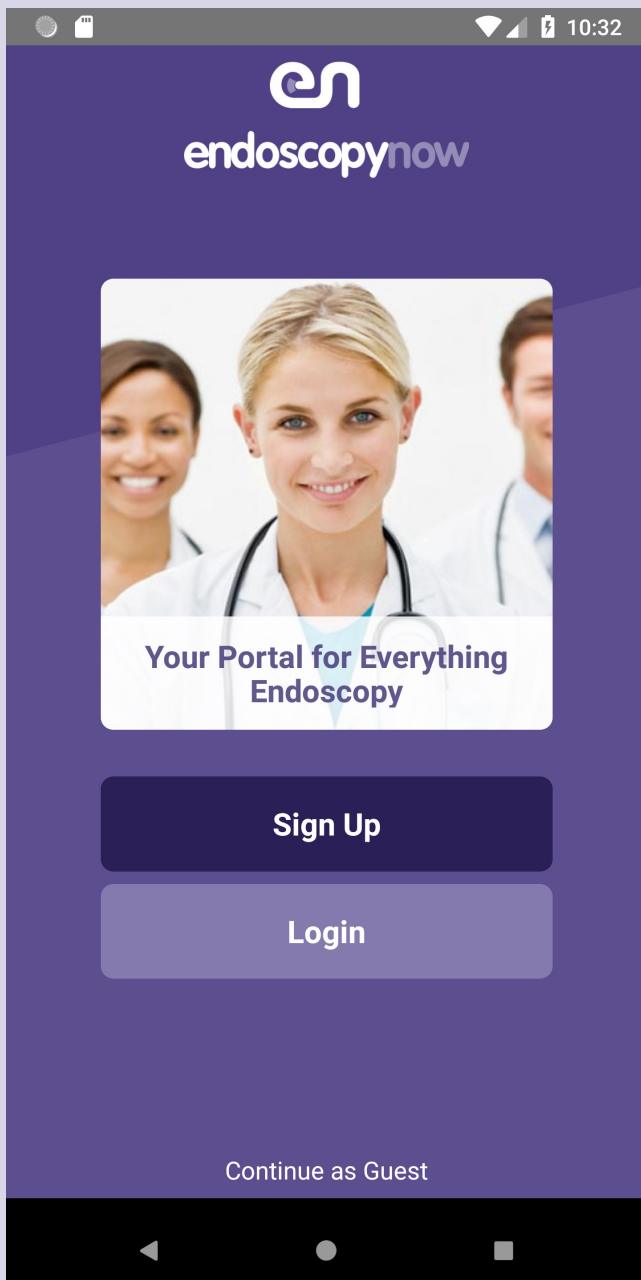
You can re-join the organization now through SGNA's Mid-year Membership program, and stay connected to our society through December 31, 2020, at one discounted rate.

To re-join, visit www.SGNA.org/renew, or call SGNA Headquarters at 800.245.7462.

New App Launches for GI Nursing Community

In a quest to aggregate valuable resources into one, free mobile application, the recently launched EndoscopyNow application is gaining interest and subscribers from the GI nursing community.

The application – available on both Android and Apple mobile platforms – provides GI nurses the vehicle to keep abreast of the latest techniques and devices in GI endoscopy, stay informed of the latest in guidelines and clinical evidence, access product-specific documentation on many devices used every day in the GI lab, and attend virtual training ses-



*Thank
you!*




**Your support is greatly
appreciated!**





WRITE AN ARTICLE
FOR A NEWSLETTER?

facebook 

Do you know
how to post
on Facebook?



Please consider volunteering!

Contact us @ <http://www.chicagosgna.org>

Message us thru Facebook: Chicago SGNA

Talk to us at FALL INTO GI on October 20, 2018

The Inside  **Tract**

Get on theinsidetract.sgna.org for the latest news and updates.