



# NESGNA "SCOPE"

August 2005

New England Region 28

## *In This Issue*

- President's Letter*
- The 2005 Board Picture*
- Nominations and Elections*
- Legislative News*
- Educational Offerings*
- Methemoglobinemia*

### **NESGNA Officers & Board 2005**

#### President

*Katie Snyder RN, BSN, MM, CGRN*

#### President-Elect

*Kim Foley, RN, CGRN*

#### Secretary

*Sandy Hession, RN, BSN, CGRN*

#### Treasurer

*Deb Gates BSN, RN, CGRN*

#### Past President

*Linda Allen, RN, CGRN-*

#### Board of Directors

*Carol McAlvin RN, CGRN*

*Jane Harker MS, RN, CGRN*

*Arlene McKim, RN, CGRN*

*Linda Corey, MS, RN, APRN, BC*

*Linda Allen CGRN Editor Past President*

## NESGNA President's Letter



After a winter of never ending snowstorms it seems like summer wants to be competitive with never ending heat and humidity. It really makes one look forward to the next season.

I hope everyone has had some time to enjoy a break with family, friends, or a good book, exercise, day trips, walks... It's good for the soul to refuel and get ready for the time of year that is great for learning and taking on new challenges.

The NESGNA board spent a lot of time this past spring putting together some interesting talks on subjects that we hope will enhance your knowledge and improve the care of GI patients as we teach and share our insight with others. On September 24<sup>th</sup>, our 1/2 day conference is focused on the colon: genetic research that helps to diagnose and treat colon cancer, what's new in IBD disease, remicade treatment for IBD, and electrocautery safety that we need to know to take care of colon polyps.

Another wonderful opportunity for learning happens in the vendor room. If any of you traveled to Minneapolis this past May for the SGNA Annual Course, you saw some of the cutting edge technology that many of our GI companies have been working on all year or longer. The vendor room has all the experts that you can ask tips on using the latest clipping device, EUS needle, ERCP equipment... you name it, they want to help you get the most out of its use. If your hospital tried something in the past and had trouble with it, bring it to their attention and you may be surprised at the improvements made due to customer feedback. Thanks to some feedback from nurses at my hospital learning the proper way to use a device from a vendor at a conference, we have switched back to using a product with much better satisfaction compared to before. Please remember to also thank the vendors for their support of our educational offerings. They have enabled us to reduce our pricing structure from previous years, which helped us meet one of our goals of providing great education at an affordable, attractive price.

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, we are offering a business meeting and dinner conference on unusual upper and lower GI polyps and their treatment. When you are in the GI field, you can't help but get turned on by unusual polyps and the challenge of removing them. We hope this conference stimulates learning that you can take back to your GI lab. You will also get a report from the treasurer and other board members on activities that your region has done.

We have started to plan the three half day conferences lined up for 2006, in January, April, and September. We will also continue to hold the November business and dinner conference.

Our region continues to build on the energy of nurses who enjoy GI and who want to share and help others to find more personal satisfaction that comes from self-fulfillment and discovery. We are always looking for more nurses with this passion to join our board. From personal experience, I highly recommend it as a very rewarding experience. It's a great opportunity to work closely with experienced GI RN's from many other hospitals.

Another experience I recommend is to become certified as a CGRN. There's never been a better time to do this since NESGNA has initiated reimbursing each RN that passes the test or recertifies by CEU's. As soon as we get the results from CBGNA, we will be sending all of these RN's \$100. for their commitment and hard work. About 170 GI RNs (and even some dedicated techs!) took the GI Review Course this past March through NESGNA. Thirty-nine RN's took the CGRN test offered in Newton and others took it in Springfield. Many others have said they have signed up to take the test in October in Connecticut. Good luck to all of you!!

We look forward to seeing you at the conferences.

Katie Snyder  
President, NESGNA



## 2005 New England SGNA Board

Back Left:  
Linda Corey  
Arlene Myers -  
McKim  
Sandy Hession  
Kim Foley  
Deb Gates

Front Left:  
Linda Allen  
Katie Snyder  
Carol McAlvin  
Jane Harker



### Finally, the Infamous Board Photo!

The nine of us have the usual hectic lives. We finally were all at one meeting. Jane grabbed her camera and seized the opportunity!

During the busy times of the year we meet monthly to plan regional educational meetings, organize additional events such as the Certification Prep Course, and plan our strategy for our presence at the National Course.

During the summer months things slow down so we can take a breather and enjoy the season. We e-mail frequently about upcoming planning issues or just to run a work practice question by a bunch of seasoned professionals. We are always thinking of ways to improve. This year, we will have an "Orientation" Board meeting for the 2006 Board members. Details of delegated tasks will be reviewed so the New Guy (remember what that was like?) has a chance to ask questions and be mentored by the expert. We can all learn from the New Guy's perspective.

Nominations are being accepted for the following 2006 Board positions.

1. President Elect
2. Treasurer
3. 2 Directors

Send the nomination form along to me or give me a call at 978-465-5182 to learn more. Descriptions of the NESGNA Board positions are posted on the website.

[www.nesgna.org](http://www.nesgna.org)

Nominations must be received by Sept 21st Linda Allen- Past President  
[lin.allen@adelphia.net](mailto:lin.allen@adelphia.net)



## **NESGNA Nomination Form**

If you are interested in serving on the NESGNA regional board for 2006,  
Please print and complete this form and mail or email to:

Linda Allen  
5 Corporal Patten Way  
Salisbury, MA 01952

[lin.allen@adelphia.net](mailto:lin.allen@adelphia.net) Return by September 21,2005

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax# \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Past regional and/or national involvement: (year and role)

\_\_\_\_\_

### **Elected Positions- check the NESGNA role that would be of interest to you:**

**Director:** The Board of Directors is the decision-making body of the  
Regional Society. There are 3 directors-at-large. Two year term

**Treasurer:** Elected every 2 yrs ( even years, e.g. 2006, 2008 ) Two year term

**President-Elect:** Elected yearly. Automatically becomes President after  
serving one-year term. Automatically becomes Past-President in 3<sup>rd</sup> year.

( The position of secretary is elected every 2 yrs ( odd years, e.g. 2005, 2007 )

## Legislative Update



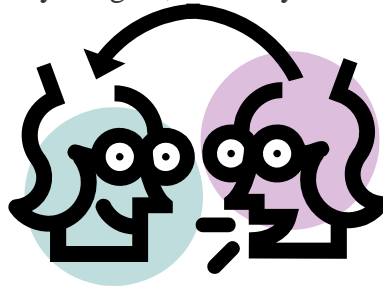
To New England SGNA Members,

# New IBD Bill Proposed in House

On July 29, Rep. Sue Kelly (R-NY) introduced the **IBD Research Bill of 2005** in the House of Representatives. The legislation was co-sponsored by Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D-IL) and 11 other members of the House. The proposed legislation would dramatically expand IBD research at the National Institutes of Health, with a focus on pediatric research. Support this effort by [writing to your legislators](#) and joining us in Washington for [IBD Day on the Hill 2005!](#)

Read more about this new bill @ [www.cdfa.org](http://www.cdfa.org). . Go to [www.congress.org](http://www.congress.org) to learn who your members of congress are. The sample letter at the CCFA website can be sent to your representative via email supporting this bill.

An easy way to advocate for your patients. If you agree, send in your letter to show your support.



## Express Yourself

Recently a group of Endoscopy Nurses from Winchester Hospital spoke to Massachusetts Politicians at the State House. These nurses are opposed to the MNA endorsed “Mandatory Safe Staffing” bill. Julie Deems RN states “There is no room for flexibility. The bill proposes a 4:1 nurse patient ratio 24 hrs a day 7 days a week.” Her thoughts are that in certain areas of nursing that ratio is necessary but not on the 11pm-7am shift of a general Med-Surg Unit. Hospitals would be fined \$25,000 for each instance the ratio was reported as not being met. The state would receive that money!! She believes that the nurse patient ratio should be decided by the people at the bedside... The nurses... not by the government. With the shortage of nurses her questions are: Where are we going to find these nurses and how are hospitals going to pay for them. She and her colleges support the Senate Bill # 1260. This bill supports Nursing Faculty. It mandates the reporting of staffing ratios to the public and DPH. It supports Patients First. For more information about Senate bill 1260 or Patients First, go to [www.patientsfirstma.org/psa.shtml](http://www.patientsfirstma.org/psa.shtml).

Quite a lively topic and one that impacts all of us.

If you would like to **Express Yourself** drop me a line [lin.allen@adelphia.net](mailto:lin.allen@adelphia.net).

These opinions are not necessarily shared by the governing board of the NESGA

## Educational Offerings

### **2005 NESGNA Meeting Dates at the Burlington Marriott:**

- September 24, ½ day program Focus on the Colon
- November 15, dinner (& business) conference

Registration forms will be mailed to NESGNA member's homes and can also be found on the website: [www.nesgna.org](http://www.nesgna.org)

### **2005 SIG Meeting Dates and Locations:**

- October 18, 6pm at Winchester Hospital. NESGNA contact: Kim Foley at (W) 781-756-2207 or [kimberly.foley@comcast.net](mailto:kimberly.foley@comcast.net)
- Future dates/sites to be determined. Please consider hosting a meeting by calling any board member to discuss.

*SGNA and Olympus are bringing the following conference to New England:*

### **Train The Trainer: The Nurse Manager's Guide to the Reprocessing Competency (7.1 CEUs) on October 29, 2005, 8am-4pm, lunch included. Conference location: Quincy Medical Center, Quincy, MA**

For GI Registered Nurses whose responsibility it is to ensure that the cleaning and disinfection of endoscopes is done safely and effectively!

For more information and registration details, please go to:

<http://www.sgna.org/Education/train.cfm> Registration is only through the National website or by calling SGNA: 800-245-7462

### **Some of our neighboring regional meetings:**

October 21-22 at Foxwoods Resort Casino in Ledyard, CT

Please contact Lori Lofstrom at 860-242-0079 or [llofstrom@comcast.net](mailto:llofstrom@comcast.net)

October 14-16 in Albany, NY

Please contact Barb Schwant: [schwant@juno.com](mailto:schwant@juno.com)

### **For a really big event:**

September 12-14 in Montreal, Canada: The Society of International Gastroenterological Nurses and Endoscopy Associates are holding their 9<sup>th</sup> SIGNEA Educational Course.

For details see [www.signea.org](http://www.signea.org)

## Methemoglobinemia

The NESGNA board will be available at the 9/24 conference vendor room to show you some of the wonderful resources available on the SGNA website. One of the slide shows from the website gives you great information on an adverse effect that all GI nurses need to be aware of. Did you know....

- Methemoglobinemia is a potentially life-threatening condition which can be induced by many very commonly used pharmaceutical and other agents.
- Classic features include cyanosis, O2 saturation in the mid 80's with supra/normal pO2, "chocolate" blood.
- Methemoglobinemia is relatively easily treated using methylene blue, but caution must be used in patients with G6PD deficiency as hemolysis can be induced.
- For more details....log onto SGNA or see us at the ½ day conference.

### **NESGNA**

**Committed to Excellence in GI Nursing**

Linda Allen  
5 Corporal Patten Way  
Salisbury Mass  
01952

Visit us at [www.nesgna.org](http://www.nesgna.org)