



ENDOSCOOP

ODSGNA Newsletter

Message from the President

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to thank each one of you for your contributions in making Old Dominion SGNA such an awesome region! We are truly blessed to have such active, knowledgeable and supportive members and leaders who are committed to making the vision of ODSGNA, "leading the next generation beyond best practices for a disease free gut", a reality.



ODSGNA has already had a busy year. On Jan 21 2017, the Inaugural Pulmonary Endoscopy Conference was held at Chesapeake Regional Healthcare. Based on the resounding success of the conference and attendee feedback, we will offer this conference again on January 20, 2018.

In March, the 19th annual DelMarVa Conference was hosted by Chesapeake SGNA in Fairfax, VA.

Best,

*Donna R. Dickinson, MSN, RN, CGRN,
CMSRN, CFER, President, ODSGNA*

Upcoming Events

**ACG/VGS/ODSGNA Regional
Post Graduate Course
Williamsburg, VA
September 9-10, 2017**

**ODSGNA Beyond the Basics
Riverside Regional Medical
Center
Newport News, VA
November 11, 2017**

**2nd Annual Pulmonary
Endoscopy Conference
Chesapeake Regional Medical
Center
January 20, 2018**

**Certified Nurses Day
March 19, 2018**

**GI Nurses and Associates
Week
March 19-23, 2018**

**45th Annual SGNA Conference
Disney's Coronado Springs
Resort, Orlando, FL
May 18-22, 2018**

Nominations and Elections – Invest in the Leadership of ODSGNA!

Do you know an ODSGNA member who would like to contribute to our region on the board level? Would you like to get more involved? If you have ever thought about volunteering, this is an easy way to get involved. Our main focus is to provide continuing education to GI and endoscopy nurses and associates. Consider nominating a fellow member or yourself. ODSGNA has accepted nominations for the President-Elect and Treasurer for next year. Only voting members are eligible to serve as a Board Member, Director, Officer, or member of the Committees.

The following are the descriptions of the ODSGNA leadership roles due for election this year. Please take time to review the responsibilities and duties, which include:

President Elect:

Making a 6 year commitment, the President Elect serves a two-year term and automatically becomes President upon completion of this term. Following the two-year term as President, this individual serves a two-year term as Immediate Past President:

1. Shall automatically accede to the presidency when the Regional Society's President's term ends
2. Shall become acting ODSGNA President and assume the duties of the office in the event of the President's absence, disability, or resignation

The President:

1. Shall serve as official representative and spokesperson of the regional society; communicate society's mission, goals, and positions.
2. Shall preside at all meetings of the Regional Society and of the Regional Society Board of Directors.
3. Shall serve as Mentor to the President-Elect and other committee directors and chairs.
4. Shall appoint all non-elective committee chairs and members with the approval of the Regional Society Board of Directors.
5. Shall serve as ex-officio member without vote on Regional Society standing and special committees except the Committee on Nominations and Elections.
6. Shall terminate Regional Society committee appointments, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.
7. Shall, in the absence of a Treasurer or Secretary, delegate the duties and responsibilities of the Treasurer to another officer, or assume those duties.
8. Shall submit to the Regional Society and SGNA Board of Directors an annual report of the Regional Society
9. Write columns for ODSGNA News (Presidential Message).

The Immediate Past President:

1. Shall automatically accede to the Past Presidency when President's term ends.
2. Shall serves as resource to Executive Board members regarding standing rules and bylaws.
3. Shall serve as chair of ODSGNA Bylaws Committee.
4. Shall become Chair of the Scholarship Committee for ODSGNA and assume the duties of annual review and revision of the scholarship policies and procedures as well as review candidate applications and notification for scholarship awards.
5. Shall serve as chair of the Committee on Nominations and Elections. Shall attend board and business meetings for ODSGNA educational offerings.
6. The past president also serves as mentor to the president, providing leadership, support, and counsel if needed.

Nominations and Elections, cont.

Treasurer:

1. Shall be responsible for the funds of the Regional Society.
2. Shall be bonded, the cost to be borne by the Regional Society.
3. Shall keep an accurate record of all Regional Society receipts and disbursements.
4. Shall assist in the direction of all financial affairs and sign checks of the Regional Society, in accordance with Section 12.03 of the Bylaws.
5. Shall present financial reports to the Regional Society Board of Directors as requested.
6. Shall present an annual report to the Regional Society members at the Annual Membership Meeting.
7. Shall serve as Chair of the Regional Society Budget & Finance Committee.

As a valued Old Dominion SGNA member, we are urging you to take a few minutes to vote for your next ODSGNA President-Elect and Treasurer. Please visit <http://odsgna.com/nominees/> to review the bios of the nominees and to cast your vote today. Online voting will close on September 9, 2017 at 5:00 PM. Election results will be announced at the ODSGNA Business Meeting in Williamsburg, VA, on September 10, 2017 between 7:00 - 8:00 AM.

President-Elect (2-year term starting in 2018): Sherrie McNamara, PHD(c), RN, MBA, CCRA



Treasurer (4-year term starting in 2018): Kimberly Cooper, RN, BS, MSN, CGRN and



Suzanne Tharin, BSN, RN, CFER, CGRN



ODSGNA Scholarship Recipients

ODSGNA granted scholarships to two of our members so they could attend the national SGNA Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. Read about their experiences below!

Susan Gayda, RN

I had a wonderful experience as a first time attendee, speaker, and GI nurse at the SGNA National Conference in New Orleans.

I have been to local conferences in our state, including the DelMarVa conferences. The national conference had a different structure than any other I have attended. In other conferences you plan on a day and a half of sitting through successive sessions all day long. The national conference has general sessions for everyone to attend as a group and concurrent sessions with different speakers presenting simultaneously. This had its advantages and disadvantages. I had to choose between so many wonderful sessions, sometimes missing something I wanted to see. I was speaking at the same time as a colleague and could not attend her presentation (I was both interested in her subject matter and in supporting her). The benefit of this is that everyone could choose what was applicable to their practice. For example: I attended a wonderful and exciting session on interventional pulmonology that would not have been pertinent to many nurses attending. I learned something from every session I attended; all knowledge gained from the conference is certainly useful regardless of the practice setting.



I had the privilege of speaking at this event. I was very nervous because based on previous conferences I thought it would mean speaking for the entire convention. After looking at the schedule my anxiety abated quite a bit. I spoke to a room of about 30 people. I was confident in my subject matter and actually enjoyed myself. The small group made it possible to have great questions from the audience and for me to facilitate a group discussion. I learned about what other departments were doing, too, so it was just as informative for me as it was for the attendees. Another nurse, shyly, discussed one to one some concerns she had with training on her unit. I was glad to be able to show her support, give advice, and provide my contact for her to continue to discuss this with me in the future. I would certainly consider speaking again!

Of course, my main focus of attending the conference was to further my understanding of my role as a GI nurse. I had the opportunity to go to not only clinical sessions but also leadership/operational sessions. I enjoyed learning about new types of interventions, like performing internal suturing for patients who needed pouch revisions after gastric bypass. I also attended sessions regarding providing staff education and competency. As the Nursing Education Coordinator for my unit, I found it helpful to get new ideas while validating that some of our practices were in line with the industry. I am already thinking ahead to how the session on transformational leadership will help me focus on the traits I need while I'm working as a charge nurse or as the chair of my shared governance group. I was very pleased with the variety of experiences I was able to have while attending; other conferences don't typically offer as much in the way of non-clinical sessions that help to develop our leaders and discuss how the unit functions.

Thank you, Old Dominion, for awarding me this scholarship that provided me an opportunity to learn, grow, and share information with UVA Endoscopy. I appreciate your support.

Suzanne Tharin, BSN, RN, CGRN, CFER



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Old Dominion Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates Board of Directors for awarding me an educational scholarship so that I could attend the SGNA 44th Annual Conference, *Invest In Yourself, Inspire Others; Jazz Up Your Journey* May 7-9, 2017 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

This was a wonderful growth opportunity for me as I stepped out of my comfort zone and co-produced an educational poster. I then took on another challenge and submitted this poster abstract for the SGNA 44th annual conference. Attending this conference gave me a valuable opportunity to gain education and professional development that I was able to share with my coworkers. With over 2013 attendees, I was surrounded by fellow colleagues who share my passion of gastrointestinal nursing. I had the opportunity to meet and network with nurses from around the world; I learned from them about their practices and shared with them how my endoscopy unit operates so successfully. I was able to network and expand my knowledge with the up and coming infection control and procedure safety updates. Most importantly, I gained more knowledge on evidence-based practice and research. As a Magnet champion for my hospital, I am working on Magnet stores for our re-designation in 2019.

The sessions that I selected benefitted my endoscopy unit as we continually identify ways to improve patient care. I was able to update my knowledge and our practices with regards to endoscope reprocessing, fecal microbiota transplant, capsule endoscopy, eosinophilic esophagitis and overt bleeding. I was overwhelmed by the Vendor Exhibit Hall in New Orleans but in a good way! Here I was able to learn about the newest products and services available in endoscopy. The Vendor Hall on the first day served us a wonderful bowl of gumbo and rice, and oh the bread pudding with bourbon caramel sauce...did I mention the bread pudding? It was to die for!

Twenty-four of my soon to be thirty-six years of nursing have been in Endoscopy. Endoscopy is my niche. I enjoy the fast paced, technical and procedural aspect as well as the variety of patient care endoscopy has to offer. Endoscopy has helped me become proactive by anticipating and responding to patient, physician, family, and coworker needs. I have witnessed a lot of changes occur in nursing over the last thirty-five plus years, so continuing education for me is always important! I highly recommend attending a national SGNA conference! Thank you again, ODSGNA.

ODSGNA MISSION STATEMENT

“The Old Dominion Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates is a professional organization of nurses and associates dedicated to the safe and effective practice of gastroenterology and endoscopy nursing. ODSGNA carries out its mission by advancing the science and practice of gastroenterology and endoscopy nursing through education, research, advocacy, and collaboration, and by promoting the professional development of its members in an atmosphere of mutual support.”

ODSGNA VISION STATEMENT

“Leading the next generation beyond best practices for a disease-free gut.”

Spotlight! University of Virginia Endoscopy/Bronchoscopy

On April 1, 2017, the University of Virginia and Old Dominion SGNA hosted a Certification Review Course at UVA. Over 60 GI nurses attended. It was a day full of lectures to prepare these nurses to sit for their certification exam. There were many positive comments from the attendees which confirms that the course was a great success.

UVA's endoscopy unit is located at the main hospital and provides services to inpatients and outpatients. On July 17, 2017 at 7 a.m., UVA opened a new state of the art outpatient endoscopy unit on Monroe Lane in Charlottesville. To prepare for the opening UVA recently hired and is still in the process of hiring new nurses and technicians. SGNA was instrumental in preparing these nurses and technicians to be competent when the center opened.



Orientation coordinator Joanne Perry, RN, used many SGNA resources during the orientation process. Orientation is an extensive eight week program that rotates the orientee through pre and post procedures and 1-2 weeks with an experienced GI technician to learn scope reprocessing and use of equipment. The new staff is given time to review the core curriculum so they are not only able to do the technical skills to be competent but also understand why. By doing this they are also beginning to prepare for certification when they meet the criteria.

UVA is a magnet hospital and has set a new standard that all Clinical III RN's must be certified. Many UVA nurses will be sitting for the exam this year. All certified nurses receive an annual bonus for being certified.

The director of endoscopy, Catherine Bauer, RNBS, MBA, MSN, CGRN, CFER, is the president-elect for SGNA. Education for her staff is one of her top priorities. UVA is generous with education funds and promotes professional development. Five nurses from UVA presented at the national SGNA conference in New Orleans. Cathy also serves on many boards concerning infection prevention.

Through Cathy's leadership UVA has made many positive changes in infection prevention to improve patient safety. Lisa Brown, ACNA, CFER is our Infection Prevention Champion. Lisa, who is one of our senior techs, is on the SGNA advisory board. She chairs the Sig program for associates and is the chair for UVA's infection prevention task force. Lisa is very passionate about infection prevention, and through her initiative UVA follows the latest guidelines in infection control.

Our open house was held on July 25th for our new Monroe Lane Ambulatory Center. If you have any questions about joining our dynamic team, please contact Monica Morgan, our Talent Acquisition Consultant, at 434-243-9321.

Your Voices are Heard! Legislative News...

On March 5 and 6, 2017, ten SGNA members went to Washington D.C. for the Digestive Disease National Coalition's (DDNC's) Public Policy Forum. Old Dominion SGNA was represented by Legislative Liaison Lorie Brickner, RN CGRN; Immediate Past President Eileen Babb, BSN RN CGRN CFER, and Xena Wilder, BSN RN CGRN.

The **DDNC** is your advocacy organization in our nation's capital. For over thirty years, the DDNC has provided national leadership on behalf of patient organizations, professional societies, and industry interested in the full spectrum of digestive disorders. Each year, the DDNC hosts a Public Policy Forum (PPF) during the month of March, which is held in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the PPF is to go to Capitol Hill and advocate for funding for gastroenterological disease research and discuss legislation aimed at providing cost effective improvement of healthcare delivery to patients with gastrointestinal diseases.

DDNC supports passage of provisions of the SCREEN Act and Removing Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening Act, both of which eliminate cost-sharing for Medicare beneficiaries if a polyp is found and removed during a screening colonoscopy. The SCREEN Act also eliminates cost-sharing for necessary follow-up colonoscopy subsequent to another colorectal cancer screening test.

DDNC supports additional funding for digestive disease research. The DDNC also focuses on prevention and awareness with its support for programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which focuses on prevention and awareness of digestive diseases.

On the first day of the DDNC Symposium, the students and volunteers listened to speakers from panel presentations from the National Cancer Institute, the National Cancer Moonshot, the Division of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition, the National Institute of Diabetes and Kidney Diseases, the Centers for Disease Control, and the American College of Gastroenterology. The second day of the symposium consisted of Senate and Congressional visits and a Congressional Luncheon and Awards Presentation at the Hart Senate Office. The ODSGNA representatives secured meetings with aides from the offices of Virginia Senators Mark Warner, Tammy Duckworth and Dick Durbin to advocate for patients with Digestive Diseases.

Learn about [USPSTF recommendation on CRC \(www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org\)](http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org) which is currently being updated for 2018 and might possibly be amended to include screening young adults. Learn about the [Removing Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening Act of 2017](http://www.ascassociation.org/govtadvocacy/legislativepriorities/crc2017) (<http://www.ascassociation.org/govtadvocacy/legislativepriorities/crc2017>)

*Back row: Conrad Worrell, RN CGRN CSN; Linda Corey, MSN APRN-BC; Leslie McRae-Matthews, MSN RN CGRN; Kathy Vinci, Healthcare Policy Committee Chair, DIPL RNC CGRN; Afton Becker, BSN RN CGRN; Lorie Brickner, RN CGRN; Eileen Babb, BSN RN CGRN CFER, SGNA Board of Directors; Michele Tyring, BSN RN CGRN
Front Row: Kimberly Foley, BSN RN CGRN; Jane Holt, recipient of Lifetime Achievement Award for DDNC; Xena Wilder, BSN RN CGRN*



ABCGN Corner: CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to the following nurses who have certified/recertified as CGRNS!

Liz Brown, Melissa Buers, Dawn G. Cox, Helene Drees, Jackie A. Holladay, Rachel Johns, Susan Miller, Susan Mitchell, Cynthia Taylor, Brenda L. Vaughn, Beth W. Woodward

The ODSGNA Board of Directors would like to congratulate you on your recent accomplishment of certification/recertification in Gastroenterology Nursing. Certification reflects achievement beyond a basic level of knowledge and requires continued learning and skill development to maintain your certification credential. We acknowledge your hard work in attaining this worthwhile goal!

Remember, the CEU requirements for CGRN recertification have changed.

- 75 contact hours in 5 years are required for recertification.
- 60 of those hours must be GI-specific.
- 30 of those 60 GI-specific contact hours must be in category 1.

These requirements have been **reduced** from 100 contact hours in 5 years, 80 hours GI-specific with 40 of those GI-specific contact hours in Category 1.

SGNA MEMBERS SAVE ON CERTIFICATION AND RECERTIFICATION!

CGRN Exam Registration and Preparation Savings:

| | Non-Member | Member |
|--|------------|--------|
| Online Education | \$80-\$160 | \$0 |
| <i>Gastroenterology Nursing: A Core Curriculum</i> | \$200 | \$100 |
| Online Practice Exam | \$200 | \$0 |
| GI Nursing Review Course | \$350 | \$250 |
| Exam Registration | \$505 | \$420 |

CGRN Recertification by Contact Hour Savings:

| | Non-Member | Member |
|---|------------|--------|
| Online Education | \$80-160 | \$0 |
| Subscription to <i>Gastroenterology Nursing Journal</i> | \$129 | \$0 |
| Online Practice Exam | \$200 | \$0 |
| SGNA Annual Course | \$685 | \$535 |
| Recertification Application | \$435 | \$350 |

Scholarship Opportunities!

ODSGNA may award two (2) scholarships for each of the following meetings and certifications:

SGNA National Annual Course in the spring: this scholarship is for the **Basic Early Registration ONLY**. The application for the National meeting needs to be received **sixty (60)** days prior to the meeting so that the early rate may be applied. If after that date, you will receive the early rate only.

DelMarVa conference in the spring: Applications need to be submitted **thirty (30)** days prior to the meeting.

ACG/ VGS/ODSGNA meeting in Williamsburg in September: Applications need to be submitted **thirty (30)** days prior to the meeting.

CGRN certification examination: This scholarship is for the (\$) dollar amount (**early registration fee**) to take the examination. **Reimbursement will be for successful completion ONLY.**

Flexible Endoscopy Reprocessor (CFER): Techs may be awarded scholarships for successfully completing certification in GI Scope Reprocessing.

SGNA/ODSGNA membership dues: **One (1)** may be awarded per year.

Eligibility:

You may be eligible for an Old SGNA Scholarship if: 1) You have been a member of SGNA for two or more years (as of January 1st of this year). **Please note that one (1) scholarship is allowed per person in a two (2) year period.** 2) You must currently be employed as a caregiver in gastroenterology, and 3) you must actively support the goals and philosophy of SGNA.

Any Old Dominion SGNA member interested in applying for these educational scholarships must complete the application and email directly to Charlotte Timberlake-Torseth, ODSGNA Education Chair at ctimtor@yahoo.com. **We will not honor any application unless it is emailed directly to Charlotte.** The recipients of the scholarships are **required** to submit an article for the newsletter relating to their experience at the meeting and how they plan to use that information. **Please go to the ODSGNA.org website to download the scholarship application form.**



CONGRATULATIONS TO JANET HANNAH, RN, CGRN

Janet is the recipient of SGNA's 2017 Gabriel Schindler Award for Clinical Excellence! This annual award recognizes an SGNA member who has made important contributions in direct patient care in one or more of several performance categories. Named for an early pioneer in gastroenterology patient care, this prestigious award includes an inscribed plaque and medallion; tuition, airfare and three-day hotel stay at the Annual Course at which the presentation is made; and a feature article about the recipient in SGNA News. Janet, we are SO proud of you!



Calling All Associates and Technicians!

Are you looking to enhance your level of professionalism? Receive validation of your skills and knowledge? Integrate yourself as a valuable team member in the GI/Endoscopy setting? Let SGNA help advance your career. The **SGNA Associates Program and Advanced Associates Program** are designed for Associates and Technicians like you! The SGNA Associates Program was developed in response to expressed interest and need from the SGNA membership for skills validation. The purpose of the **Associates Program** is to learn the basics of working in the GI/endoscopy lab. The participants of this online program, consisting of eight modules, carefully study the program material and then take an exam. Upon successful completion of the exam, the participant is awarded a Certificate of Completion and a pin. The successful participant is also awarded the privilege of being recognized as a GI Technical Specialist (GTS).



The purpose of the **Advanced Associates Program** is to provide you with the opportunity to further your knowledge base in the field of GI/endoscopy. The program is presented in a manner that will challenge your critical thinking skills by applying the learned concepts from modules to case studies. The case studies offer an opportunity to interact with your healthcare team and discuss actions you would take in similar situations. Technicians and Associates are able to earn a higher level of recognition as an AGTS, Advanced GI Technical Specialist by successfully completing the Advanced Associates Program. Upon completion, an Official Recognition of Completion certificate will be available for download and an AGTS lapel pin will be awarded to the associate through SGNA.



For more information go to SGNA.org and click under the “Learn” tab on the left hand side of the site!

**We appreciate all of our technicians and associates and value your knowledge,
hard work and expertise!**





The Chesapeake Regional Healthcare Endoscopy Department received the SGNA Flame Award for Unit Excellence. This is their 3rd consecutive year receiving it. The Flame Award for Unit Excellence recognizes GI/Endoscopy Units who have shown a commitment to infection prevention, a supportive and educational work environment and positive patient outcomes. This award provides a roadmap for what is considered an exceptional work environment in a GI/Endoscopy nursing unit. Recipients of the Flame Award receive a framed document for display, recognition in SGNA's eScope, and mention at the SGNA Annual Course!

The Chesapeake Regional Healthcare Endoscopy Department also received the ABCGN Excellence in Professionalism Award for their high percentage of certified nurses. 2017 is their 8th consecutive year receiving it! In order to receive this award, nurses in the unit have to be certified by February of the year in which they are nominated; the facility in which they work has to be a hospital-based endoscopy unit, ambulatory care center, outpatient surgical center, or a gastroenterology office; and 50% or greater of the nurses are certified in gastroenterology.



ODSGNA Members from all over the region are getting involved on a national level! Here's a peek at what folks are doing!

- Sherrie McNamara – Chair of the SGNA Research Committee
- Donna Dickinson – SGNA Infection Prevention Task Force/Train the Trainer, ABCGN Item Writer's Panel
- Eileen Babb – SGNA Board of Directors/Liaison to the Practice Committee
- Cathy Bauer – SGNA President-Elect
- Nancy Schlossberg – ABCGN President-Elect
- Susan Mitchell – ABCGN Recertification Review Committee
- Kristi Seay – ABCGN Board of Directors and GI Audit Committee
- Lisa Brown – SGNA Advisory Board, Chair of the SIG Program for Associates

For the last 6 months, Eileen Babb has been attending classes at the SmithBucklin Leadership Institute, courtesy of SGNA. Every year, SGNA sends one person to this institute and it is always the incoming president for national SGNA. Because of a scheduling conflict, they opened the slate to the national SGNA board of directors and Eileen was selected to attend. Cathy Bauer, the national SGNA president-elect is currently attending a similar but new program called Leadership's Calling. It is the same program premise but focused more on non-volunteer organizations.

ODSGNA, SGNA and ABCGN are looking for nurses who are willing to serve. You can go to each of their websites and submit willingness to serve forms. You have the power to make things happen! Get involved today!