



CTSGNA NEWSLETTER

February 2007

Volume 3, Issue 1

President's Letter

Angel Morales, RN, CGRN, CTSGNA President

Greetings everyone! I hope everyone had a safe, healthy and enjoyable holiday season and that this finds all of you well. I'd like to begin by thanking a number of people for their outstanding commitment and hard work to the SGNA during recent months.

Kathy Vinci has done excellent work in scheduling our upcoming regional meetings and I'd like to thank representatives from participating hospitals for providing meeting locations and CEUs.

I'd also like to thank Chris Sarisley for her hard work in getting Doris Barnes to return to Connecticut, June 16th and 17th to provide her certification review course which will be held at St. Francis Hospital. Please see www.sgnaregions.org/ct for details on the course and the October certification exam which will be given near Boston.

The course Doris offers has been very helpful in developing the confidence people have needed in taking the certification exam.

I would like to remind and encourage everyone to attend the national SGNA

annual meeting and course which will be held in Baltimore in May. This represents an outstanding and unique opportunity for us here in the Northeast since many meetings are not usually held so close to us. Attendees always love the chance to network and learn from our peers in other states, as well as nationally renowned experts.

Finally, everyone on the Beyond the Scope 2007 committee has already begun doing an outstanding job preparing for what we are sure will be another superb and successful conference in October. Many thanks to everyone for all your energy and diligence achieving the organization's mission and look forward to a great kick off starting in February at our meeting at Manchester Memorial Hospital.

Please don't hesitate to contact me or any of the board members if you have suggestions or ideas for how we can continue to meet the needs of our members.

Best wishes,

Angel Morales, RN, CGRN
President, CT SGNA

BEYOND THE SCOPE 2007

***WE HAVE HAD OUR FIRST MEETING FOR BEYOND THE SCOPE 2007. WE ARE STILL
LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP ROUND OFF OUR COMMITTEE. ANYONE INTERESTED IN
HELPING OUT, PLEASE SEE GAIL STEELE AT THE MANCHESTER MEETING. WE ALSO NEED
VOLUNTEERS FOR THE HANDS ON ERCP!***

CBGNA UPDATE

This year will be a first for all CGRNs and CGNs. You will be able to vote for your Board members. In March, you will receive a ballot in the mail with the candidates' names. Please watch for it and respond. The ballot can also be found at www.cbгна.org. We would like to see CTSGNA have 100% response. A deadline for award applications is February 15. The awards are Excellence in Professionalism and GI Professional of the Year. The Excellence award is given for all facilities that have 50% or greater of its staff certified. If you know of someone in your department that meets the criteria for GI Professional of the Year, please submit their name. Criteria for this award can be found on cbгна.org.

Gail Steele LPN,CGN, CBGNA Board of Directors

Dates to Remember

- February 15 - Dinner Meeting (see page 3 for details)
- February 15 - Deadline for award applications.
- February 15 - Deadline for scholarship applications.
- March - Colon Cancer Awareness Month
- March 28 - GI Nurses Day

Letter from the Editor

I hope this finds all well. A reminder that information for monthly meetings will be found at our web site. Please print a copy and post it at work so everyone will be aware of the locations. What we will also be doing is giving the information at the monthly meeting for the next month. At our Meeting in Manchester a copy of all the meeting locations for the next year will be distributed.

If anyone has anything to go into the newsletter please email me at gsteele170@comcast.net.

A reminder that March is colon cancer awareness month. We would like to be able to share with everyone what you are doing in your department for this awareness month. GI Nurses day is March 28th. Please let us know if you are doing anything special.

- Gail Steele

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications for scholarships to SGNA Annual Course from CTSGNA can be found on our web site. Please complete and return to **Michelle Day** by February 15. Either bring them to the meeting at Manchester Hospital or Fax to 860-545-2785 (Attn Michelle) or mail to:

Michelle Day · 467 Mellow Road · Tolland, CT 06084

2006-2008 CTSGNA Officers

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CTSGNA February Dinner Meeting

ECHN is hosting the CT SGNA meeting on February 15, 2007 at Manchester Memorial Hospital.

It will begin at 6PM with a light supper, followed by business meeting and networking.

Dr. Peter Buch will be presenting Clinical Pearls, discussing Celiac Disease, Ischemic Colitis, and Barretts.

One contact hour has been approved for this program.

To register call 860-646-1222 extension 2165 by February 12, 2007.

Directions to Manchester Memorial Hospital are found on the web site: www.echn.org

In case of inclement weather, please call 860-646-1222 for information.

ECHN has two hospitals that provide GI services to Outpatients and Inpatients. Both Manchester Memorial Hospital and Rockville General Hospital provide care in collaborations with the physicians, the RN and the Endoscopy assistants to ensure the comfort and safety of patients during their procedure. We inform and educate our patients and their family members of what to expect before, during and after their procedures. We answer any questions that they may have, helping to make it a more comfortable experience for them. Using the nursing process, the qualified and caring staff of RNs, LPN and endoscopy assistants provide a safe environment for the patients. Our patients are monitored according to the SGNA and JCAHO standards of care. For our Outpatients we follow up with a telephone call the next day regarding their care and experience.

The GI center at the Manchester Memorial Hospital opened in March of 2003. There are twenty four pre and post procedural beds and seven procedure rooms. There are eight Gastroenterologists, five colorectal surgeons, one general surgeon and one APRN that schedule procedures. There are fifteen RNs, one LPN, and eight endoscopy assistants as well as a per-diem staff of eight. We perform colonoscopies, endoscopies, enteroscopies, motility studies, capsule endoscopies and bronchoscopies in the GI center. ERCPs are performed in the radiology department. We also travel to the ICU and the OR for procedures. We average 45 cases a day. There is a RN and endoscopy assistant available twenty four hours a day, seven days a week for emergency cases.

The GI department at the Rockville General Hospital opened in February of 2004. There are two procedure rooms and four pre and post procedural rooms. There are six Gastroenterologists, three colorectal surgeons and one general surgeon that schedule procedures. The staff includes five RNs, two endoscopy assistants and four per diems. The procedures performed at the Rockville center are colonoscopies, endoscopies, enteroscopies, bronchoscopies, TEEs and as of September 2006 we have performed eighteen EUS procedures. ERCPs are performed in the Radiology department. The staff also travels to the ICU and the OR when needed. The department averages eighteen cases a day. There is a RN available twenty four hours a day, seven days a week for emergency cases.

Mary Bunnell RN, CGRN - GI Lab

MaryAnne Pescosolido RN, BSN, MS - Assistant Manager, GI Lab