

WHAT'S THE SCOPE ASGNA-SUMMER 2007



Arizona
Society of Gastroenterology
Nurses and Associates



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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

This spring has been very eventful for our fellow members. First there was the Crohns and Colitis Walk in March. Then came GI Nurses Day with dinner and an excellent educational presentation by Patty Clark, MSN, RN, CGRN and Linda Dupree, MSN, RN, CGRN on colon cancer screening. In April, Banner Baywood endoscopy department and several members from ASGNA participated in a walk-a-thon for the American Cancer Society. (continued page 2 column 1)

Then came the SGNA National conference which was held in Baltimore, Maryland in May with many of our members in attendance and as conference presenters.

Summer is now upon us and we are planning for an educational event in Prescott on August 18. It has been several years since we have had a conference there and Cathy Sadowsky has graciously agreed to help plan for the event. August is a perfect time to head for a cooler climate so I hope to see many of you there.

Please contact a Board member with any ideas or questions. We are here to help you!!

Carol Kirkby, ASGNA President

WILSON COOK SCHOLARSHIP

It's time to put your thinking cap on and your writing skills to work. It is time to apply for the Wilson Cook Educational Scholarship. It is awarded annually to a GI nurse to further their education in GI. It is a \$250 scholarship that can be applied to any GI related educational conference. Enclosed is a form that you can fill out and mail back to Carol Kirkby, President, ASGNA.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Current Balance: \$ 26,153.26
Submitted by Danette Musil
Treasurer

UPCOMING EVENTS **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**



August 18, 2007: Enjoy a cool day in Prescott.

October 6, 2007: ASGNA Annual Fall Conference – Arizona Biltmore Resort.

ASGNA COMMUNITY PROJECT

Colon cancer awareness continues to be our community project. We will continue to have various opportunities to volunteer your time in the next year. We are still planning on having a booth at the Women's Expo next year.

GI NURSES DAY

ASGNA Annual Fall Conference

This year the fall conference is going to be held at the Arizona Biltmore Resort October 6, 2007. Brochures with details and registration information will be mailed out at the end of August. Due to constraints of the facility we need an accurate attendance count several days prior to the conference. No course registration will be taken the day of the conference at the door. Registration deadline will be 9/21/07. We are unable to accept credit card payments.

There will be parking available in the parking garage for free. A map of the Arizona Biltmore Resort will be included with registration form.

GI NURSE'S DAY EDUCATIONAL MEETING

We would like to thank Karen Connick and her staff at Scottsdale Healthcare Shea for a wonderful GI Nurse's Day meeting and dinner. AmeriPath Arizona-Gastrointestinal Diagnostics provided a great Mexican Dinner. Door Prizes were raffled off. Patty Clark, mSN, RN, CGRN and Linda Dupree, MSN, RN, CGRN gave a presentation entitled, "Catch the Blue Star Fever". This really helped us all realize the importance of community education on colon cancer prevention and detection.

Scottsdale Healthcare posted banners and gave each staff member the new SGNA magnet for their locker. In addition, they had a vendor-sponsored lunch and an SGNA decorated cake for dessert. A number of staff also participated in the ASGNA dinner meeting that evening.

Phoenix Endoscopy staff received gift certificates for Starbucks, Harkins Theatre, and Barnes and Noble. The doctors also rescheduled procedures and gave the staff the day off!!

LET US KNOW ABOUT YOURSELF OR A CO- WORKER

We would like to highlight individuals working in the GI field. Please submit information about yourself or a co-worker who you would like the rest of the ASGNA family to know more about. Email all information to Linda Waterson at scopenurse@aol.com

LET US KNOW ABOUT YOUR GI/ENDOSCOPY CENTER

We would like to highlight and learn about the various centers around the state. Please submit information regarding a synopsis of your center, staffing, number of procedures, facility flow, any cost saving initiatives you have started and any other information you would like to us to know about your center. E-mail all information to Linda Waterson at scopenurse@aol.com

FROM THE EDUCATION CO-CHAIRS

Linda.Dupree@cox.net
kconnick@shc.org

In order to re-charter, each regional SGNA is required to offer a minimum of 9 CEUs/year. We are looking for the best way to provide educational opportunities next year.

Included with the ballot for elections this year will be several educational scenarios for your input. We will look at the feasibility of these options for the coming year. We thought it would be helpful to provide these options early, so everyone will have ample opportunity to review the options and weigh the pros/cons.

Fall Conference Options:

Option 1: All Day Saturday – maximum 6 CEUs

Option 2: Friday p.m., all day Saturday – maximum 7.5 CEUs

Option 3: Friday p.m., all day Saturday, half day Sunday – maximum 10.5 – 11 CEUs

Quarterly Educational Meetings Options:

(Continued on column 2)

Option 1: Continue with quarterly Wednesday evening meetings – maximum 1 CEU

Option 2: 2 Saturday a.m. courses, rotating between Flagstaff/Tucson/Prescott – maximum 2-4 CEUs each

Think about these options and be ready to share your opinion on the ballot. If you have additional thoughts or concerns please feel free to email either of us at:



HAPPY JULY 4TH

ASGNA MEMBER NEEDS OUR HELP

Many of you may already know about the tragedy that has befallen on our dear Cathy Olson. In case you have not heard, Cathy was diagnosed with leukemia in November 2006. Cathy Olson was one of the nurses who worked in the Gastroenterology Department at a Medical Clinic. She was in great health and suddenly became ill in early November. She was diagnosed with bilineage (two types) leukemia. At the time of her hospitalization she was in what is called a "blast crisis." In other words, it's a miracle Cathy is even alive. The chances of a person having bilineage leukemia are 3%. Cathy has been in and out of the hospital over the past few months receiving chemotherapy while awaiting a bone marrow transplant match. Cathy has 4 siblings, who match each other, however, Cathy has a very rare chromosome make up that makes it fairly unlikely that an adult match will be found. As a last resort the cord blood bank was looked at as a possibility. There are matches that have been found, HOWEVER, Cathy's health insurance company has denied the claim for this type of transplant because it is considered "experiment" and not covered by her insurance plan. Because of Cathy's illness, she is no longer able to work. She is awaiting approval for social security disability, and in the meantime has the financial burden of paying for Cobra insurance. Once Cathy receives disability, she will be responsible for a large percentage of her healthcare bills. The cost that Cathy and her husband Larry will be

responsible for are astronomical. Without insurance coverage the transplant is \$ 35,000 per each unit of cord blood and the plan is to use two units. (\$70,000) The cost of the transplant and the hospital stay during the transplant is anywhere between \$500,000 - \$1,000,000. Once Cathy is on Social Security Disability, her income will be \$1,000 less than what she gets for Short Term Disability. Good Samaritan (where the transplant would need to take place) is considered out of network; therefore, Cathy and her husband will be responsible for 20% of the hospital bill. This is a **lot of money** for someone who has lost her ability to work. So often, we hear stories like this one on TV, or read about it in the paper. We think about how sad it is and we truly feel badly for the person who watches their life change so drastically right before their eyes. We feel for their families and we take a moment to really count our blessings for our health and the health of our loved ones.

(Continued page 6, column 1)

Well, today, you are reading this story about a person you do know. Cathy is a kind-hearted person who is greatly admired by her coworkers for her compassion and her genuine concern for others. Cathy is a wife, a mother of two children, and has four beautiful grandchildren, all who love her very much. From all of us who know Cathy, we are asking that each and every one of you who reads this letter makes it a personal goal to share Cathy's story with as many people as possible. We ask that you, your family, and friends contribute to the Leukemia fund that has been set up in Cathy's name at Wells Fargo Bank.

Please recognize the power of giving, and truly understand that each one of us can absolutely make a difference in Cathy Olson's life. Thank you in advance for your generosity and your prayers.

Dr. Elizabeth Cruz, Gastroenterologist
Caryn Kaufman, Pharmaceutical Rep

Checks can be written to the Catherine Olson Leukemia Foundation and are 100% tax deductible. Please be sure to include the account number on your check.

Account number: 6069696398
Wells Fargo Bank 20369 N. 59th Ave,
Glendale, Az 85308

We will be holding a raffle the day of the ASGNA Fall conference with all proceeds going to the Catherine Olson Leukemia Foundation. Raffle donations are needed. Please contact Linda Waterson, scopenurse@aol.com

or Carol Kirkby,
carolkirkby@yahoo.com

Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Calling all ASGNA Members

We are currently recruiting all the GI members to become members of an exciting opportunity. The Board is currently looking for members who are interested in becoming a Board member or working on one of the committees. If interested, please contact one of the Board members. **Hope to see you!!**



HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!!

WILSON COOK SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION

❖ NAME:

❖ LENGTH IN GI: _____

❖ ASGNA/SGNA MEMBER: YES NO
(CIRCLE ONE)

❖ HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A
MEMBER: _____

❖ ARE YOU CERTIFIED? YES NO
(CIRCLE ONE)

❖ WHAT WILL YOU USE THE
SCHOLARSHIP FOR:

SEND COMPLETED FORMS TO:
CAROL KIRKBY
6232 n. 29TH Place
Phoenix, Az 85016