



SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2021

President Elect's Message

Can you hear it? I can...

Can you hear them talking, laughing, sharing experiences? I can.

A room of people—still being cautious because of the experience's over the previous year—but they are learning, enjoying an “Endoscopy moment”, sharing a passion for GI—IT'S OUR FALL CONFERENCE!! LIVE AND IN PERSON!!

Woohoo—we made it to finally be together again. We have learned to appreciate many different things in our life, whether at work or home, we have remembered to cherish moments and people.

Have you ever wondered how these conferences were able to be provided? Or have you just looked for something to attend to get those contact hours for your RN license or GI certification?

As a new nurse, many, many years ago, I would look for fun subjects for my critical care field. Places to travel and enjoy some time off from work. What would look interesting? Were there going to be speakers that could help me understand new subjects, or explore different ways to see recurring subjects? How do I get the right speakers, the topics I wanted to learn about? Who makes this happen?

Volunteers. Volunteer's help your conferences happen.

You have a passion, you want to share the passion and learn about new products, procedures, better or more improved ways to provide excellent care to our GI patients. Maybe have a lot of fun while experiencing all of these moments.

I have had a “Passion” for GI for over 23 years now. I wanted to share the information and passion with anyone interested in learning. When I attended my first National SGNA conference in Arizona, alone, yet not alone, there were SO MANY PEOPLE. I made friends quickly with others who were there to absorb every piece of knowledge they could about THEIR GI world. I was so excited to learn that I wasn't the only “GI Nerd”. I shared a passion for GI with literally “THOUSANDS” of GI nurses, technicians, physicians...so many passionate GI people. That can certainly light a spark. To know you are never alone in this beautiful GI world. I love that our conferences for our region may not have thousands- we have passionate people attend. We have national speakers provide information. We have our local physicians, PA's, Nurses, technicians, provide information.

Maybe you have ideas for topics, or speakers that you know can spark that light in a colleagues mind during procedures. Maybe you know of a really good venue for our conference. Or you just want to learn and maybe share your knowledge with others in our GI world. WE WANT YOU!!

Our region would like to have as many involved people who share our passion for GI to help provide conferences, contact hours, information. We would like you to help expand our Region and continue to provide excellent care to our patients. If you are interested- PLEASE- Visit our website and volunteer to help provide our conference. That is the first stepping stone to continue onto a position onto the Board. I have had amazing experiences since I made the decision to “give back” to my profession.

Please consider joining our region in providing a conference. Please consider wanting to “give back” to your specialty. Your rewards are priceless. The memories are forever. Thank you for considering sharing our “GI PASSION” with others!

Respectfully submitted-
Vicki Johnson, RN, CGRN
President -elect MnSGN

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Save the Date

Fall Conference!!!

***October 9th &
10th, 2021 at the
St Cloud Park
Event Center.***

**Registration is
now open.
Book your stay.**

SGNA Recognizes One of our Own.

Minnesota Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates is excited to share that MNSGNA Past President, Jill Bendiske-Minor is the recipient of SGNA Member of the Year.

Jill has been a member of MnSGNA since 2008. She immediately saw the value in education at the Fall Conference and volunteered for the 2009 Fall Conference planning committee. By 2010 she had become a director-at-large. By 2012 she was President-elect and has since remained in the role of either President-elect, -present or -past. She has served on the house of delegate, attends SGNA Leadership Conference, has been a Infection Prevention champion and been a part of SGNA Nurse Manager Mentor program.

She is a fearless leader, organizer and passionate supporter of the GI profession and organization. She started her nursing career on an oncology/GI unit in the early 80's and quickly advanced to a team leader/charge role. It became apparent to her as she rounded with the GI doctors that Endoscopy was a specialty that could dramatically change the lives of so many people, whether that be by screening and prevention, avoidance of surgeries due to procedural interventions or increasing a patient's quality of life by advancements in biliary techniques. Encouraged by one MD in particular she moved to the Endoscopy unit in 1993. "Her knowledge, professionalism and caring for her patients impressed me and she became a role model and then a mentor as I became a member of the Endoscopy unit. She immediately encouraged my involvement in MnSNGA and I soon became a fellow board member. She is currently working in a hospital setting and is a valuable asset to the unit, their patients and their biliary team," said Mary MacDonald Johnson. "I have experienced first-hand her passion for the organization and positive impact on fellow GI nurses and associates. She is always striving for excellence in our Spring/Fall Conferences and it shows. Always up to date on the latest publications, she encourages us to seek speakers on the current and advancing techniques of practice. Her technological savvy has moved us into the digital age by her work ferreting out the latest and greatest in technology to meet our Region's needs."

Congratulations Jill!

And Congrats St. Cloud Hospital Endoscopy Team!!

The St. Cloud Hospital Endoscopy Team was showcased in the May 2021 issue of Endo Pro Magazine. Visit endopromag.com to read what Donna Deutsch and Dena Walz have to say about their great team.



We are excited
to announce our
Guest
Motivational
Speaker Cindra
Kamphoff PhD.
who will be
speaking Sunday
morning.

Visit her website
beyondgrit.com to
preview what
people are saying
about her book

Congratulation to ABCGN's President-Elect—Our very own Karin Cierzan!!!

We are honored to take a more in-depth look into the accomplishments of MnSGNA's soon-to-be Past President as she transitions into the Presidency of ABCGN. Karin began her GI nursing career in 1999 and became certified in 2012. She became a member of MNSGNA in 2012 and was elected to the Board in 2014. She quickly became involved in SGNA as an Item Writer and Moderator at the 2014 Annual Conference. In addition to those roles, she was a SGNA Delegate by 2015, Vice Speaker of the House in 2017 and was increasingly becoming involved in ABCGN by helping on the Standards and reviewing/updating the Core Curriculum's IV Therapy chapter. While maintaining all of the above roles, she has held office in MnSGNA in Presidential capacities and expanded her ABCGN involvement on their Board and volunteering for numerous committees. She has presented a Poster and been selected to speak on Infusion Therapy both on the Regional and National levels. This year she has become a member of the Infusion Nurses Society (INS) and is pursuing additional certification in that area. When asked about her passion for serving Karin stated "The best thing that I have done with my career is getting into GI and obtaining my CGRN, nursing certification. My goal is to keep on seeking out volunteer opportunities within the GI field, regionally and nationally. I want to get published and obtain my certification in infusion therapy as well as working towards my recertification in Gastroenterology. I am honored to have been elected as President Elect of ABCGN, my commitment is to empowering nurses to obtain their certification and to promote professional excellence in our field." Way to Go Karin. We are so proud of you.

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