



No 47

March 2014  
CNY SGNA Newsletter

Central New York Society of  
Gastroenterology Nurses and  
Associates.  
Region 37.

President's Message:  
Happy GI Nurses Week.

Below are the resolutions to be  
discussed at our Spring meeting:

1. WHEREAS, GI Associates have a leadership role in shaping the future of SGNA, RESOLVED, That SGNA develop a position on the National Board for a GI Associate Representative with voting rights. This position would encourage more participation by Associates and increased membership within SGNA. The Associates in these leadership roles would also be responsible for promoting SGNA's GTS and AGTS programs.
2. WHEREAS, SGNA recognized the increase of GERD and Barrett's Esophagus, RESOLVED, That... SGNA designate a week to recognize and promote Esophageal Cancer Awareness.
3. WHEREAS, March is Colorectal Cancer

Awareness Month and the public is in need of education about the importance of regular colon screening and funds for research, RESOLVED, That... SGNA will enlist regional societies to collaborate with a colon cancer awareness group to host an annual event/walk/run to promote colon cancer awareness.

Respectfully,  
Kathy Dorsey  
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**Editor's Note:**  
**Happy GI Nurses and Associates week.**

Hoping that you have some great activities to tell us about at our next meeting.

This year I would like to list all certified members. See the next column for names. I know it was not easy, but I am very proud of each of you. You should be proud, also. If your name is not listed and should be, please contact ABCGN.org (and me, so I can add you to our list.) I am hoping we will have more names to add after May.

My contribution this year was a letter to the editor on importance of Colon Cancer Awareness. I have enclosed a copy, in case you would like a sample to write one yourself.

I have met with the Schenectady County Health Department and we hope to promote Colon Cancer awareness together in 2014.

The Spring conference is next week. Please consider attending, if you have not registered yet. Remember, the networking and educational content are irreplaceable. And we would love

to see you. The agenda is listed on page two, for anyone interested. See you in Saratoga.

Barbara Schwant, BSN, RN, CGRN  
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**DATES:**

**What's Cooking in GI**

April 4-5, 2014  
Saratoga Holiday Inn  
[www.saratogahi.com](http://www.saratogahi.com)  
Rate: \$119/single or dbl  
Code SGN by March 14, 2014  
8.5 contact hours applied  
Terry Markiewicz  
[feedkramer@aol.com](mailto:feedkramer@aol.com)  
518-243-4258 (w) 518-399-0703

**SGNA 41<sup>th</sup> Annual Course:**  
**May 2-6, 2014 Nashville, TN.**

Visit [www.SGNA.org](http://www.SGNA.org)  
to learn more. New agenda.  
Course is Sunday thru Tues in 2014.

**Certification Exam:**

Registration window: Jan. 1 thru  
Feb. 28, 2014  
Exam window: May 1 to May 31,  
2014  
Next exam window will be month of  
October 2014.  
[www.Abcgn.org](http://www.Abcgn.org)  
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**Congratulations to all 58 Central  
NY Certified members:**

Marie H. Pagano, MPS BA RN CGRN  
Patricia DeSouza, BSN DIPL RN CGRN  
Suzanne Gursky, RN CGRN  
Elaine C. Winchell, RN  
Cathleen H. Bolton, RN CGRN  
Barbara A. Schwant, BSN RN CGRN  
Sheila R. Joly, RN CGRN  
Carolyn A. McKay, BA RN CGRN  
Coleen M. Feocco, BA RN CGRN  
Carol A. Gilg, RN CGRN  
Jacqueline A. Sciola, BSN RN CGRN  
Julie C. Cota, RN AAS CGRN  
Brenda L. Hayes, RN CGRN  
Elaine M. McCann, RN CGRN  
Renee L. Brooks, RN, CGRN  
Mary Ellen DeSantis, AAS RN CGRN  
Janet Shope, BSN, CGRN  
Cheryl A. LaMora, ADN RN CGRN

Megan S. Galletta, ADN RN CGRN  
 Terry Ashline, DIPL RN CGRN  
 Mary Ellen Barrett, RN CGRN  
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 Winnefred H. Akangbou, BS RN CGRN  
 Terry Markiewicz, MS RN CGRN  
 Juanita Aikens-English, ADN RN CGRN  
 Linda L. Billings, BSN RN CGRN  
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 Michelle C. Newell, RN CGRN  
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 Diane O'Connor, AND, CGRN  
 Maura Naples, BSN RN CGRN  
 Mary C. O'Neill, ADN RN CGRN  
 Kathleen Padlick, BS CGRN  
 Valerie A. Cassidy, RN CGRN  
 Sandra L. Keller, DIPL RN CGRN  
 Lisa J. Kelley, RN CGRN  
 Brenda Donah, RN CGRN  
 Karen K. Miller, CGRN  
 Kathy Dorsey, BSN RN CGRN  
 Melody Sipowicz, RN CGRN  
 Deborah M. Fane, RN CGRN  
 Kathleen A. Hughes, DIPL RN CGRN  
 JoAnn F. DeRoche, BSN RN CGRN  
 Laura Pfeifer, BSN RN CGRN  
 Karen L. Roblyer, RN CGRN  
 Christine M. Furlong, RN CGRN  
 Rachel M. Ray, RN CGRN  
 Melissa A. Burke, RN CGRN

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The CNYSGNA Spring 2014 conference is being planned by nurses from Ellis Medicine's Bruggeman Endoscopy Center. We have some great speakers and topics lined up! It will be held April 4 & 5 in beautiful Saratoga Springs! Please visit the CNYSGNA website ([www.cnysgna.org](http://www.cnysgna.org)) for additional information, and mark your calendars!

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**\*Letter to the Editor**

March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month. Even though the month of March is almost over, it is important to remember that screening colonoscopy saves lives. The American Cancer Society motto is Colon Cancer: Preventable, Treatable, Beatable. Screening can detect cancer in the early stage, when it is treatable. It can find and remove colon polyps (abnormal growths) before they become cancerous. . A person's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday is usually the magical date to start screenings but African Americans should consider starting at 45 years of age. If you have a polyp or lesion, you need to share this information with your parents, siblings and children. They may need screening about 10 years prior to the date that yours were found. Have the discussion. Don't let an embarrassing topic cost someone their life. Your parents may have never had a screening, so it would be very important that they do it promptly.

Check out websites: American Cancer Society: [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org); Colon Cancer Alliance: [www.ccalliance.org/awareness](http://www.ccalliance.org/awareness); or the Schenectady Department of Health: [www.schenectadycounty.com](http://www.schenectadycounty.com) Although the following symptoms could be caused by many conditions, these are some of the symptoms which might indicate colorectal cancer:

Blood in your stools, narrower than normal stools, unexplained abdominal pain, unexplained change in bowel habits, unexplained anemia, unexplained weight loss. Colorectal cancer can be present in people without symptoms. You have the power to make a difference. Talk to your primary doctor or gastroenterologist. Get screened. You will be glad that you did.

Barbara Schwant, RN,CGRN  
 Retired, Gastroenterology Nurse for 34 years at St. Clare's/Ellis Medicine

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2014 Spring Meeting  
 April 4: 7PM Conmed presentation.

8PM Communication Tips and Skills for Working with Older Adults and Cognitively Impaired Persons Relative to GI Issues.

April 5

7:45: Dr. Wava Truscott: C Diff in 2014.

9:15 Christine Cooley: You Are What You Eat.

10:15-10:45: Break/Vendors

10:45: Dr. Truscott: Have Bugs, Will Travel.

1:00 Dr. A Khan: Bronchoscopy Technology

2:00 Dr. DeFrancisco: TBA

3:15 Dr. Elsa Goldstein: Everything You Want to Know About Hemorrhoids.

4:15 CNY Business Meeting

Tentative schedule, may have changes.

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[www.saxecomunications.com/](http://www.saxecomunications.com/)

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