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## CGA-IGC Newsletter

### Quarterly release: Q4

#### **1. Presidential Welcome**

Dear CGA-IGC Members,

I am honored to assume the Presidency of our organization during, excuse the cliché, these unprecedented times. The events of 2020 were memorable on so many levels for all of us in the health care field and I am pleased to report that the CGA-IGC has never been stronger, in large part due to the superb leadership of our Past President Matt Yurgelun. We continue to do well financially despite having to convert our annual meeting to a virtual format and our membership has never been larger, in part because of our decision to allow free registration to our annual meeting to all CGA-IGC members.

Since we have many new members, I want to highlight all the educational services we provide throughout the year besides our Annual Meeting. We offer podcasts, webinars, and regular scans of journals. This year we offered a special one-time event to our membership on December 7<sup>th</sup> by Jeff de Cagna on the topic of Association Stewardship in The Turbulent Twenties. It was an eye-opening lecture and quite honestly brought to my attention points that apply to many other roles in my life, outside of my leadership position in our association. If you did not get a chance to hear it, it is available on our website.

I want to highlight a few new initiatives that will begin in 2021. At our annual meeting, we announced a Diversity and Inclusion statement that is now posted on our website. To ensure that our organization adheres to the statement, our President-Elect, Dr. Swati Patel will be leading a newly created Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Please reach out to us if you want to be a part of this important committee (email: [cga@pacemedcom.com](mailto:cga@pacemedcom.com)). Additionally, our board and research committee will continue to expand CGA-IGC's role in providing an infrastructure for research on inherited cancers and funding seed grants through our Collaborative Fund led by Dr. Elena Stoffel.

We are hard at work planning our next Annual Meeting, which will likely be a hybrid in-person and virtual format. Please mark your calendars for November 13-15<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at the Loews Vanderbilt in Nashville. I know that I am looking forward to the opportunity of seeing many of you in person and having a proper celebration of our 2020 Lifetime Achievement Awardee, Dr. Carol Burke.

I want to end this welcome with a few shout-outs. First and foremost, I want to thank PACE Medical Communications, in particular, Megan Fowler and Tom Saenz, for helping make us the premier organization for inherited gastrointestinal cancer in the Americas. I want to thank in advance all of our members who are dedicating their time by volunteering on our various committees and the board. I want to thank Dr. Matt Yurgelun, our new Past President, and Dr. Michael Hall, our previous Past President for showing me what it takes to make CGA-IGC a great organization. I must also mention that Dr. Hall has graciously agreed to serve as CGA-IGC's first treasurer. I am also grateful that Dr. Patel has agreed to serve as President-Elect. I truly value her input and I am lucky to have her stepping into a leadership role this year.

Lastly, I want to thank all our members for giving me the honor of serving as your president this year. Be safe and have a happy holiday season.

Randy

## **2. Education committee update**

### **The CGA-IGC 2020 Webinar Series Continues**

Two webinars have aired since the last newsletter. The September webinar focused on gastric cancer surveillance, presented by **Dr. Bryan Curtin**. The November webinar featured an expert panel comprised of **Dana Farengo Clark, MS, LGC**, **Dr. Jeremy Davis**, and **Dr. Pardeep Kaurah**, discussing three challenging *CTNNA1* cases.

If you missed the live events, you can watch the recordings here: [include link to recording].

Stay tuned for details regarding the 2021 webinar series, featuring topics such as novel methods of screening for inherited cancers and polygenic risk scores in colorectal cancer.

### **Monthly Journal Scans with a Journal Club Podcast**

The monthly journal scan created by the Education Committee is a valuable resource that will save you time and keep you current. To access the monthly journal scan, [click here](#).

From time to time, the journal scan will include a link to a short podcast featuring an interview with one of the authors of a recently published journal article that is of interest to our membership. Three podcasts have been released since the last newsletter:

#### **Episode 4**

Highlights from the 2020 ASCO annual meeting  
**Dr. Zsofia Stadler** (Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center)  
**Dr. Mike Hall** (Fox Chase Cancer Center)

#### **Episode 5**

Cancer prevention with aspirin in hereditary colorectal cancer (Lynch syndrome)  
**Sir John Burn** (Newcastle University)  
**Dr. Toni Seppälä** (University of Helsinki)

#### **Episode 6**

Hereditary diffuse gastric cancer: updated clinical practice guidelines  
**Dr. Sonia Kupfer** (University of Chicago)

If you haven't already listened to them, you can access the podcast series here:  
<https://www.podomatic.com/podcasts/cga-igc>

Stay tuned for more podcasts in 2021!

### **3. Research committee update**

The CGA-IGC Research Committee would like to congratulate Dr. Elgindi and Dr. Flahive, the first researchers selected for podium presentations in the new Collaborative Research category for abstract submissions.

#### **High Rate of Advanced Adenomas in Patients with *CDH1* Pathogenic Variants: A Multi-Center Study.**

Authors: Dareen Elgindi, Sonia S. Kupfer, Heather Hampel, Rachel Pearlman, Elena Stoffel, Kyle Porter, Peter P. Stanich

Presentation can be viewed here: [https://youtu.be/Df5\\_s1T4RSw](https://youtu.be/Df5_s1T4RSw)

#### **Utilizing the Pediatric Health Information System to Characterize Events Regarding Colectomy in Pediatric Familial Adenomatous Polyposis Patients in the United States.**

Authors: Colleen B Flahive, Amanda Onwuka, Lee M Bass, Suzanne P MacFarland, Peter C Minneci and Steven H Erdman

Presentation can be viewed here: [https://youtu.be/3dDf09mT\\_3E](https://youtu.be/3dDf09mT_3E)

Thank you for participating in the 2020 CGA-IGC Clinical Practice Survey. Preliminary data was presented during the Annual Business Meeting during the CGA-IGC conference. The entire Business Meeting can be viewed on the CGA-IGC members webpage. Alternatively, the short research presentation can be viewed here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5E80Wilr\\_fU&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5E80Wilr_fU&feature=youtu.be)

If you have not yet completed the survey, please do so as soon as possible. A final survey reminder was sent in early December.

Help us stay up to date!

We appreciate your participation in the following two surveys that help us maintain the most current resources on the CGA-IGC website:

- A survey to collect information about global high-risk pancreatic surveillance resources sent on December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- A survey to update our membership research registries sent on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **4. Member Highlights: Samir Gupta, MD, MSCS, AGAF**

Dr. Gupta has been attending CGA-IGC on a regular basis for over 10 years, and he has been incredibly thankful for the way the community has supported his learning journey in the area of hereditary syndromes. Dr. Gupta is a Professor at the University of California San Diego, and Chief, Section of Gastroenterology at the Department of Veterans Affairs San Diego Healthcare System. His research focuses on the screening and prevention of colorectal cancer. This work has included multiple randomized trials of strategies to boost colorectal cancer screening participation in underserved

communities, as well as large scale epidemiologic studies of strategies to prevent cancer after baseline colonoscopy with polypectomy, funded by the National Cancer Institute and others. He serves as chair of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network's annually issued Genetic/Familial High-Risk Assessment: Colorectal guidelines, and as a member of the US Multisociety Task Force on Colorectal Cancer.

### **5. Genetics in the Media: A Brief History of Everyone Who Ever Lived**

Are you looking for a good book to cozy up to this winter? Here is one to add to your wish list. "The Genome is a history book", writes Adam Rutherford in his 2016 book 'A Brief History of Everyone Who Ever Lived'. While the initiation of written history is disputed (most widely thought to have begun around 5000 years ago in ancient Sumer), Rutherford introduces his readers to paleogenetics and illustrates that DNA, sometimes preserved in our ancestors extending 40,000 years or more into the past, has been recording and tracking our migrations and behaviors long before we could write about it. There are many other genetics gems in this book: explanations of cultural shifts and the genetic changes in their wake (e.g. dairy farming causing lactase persistence, the Silk Road bringing *Yersinia pestis* [black plague] to Europe), why living humans are more related than we might guess, how the Hapsburgs' grip on power through inbreeding led to their demise, and much more. There is also a refreshing modesty to Rutherford's writing – a commitment to the slog of genetic research, an understanding that some modern testing services don't bring the "revelations" they advertise, but the reader, especially if engaged in the microscopic world of DNA, still comes away excited to explore the next frontiers in genetics and genomics.

### **6. Annual Meeting Ultimate Champions!**

We are excited to announce the top ten performers in CGA-IGC Annual Meeting Game! Ranking of winners was ultimately determined on a combination of jeopardy performance, the annual meeting quiz, sponsor surveys, and the annual meeting app game. We admire all of your hereditary GI cancer knowledge and your ability to respond swiftly to the jeopardy emails each week. As an acknowledgement of their participation and accomplishment, these individuals will be receiving airpods... and the winners are (cue drum roll):

- Maria Victoria Alvarez Sanchez
- Stephanie Wagler
- Cynthia Soto-Azghani
- June Mikkelson
- Charite Ricker
- Rachel Pearlman
- Jamilyn Zepp
- Minttu Kansikas
- Rebecca Nelson
- Shelly Cummings