



## Letter from the President

Lori Lofstrom, RN, CGRN

Welcome to April. I hope that everyone had the opportunity to celebrate GI Nurses and Associates Day. We welcome any photos and descriptions of your celebrations to post on the web site.

The National Conference is just around the corner and I encourage you to attend. There are numerous educational and networking opportunities. There is always a strong Connecticut presence and we are happy to have "first time attendees." It is a large conference and it is nice to have someone to help you through the process. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like some guidance as a "first timer."

Angel Morales and I will be representing the voice of Connecticut at the House of Delegates on Friday, May 19. We will discuss the following resolutions during our regional meetings.

These resolutions will be discussed and voted on in San Antonio. Resolved that:

1. *SGNA recommends that two nurses are to attend to the patient during radio frequency ablation procedures.*
2. *SGNA develop methods to explore an evidence based study establishing guidelines for staffing ratios in the endoscopy recovery setting.*
3. *SGNA be an active investigator in providing standardized protocol in post-procedure care of the liver biopsy patient.*
4. *SGNA define the classification level of recognized anesthesia scoring systems that nurses may safely administer moderately sedating drugs.*
5. *A second level or advanced associates program will be written and implemented by 2008.*
6. *SGNA support a research initiative to study the effect of call on safe, effective and competent nursing care. Also develop guidelines to establish minimum number of hours to work in a 24 hour period.*
7. *SGNA offers an optional course at nationals in May called, "Leadership at the Local Level." This would include a condensed version of the Chicago leadership course, which summarizes expectations, responsibilities, and resources available to local leaders.*
8. *SGNA will support the presence of a responsible caregiver to accompany patient upon discharge and to remain with them until safety is assured.*
9. *SGNA Research Committee conduct research and develop guidelines on usage of suction tubing and canisters.*
10. *SGNA will explore the development of standards and guidelines in regards to patient safety in the use of electrocautery use in the GI setting.*
11. *That headquarters will run surveys to SGNA members to determine who is doing both GI and bronchoscopy procedures.*

I hope that you will participate in our regional discussion of these resolutions.

I encourage you to share this newsletter with your colleagues. If you change your e-mail address, make sure to notify Gail Steele and to also change your contact information by logging on to [www.sgna.org](http://www.sgna.org). The website will allow you to update all of your contact information. If you have trouble, do not hesitate to contact HQ by calling 1-800-245-SGNA. They are always happy to help.

As always, if you have concerns, questions or ideas, at the regional level, please contact any of the board members, we welcome your inquiries.

Be well, Lori



## Spotlight on April CTSGNA Meeting Host Hospital

**Digestive Health Center • Midstate Medical Center  
435 Lewis Avenue • Meriden, CT 06451**

The Digestive Health Center is located at the rear of Pavilion D on the first floor. There is a private entrance at the rear of the building with convenient parking along the side of the building for patients. We are proud of our expert nursing staff. Our staff ensures your comfort during procedures and provides the physician with clinical support. Our scheduling office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the department is staffed from 6:45 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., Monday - Friday, with staff on call after hours for emergencies.

Our primary focus is GI Healthcare and procedures related to the GI system. Our procedures include colonoscopies, endoscopies, bronchoscopies, paracentesis, liver biopsies, esophagoscopies and ERCs.

We are recognized by our patients for our excellence and have been nominated for Team of the Year. Our patients regularly score the Digestive Health Center "Good" or "Very Good," 95-99% of the time for overall care received during their visit. Many members of our staff are actively involved in their professional organizations. The Connecticut Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates was named region of the year at this year's national convention.

Our director is Del-Lor Lisitano, RN, CGRN, MBA. She leads a staff of 26, which includes RNs, LPNs GI Technicians, CCAs and CIAs. Our CQI meetings are held the first Monday of each month, and everyone participates. Many of our dedicated staff members come in on their off

day to attend. The agenda is posted and staff members are encouraged to add to it. By participating, they ensure that their issues are addressed. Communication in the department is a priority with a Communication Book that all staff members are expected to review on a regular basis.

Our key customers are our patients. We work closely with gastroenterologists, pulmonologists, radiology technologists, anesthesiologists and nurse anesthetists. We treat patients and their families like we treat our own. We inform our patients and their family members of what to expect before, during and after their procedures; answering questions and reassuring them that they will receive superb care in our facility.

### SAVE THE DATE - CTSGNA April Meeting

**April 20, 2006**

George's II Restaurant  
950 Yale Ave #42 • Wallingford, CT  
203-269-1059

TOPIC: Billiary Malignant Management

SPEAKER: Michael Morris

TIME: 6 p.m.

*CEUs have been applied for.*

RSVP by April 17, 2006 to:

Cheryl Riley @ 203-694-8778

Space is limited to the first 60 callers.  
Members will be accepted first.

Dinner is sponsored by: COOK MEDICAL.

*The April meeting is planned by host Midstate Medical Center, however, it is being held at George's II Restaurant.*

### Directions to George's II Restaurant

*From Hartford Hospital:*

- Take I-91 S toward New Haven/N.Y. City (18.1 miles)
- Merge onto CT-15 S/Wilbur Cross Pkwy via Exit 17 (3.5 miles)
- Take the US-5 exit-Exit 66 toward Wallingford/Meriden (0.1 miles)
- Turn left onto N Colony Road/US-5 (0.1 miles)
- Turn left onto Yale Ave. (0.1 miles)

*From Yale New Haven Hospital:*

- Traveling I-91 N from New Haven, Take CT-22 exit-Exit 11 toward North Haven (0.2 miles)
- Turn slight left to take the CT-22 W ramp toward US-5 S/Mt Carmel
- Turn left onto CT-22/Route 22 Conn. Continue to follow CT-22 (0.6 miles)
- Merge onto CT-15 N/Wilbur Cross Pkwy via the ramp on the left toward Hartford (7.9 miles)
- Take the US-5 exit-Exit 66 toward Wallingford/Meriden (0.2 miles)
- Turn left onto US-5/N Colony Road (<0.1 miles)
- Turn left onto Yale Ave. (0.1 miles)

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR- ONLINE COMMUNICATION

Gail Steele, LPN, CGN  
CTSGNA Newsletter Editor

We are moving into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with the development of the CTSGNA website . We are hoping to be able to communicate with all members via the web. Over the past month we have entered all email addresses (that we had) into a database.

A survey was sent out to approximately 160 members. Response to the survey was only 15 members. We did receive back approximately 20 unknown email addresses. I will be trying to correct these addresses over the next month. It would be very helpful if

anyone who didn't receive the survey to please send me your email address whether it is personal or from the institution that you work. My email is [gsteele170@yahoo.com](mailto:gsteele170@yahoo.com). Our goal is to be able to use the internet to communicate with all members for monthly meeting notification, etc. This will save a huge chunk of money that could be used for extra scholarships or other incurred expenses.

**Check out our website!!! [www.sgnaregions.org/ct](http://www.sgnaregions.org/ct)**

*Website provided by Integrated Medical Systems.*

## March CTSGNA Meeting Recap

We would like to thank Middlesex Hospital Endoscopy Unit for hosting the March CTSGNA meeting.

Middlesex Hospital is a part of the Middlesex Health System Inc., an independent, not-for-profit, community based health network of inpatient, outpatient, diagnostic, emergency, and rehabilitation facilities.

The endoscopy suite is located within the hospital. Remodeled in

2004 with patient privacy in mind, the new design has a pre-op unit, recovery area and 4 procedure rooms.

In addition to panendoscopy and colonoscopy; ERCP, PEG placement, and bronchoscopy are frequently preformed procedures. A staff of 11 RNs and 4 endoscopy trained technicians work side by side with nine Gastroenterologists from two GI practices. The collaborative environment ensures patient safety,

comfort, and education, contributing to the receipt of the National Magnet Award for Nursing Excellence. We were the first hospital in Connecticut to receive this honor.

A special thanks goes to Dr. Rosalind VanStolk for her talk on Helicobacter Pylori and to Al Golati from Boston Scientific for sponsoring our evening.

## CBGNA NEWS

Gail Steele, LPN, CGN, CBGNA Director

In the next week or so, all certified nurses and associates will be receiving a packet from National SGNA about CBGNA's new program to keep track of your CEUs.

There will be a fee of \$50.00 per year for this service which will be applied to your recertification costs. I hope that all of you will take advantage of this service. We believe that it will make recertification much easier.

All certified nurses attending this year's SGNA annual course in San Antonio are encouraged to sign up for the GALA on Saturday evening at the Hyatt. Sign up is on the registration form. Please come and enjoy an evening of food, friendship and fun with your fellow certified CTSGNA and SGNA friends.

## Dates to Remember

**April 20,2006**

CTSGNA Meeting • MidState Medical Ctr.

**May 21,2006- May 24,2006**

SGNA Annual Conference •San Antonio, TX

**June 23, 2006**

CTSGNA Meeting & Annual Business Mtg.  
Confetti's Restaurant, Plainville

**October 20,2006**

Hands On ERCP Course • Foxwoods Casino

**October 21,2006**

Beyond the Scope 2006 • Foxwoods Casino

## Scholarship Committee Report

Kathryn Miller, RN, CGRN

We are happy to announce that 2 scholarships to the Annual Course in San Antonio have been awarded. The scholarships provide \$750 to help cover the cost of attending the conference.

**Barbara Sullivan** from Hartford Hospital and **Mary Essex** from St. Mary's Hospital are this year's recipients. This award was based on their professional activities over the past year. They received their award at the CT SGNA meeting held at Middlesex Hospital on Thursday, March 16, 2006.

We are very proud to have a CTSNGA website! With the collaboration of Integrated Medical Systems International, Inc. (IMS) we will be able to make our members aware of our regional activities. Everyone will be able to access board member contact information, educational opportunities and meeting, as well as activities and photos.

Please take a moment to visit our new site and send any comments or suggestions. We hope to have as much information as possible available on the web. We are counting on *you* to make this successful!

[www.sgnaregions.org/ct](http://www.sgnaregions.org/ct)

## 2006-2008 CTSNGA Officers

**President:** Lori Lofstrom, RN, CGRN  
CT GI Endoscopy Center  
860-242-0079 ext. 22  
lelofstrom@comcast.com

**President** Angel Morales, RN, CGRN  
**Elect:** Hartford Hospital GI Unit  
860-545-2205  
AngelMoralesRNGI@aol.com

**Secretary:** Nancy Covini, LPN, CGN  
CT GI Institute and Research Center  
860-585-3838  
nancov1@aol.com

**Treasurer:** Patti Pontolillo, RN  
Midstate Medical Center GI Unit  
203-235-0350  
callshots@aol.com

**Immediate** Michelle E. Day, RN, CGRN  
**Past** Hartford Hospital GI Unit  
**President:** 860-545-5484  
mydayboys@sbcglobal.net

**Gail Steele, LPN, CGN**

**170 Oakwood Drive**

**New Britain, CT 06052**



INTEGRATED MEDICAL SYSTEMS  
INTERNATIONAL, INC.

*Integrated Medical Systems  
International, Inc. (IMS)  
is proud to sponsor the  
CTSNGA Newsletter and website!*

1.800.783.9251  
www.imsred.com