



Connecticut Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates

2026 CTSGNA President's January Welcome Letter

Greetings everyone,

CTSGNA is off to a great start for the new year! I am so honored to be your 2026 CTSGNA president.

I have been a nurse for 30+ years and became an endoscopy nurse in April 2017 after working mainly as a medical/surgical and pediatric nurse. When I first started working in the Endoscopy department at St. Francis Hospital, my colleagues invited me to CTSGNA's state meetings and encouraged me to become a member of SGNA. I enjoyed the many educational opportunities and scholarships that CTSGNA offered and became a member in 2018. In May 2019, I became a Certified Gastroenterology Registered Nurse (CGRN). When the CTSGNA board was recruiting for 2022, I decided to get involved. I was elected to be the secretary of CTSGNA for 2022-2024 and president-elect for 2025. Being a member of CTSGNA has helped me grow professionally and personally.

Participating in SGNA/CTSGNA is a great way to stay current in GI nursing practice and to network and share experiences with colleagues in various GI practice settings. This year CTSGNA has several programs in the works to enrich nurses and associates in gastroenterology. Our continued goals are to engage GI nurses and associates and provide high-quality educational programs to members to foster professional development and promote optimal care to patients in GI/Endoscopy settings.

CTSGNA will continue to provide virtual webinars, state dinner meetings, and the annual Beyond the Scope conference in 2026. In addition, the board is working with Boston Scientific to plan a half-day in-person educational event for our members. Details will be posted when available.

Save the date! CTSGNA's 2026 Beyond the Scope (BTS) program will be held on Saturday, September 26th at the beautiful beach resort Water's Edge in Westbrook, CT. We have already secured some phenomenal speakers to present on topics that were selected based on feedback from previous conferences. Hot lunch will be served at the venue. It will be a great experience for all.

SGNA's 53rd Annual Course will be held May 17th -19th in Atlanta, GA. This is a great opportunity to expand your knowledge and earn GI-specific credits. Please be aware that CTSGNA offers scholarships to its members. It is easy to apply, and you can find the information on the website on the "DOCUMENTS" page (which can be found under "MORE"). These scholarships can cover educational programs like the SGNA Annual Course, BTS, or conferences in other regions. The scholarship for the SGNA Annual Course is due March 1st to Kathy Vinci, RNC, CGRN, CTSGNA immediate past president (kathyvinci.rn@gmail.com).

I want to take the opportunity to thank Danielle Contente, MSN, RN-BC and her colleagues at Middlesex Hospital for organizing and hosting ERCP hands-on workshops in the past few years. The course was always well received by attendees. However, this year CTSGNA will be pausing this program and thinking of other ways to provide education on advanced endoscopic procedures in the future. If you have comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at ctsgnaboard@gmail.com.

I encourage members to get involved in CTSGNA by attending a meeting, bringing a colleague to a meeting, or volunteering for a committee, which can be very rewarding. I also encourage eligible members to pursue gastroenterology nursing certification. By doing so, you demonstrate your commitment to your profession, high-quality patient care, and better patient outcomes.

In addition to the GI Nurse of the Year Award, I am excited to announce that CTSGNA is introducing the GI Associate of the Year Award this year to recognize an outstanding GI associate member. The nomination forms will be updated and posted on the CTSGNA website soon. The nomination deadline is August 31st. The awards will be presented at CTSGNA's Beyond the Scope program.

CTSGNA continues to keep members informed of our activities and events through our website www.ctsgna.org, email blasts, newsletters, Facebook, and LinkedIn. Please check our website and follow us on social media for more information.

Thank you all for being a part of CTSGNA. I look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

Jinghong Yu, MSN, RN, CNE, CGRN, MEDSURG-BC
2026 CTSGNA President
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