

New England Region 28

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### **NESGNA Officers & Board 2004**

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CGRN

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CGRN

Jane Harker MS, RN,  
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Arlene McKim, RN  
CGRN

Linda Corey, MS, RN,  
APRN, BC.

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## NESGNA President's Letter

Dec 2004



Another year is coming to a close and for a lot of us, it's one of the busiest times of the year. Baking, shopping, trying to find a way to remember someone special.

I can't help but want to share my thoughts as NESGNA President as this year closes. The New England region is one of the most active regions in the country. Your interest in Gastroenterology Nursing is evident by the numbers of you that attend our educational meetings. I believe what you take back to your place of work can only enhance the care of your patients. The lively discussions you have with your managers and physicians about what's new in GI care. The latest trends in infection control issues. Returning to your units with a suggestion for the latest findings in the care of the GI bleed patient. Being able to connect with the area vendors. We are all the same.. Striving to do our best and looking for ways to improve our patient care. Taking advantage of these opportunities allows us to do that. So give yourselves that Atta-Girl Atta- Boy for taking the time in your busy lives to make GI nursing a part of it.

I would like to make a small but important request. Between now and Dec 30<sup>th</sup> the National SGNA elections are being held. We realize that it is sometimes difficult to vote for someone you don't know and it takes time to read all those bios.. But I am asking hopefully and with appreciation for a bit more of your time. Please print out those candidate bios from the SGNA website and bring them to work with a handful of paper ballots. The paper ballots can be faxed to the national SGNA headquarters. Not only do we want to support our own New England representative Lisa Heard for national secretary, but it reflects positively on our region as a whole. You can vote on-line at [www.sgna.org](http://www.sgna.org) if the computer is your choice. Vote for your National Leadership!

There is a great 2005 coming up. Three ½ day Saturday meetings. One combined dinner business/educational meeting (something new for us). Certification Prep Course in March.. New England certification test site in May. **All New England members will be awarded \$ 100.00 towards the cost of Certification or Recertification in 2005! Plan on taking advantage of this opportunity.**

Thank you for a wonderful year and allowing me the opportunity to be involved in such a great region.

**Linda Allen**  
**NESGNA President.**



Here's a little about your newly elected board members:

**President-Elect: Kim Foley**

Presently, I serve on the Board of Directors as a director-at-large and prior to that served two terms as Treasurer. I have been a member of the NESGNA since 1990 and became certified in GI nursing in 1992. My current role at Winchester Hospital is senior staff nurse and I serve as resource nurse for biliary procedures as well as precepting and mentoring new nurses. I sit on the Nurse Practice Council, which directs nursing as it is practiced throughout the hospital, and I am a member of the Policy and Procedure Committee.

**Secretary: Sandra Hession**

I've been a member of SGNA for 5 years. I have been in GI Nursing since 1987 as a staff nurse at Massachusetts General Hospital and became certified in 2002. I am currently the chairperson for the E-SIG Research Committee. I welcome being able to reciprocate for the knowledge that I've acquired and the camaraderie that I've enjoyed at the regional meetings.

**Director: Linda Corey**

For the past 2 years, I have served on the NESGA Board of Directors. I have been a GI nurse, ACLS certified and member of SGNA for 10 years. The last 5 years at Winchester Hospital. A strong proponent of preventive medicine, I volunteered at the Colossal Colon exhibit in Boston to help spread the word. I am also a nurse practitioner, specializing in the treatment of Hepatitis C and offer lectures about Hepatitis C detection and prevention to nurses, NPs and high school students. It has been a pleasure to work closely with the board as we strive to become the BEST region in SGNA.

**Director: Carol McAlvin**

I am the charge nurse in the endoscopy unit at Falmouth Hospital. Conscious sedation has been a favorite topic to me and I serve as co-chairman of the conscious sedation committee as well as teach part of the conscious class given at the hospital. I have been a member of SGNA since 1987 and certified in gastroenterology nursing since 1992. I have been both monitor and moderator at national SGNA meetings.

We extend our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to outgoing board members:

Lisa Heard, past President  
Jean Silk, Secretary

NESGNA  
Committed to  
Excellence in  
GI Nursing

**2005 Meeting Dates at the Burlington Marriott**

- January 22, ½ day program
- April 2, ½ day program
- September 24, ½ day program
- November 15, dinner (& business) conference

**March 12-13, 2005 GI Nurses Certification Review Course at Newton Wellesley Hospital**

The course will be two full days, 7:30-4:30, on Saturday and Sunday and taught by Doris C. Barrie, MSN, RN, CNS, CGRN. 16 CEUs Earned  
Registration forms are being sent out now. For additional copies, contact Katie Snyder:  
[ksnyder1@partners.org](mailto:ksnyder1@partners.org) or call 617-243-6055.

March 12, 2005 is the registration deadline to take the CBGNA test on May 14, 2005.  
March 27, 2005 is the late registration deadline (\$50. additional fee) for May 14, 2005.  
Please see **cbgna.org** website for registration form and further details.

**NOTE: NESGNA has applied to host a test site in New England on May 14, 2005**

## “How We Work” Survey of GI Staff

### *Who takes care of the GI patients in your place of work?*

Everyone is curious how other units function: who does what, what happens after hours, what is customary or acceptable for staffing in our New England area? At our last NESGNA dinner meeting, we took a survey of current trends in some of the workplaces in our area. Nurses from about 12 Hospitals, 4 Ambulatory Centers, and 1 office practice filled out a short questionnaire. There were also 9 surveys returned without a location named.

The hospitals included:

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center	Massachusetts General Hospital
Beverly Hospital	Miriam Hospital, Providence
Brigham & Women's Hospital	Mount Auburn Hospital
Brockton Hospital	Newton Wellesley Hospital
Caritas Good Samaritan	Saints Memorial Medical Center
Children's Hospital	Winchester Hospital

The Ambulatory Surgical Centers included:

Central MA Ambulatory Endoscopy Center  
Harvard Vanguard Medical Center  
Massachusetts General Ambulatory Center  
Salem Surgery Center

One hospital treated pediatrics exclusively, one hospital did both adults and peds, and one ambulatory center did both also.

The ASC's treated patients Monday through Friday, 7-3:30 or 7-5:30, no On-Call, no weekends or holidays.

The hospital Endoscopy hours were mostly longer, some were even open on Saturdays. The hours varied from 7-2:30 to 6am-7:30pm and everything in between. Two hospitals mentioned having hours on Saturdays, i.e., 8-12. One of those mentioned running a sig clinic on Saturday.

Staffing for EGD's and Colon's varied with the majority **using 1 RN (50%)**, then 1RN/1Tech (30%), last 2 RN's (20%). When you add up the hospitals reporting procedures done with 2 assistants, you find a 50/50 split for procedures done with 1 or 2 personnel. ERCP's were usually done with 2 RN's (70%), then the rest reporting were evenly split between 1 RN (and a fellow or anesthesia), 2 RN's/1 tech, 1 RN/ 1Tech. Only 6 hospitals reported doing EUS's, the majority being **done by 2 RN's (67%)**, and a couple by 1RN/ 1Tech or 1RN/ and a fellow. Fellows were reported to assist in 25% of the surveys.

While none of ASC's had nurses On-Call, the majority of hospitals did. There was only one hospital in 16 (6%) that did not have any On-Call staff. A comment was included that stated Critical Care staff assisted during off hours. Ten out of 16 or **63% were On-Call 24 hours a day**. The remaining 5 or 31% had limited On-Call hours to 7:30, 9, or 11pm. A few listed fellows or Critical Care staff as assisting after hours. **Usually 1 RN was On-Call (46%)**, sometimes 2 RN's (31%) or 1 RN/1 Tech (23%). Here again we find almost a 50/50 split, with 1 versus 2 staff On-Call. When ERCP's were done On-Call, the majority of the time it was with 2 RN's (67%). Occasionally it was done by 1 RN and an Anesthesiologist.

The majority of time, Anesthesiologists assisted only if needed due to a patient's condition. At some hospitals, they always assisted for ERCP's.

## NESGNA "SCOPE"

### **Lab Management SIG .... Informal meetings open to all GI staff!**

Revised 2005 dates: February 17 at Beverly Hospital, March 9 at Falmouth Hospital, May 3, location pending. Please rsvp to Arlene Myers McKim if able to attend.

Do you have a conference room at your hospital and would you like to host a SIG meeting? It's easy and fun. If you have a room, we can take care of everything else.

Questions??? Contact Arlene Myers McKim at [arldicmcki@aol.com](mailto:arldicmcki@aol.com)

The NESGNA board would like to extend greetings to all for a safe and happy celebration of the Holidays and the New Year. In keeping with the theme for the 2005 Annual Course, we would like to ask everyone to share in the "Passion for GI Nursing: Pass It On!" Make 2005 the year you accept the challenge to become certified. Or perhaps this is the year you go to the Annual Course, which is being held in Minneapolis from May 13-18, 2005. If you are already certified, perhaps you can become involved in sharing your knowledge, either through NESGNA, SGNA, or through your job. There are many ways to help, to learn, or to teach something that interests you. A simple way to start is to log onto [sgna.org](http://sgna.org) and follow the prompts to vote! Get involved!

Beginning in 2005, the NESGNA region will be awarding every member \$100. for certifying or recertifying as a CGRN. We want to demonstrate our commitment to excellence in GI Nursing by encouraging everyone to do his or her best.

*We don't receive wisdom; we must discover it for ourselves after a journey that no one can take for us or spare us. Marcel Proust (1871-1922)*

### **NESGNA**

**Committed to Excellence in GI  
Nursing**

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