



MN SGNA



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Successful Fall Conference

Jill Bendiske-Minor BSN, RN

On October 4th and 5th, 2025, we were thrilled to welcome so many dedicated professionals to the Annual Fall Conference in Waite Park, MN, hosted by MNSGNA. Attendees earned 12.25 CNE credits for their participation in the enriching two-day conference. We covered a wide range of topics, including IBD, endobronchial valves, eosinophilic esophagitis, pancreatic cysts, cancer diagnosis, and the use of CO2 in endoscopy. It was wonderful to connect with colleagues during the evening networking events, where GI nurses and techs had the opportunity to socialize and share insights.



Thank you to everyone who submitted a basket. Congratulations to all the winners!

We are already excited about next year's conference and are working diligently to make it even better. Our team is currently reaching out to potential speakers to ensure another extraordinary educational opportunity. Your participation and commitment to professional growth are deeply appreciated, and we eagerly look forward to welcoming you back on September 26th and 27th, 2026. We are confident that the upcoming event will be as enriching and enjoyable as this year's conference.

Thank you for your dedication and enthusiasm in advancing our field. Your contributions make a significant impact, and we are grateful for your continued support. Thank you once more for your dedication, and we look forward to seeing you next year.



September 26th and 27th, 2026

Meet Our New Member, Emma!



Hello, my name is Emma Luke, but most people call me EmJ! I'm excited to be joining the SGNA Minnesota board. I've always been a lifelong learner and truly enjoy picking up new skills whenever I can. One area I find especially interesting is esophageal manometry, both for the technical side and helping patients get through what can be an uncomfortable experience. I'm passionate about patient centered care and evidenced-based practice.

Outside of work, I love to travel and spend time with friends and family. I also host a book club, which I really enjoy! At home, I'm often watching reality TV with my cat, Athena, who keeps things entertaining. I'm looking forward to getting involved with SGNA MN, building connections, and continuing to learn and grow alongside such a great community.

March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month

Dena Walz MSN, CGRN

As a Gastroenterology nurse for 32 years, I've had the privilege and the responsibility of caring for patients across the full spectrum of digestive health. Although I have not personally experienced colon cancer within my immediate family, I am immersed every day in helping diagnose it. I've witnessed firsthand how early detection changes the trajectory of a person's life. That is why March, Colon Cancer Awareness Month, holds such deep meaning for GI nurses and associates everywhere.

Why Awareness Matters Colon cancer remains a significant public health issue. It is the second leading cause of cancer death among men and women combined in the United States, yet it is also one of the most preventable cancers through screening and early intervention. Raising awareness is not about instilling fear; it is about empowering people with knowledge. When our community understands the risks, the symptoms, and the immense value of timely screening, we save lives. As GI nurses, we see daily how early detection leads to dramatically better outcomes.

Our Ongoing Commitment As GI nurses, we carry the responsibility of educating, advocating, and supporting patients throughout their screening journey. Every March, and truly every day, we dedicate ourselves to:

- Increasing awareness of risk factors and symptoms
- Encouraging timely screening for age 45+
- Reducing stigma around colonoscopy
- Supporting equitable access to testing.

Colon cancer is preventable, treatable, and when detected early, often curable. Awareness is our greatest ally, and together, we can move the needle toward earlier diagnoses and healthier outcomes for our communities.



Join Us in Atlanta!



SGNA Board Members
Dina Walz, Jill Bendishe-Moor, Callie Hanuman, Karin Cierzan, Ashley ParsonsBulma, Karen Hurdad, and Jena Roods



National News

2026 Distinguished Service Award
– honoring exceptional leadership and service to SGNA.

2026 Gabriele Schindler Clinical Excellence Award – recognizing excellence in GI clinical practice and professionalism.

SGNA is now on Instagram! Follow us for a closer look at everything happening across the SGNA community, from event updates and new member perks to discounts and more. Come connect with us and join the conversation.

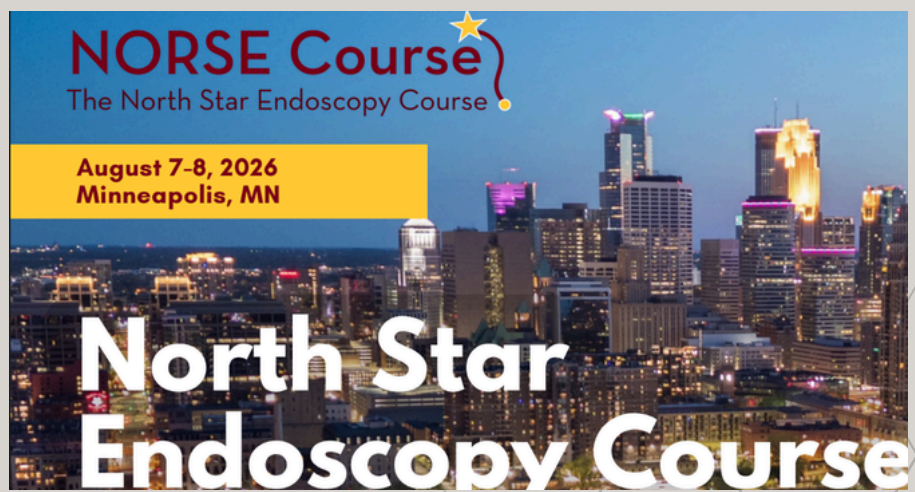
You've already built the skills—now it's time to make them official. The **CGRN Certification Spring Exam** lets you transform your real-world GI nursing expertise into a credential that elevates your credibility, sharpens your professional edge and opens new doors.

SGNA 53rd Annual Course May 17-19th, 2026 - Atlanta, Georgia

SGNA National Conference

Karin Cierzan RN, CGRN CRNI VA-BC

SGNA'S Annual Course will be in Atlanta from May 17-19, 2026, with pre-conference classes held on May 16th. This year the event is taking place at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta. This year's theme is Education Reimagined. The program committee has been hard at work, building the educational sessions. Pre-conference classes range from Scope reprocessing and CGRN Exam Essentials to concurrent sessions, starting May 17th, that include classes on EOE, GI Bleeding with Dr. Buch to a session on EUS Guided Procedures. The registration for the annual course is open now. A virtual conference is in the planning stage and will be held after the annual course. Stay tuned for more information on . Looking forward to seeing you in Atlanta!



First Annual NORSE Course - The North Star Endoscopy Course

MNSGNA is proud to endorse this inaugural program, directed by Drs. Stuart Amateau, Ahmed Dirweesh, and Guru Trikudanathan. This new course offers high-value endoscopy education with a strong commitment to keeping costs low for participants. We encourage all MNSGNA members to explore the program and consider attending this exciting regional event.

[REGISTER NOW](#)