



CGA-IGC Newsletter

Quarterly release: Q3

1. How to Make the Most Out of Virtual Meetings

The 2020 CGA-IGA Annual Meeting will be happening virtually this year as are many educational conferences. Here's some tips on how you can make the most of conferences utilizing virtual formats:

- **Familiarize yourself with the virtual platform and equipment (in advance)** - Test your audio and video connections. Double-check the strength of your WiFi. Make sure your Bluetooth headset is fully charged. This is how you can ensure you do not miss conference content because you did not check your equipment ahead of time.
- **Determine whether slides are available in advance** – Knowing that the slides will be shared will give you the opportunity to sit-back and actively listen to the speaker.
- **Minimize distractions** – Set yourself up in a quiet space. Silence your phone. Block off your calendar. Set up an “Away” message for your email.
- **Be present** – Treat a virtual conference similar to an in-person one. Do not multi-task, just focus on listening to the speakers and watching their presentations. Perhaps consider taking notes on a physical notepad.
- **Take movement breaks between talks** - In-person conferences have this time built in, but during virtual conferences, this will be 100% up to you. Not only will standing up to stretch and/or go for a quick walk around your home or office promote good health, but it will also help keep you energized throughout the conference.
- **Engage with others through the conference app** - Ask questions during the Q&A sessions. Use the conference hashtag in Twitter. Check out the Social Feed. Rate speakers after their talks. Check your notifications throughout the conference. Contact speakers, sponsors or other attendees – and perhaps set up a meeting. View exhibitor products on the sponsor pages. Utilize the Activity Feed to post thoughts and photos to other attendees. Click, click, click! Attendees receive points based on their engagement within the app.
- **Draw your audience in** – As a speaker, purposefully engage the audience, and use eye-catching visuals with a large enough font to see on a laptop screen. Optimize your vocal variety and pacing. Encourage attendees to discuss specific points or data on social meeting. Create a presentation that no one wants to turn his or her head away from, a presentation everyone will want to watch again when looking through the recorded content.

- **Take advantage of recorded content** – Watch pre-recorded sessions on your own time but prior to Q&A sessions. Catch up on content you missed. Replay sessions that you found incredibly interesting and/or impactful. Discuss content with your colleagues after the conference has ended.

2. Collaborative Fund Submission Reminder

Submissions to the CGA-IGC Collaborative Fund are due by 5 PM on September 1, 2020. You'll find additional details on our website.

3. Education committee update

The CGA-IGC 2020 Webinar Series Continues

Two webinars have aired since the last newsletter. The May webinar featured new genes, MSH3 and NTHL1, with **Dr. Richarda de Voer**. The July webinar focused on pancreatic cancer surveillance and was presented by **Dr. Randall Brand**.

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

Stay tuned for details regarding the remaining 2 webinars that will occur in the fall. We are busy finalizing dates for these topics:

**Gastric cancer surveillance
featuring Dr. Bryan Curtin**

**Challenging Cases
featuring an expert panel**

Genetic Counselors: You can claim up to 6 category 1 contact hours for CEUs from this series for a fee of \$25. If you miss a live event, you are still able to claim CEUs by viewing the recording and scoring 80% on a quiz.

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, [Journal Scans | CGA-IGC \(cgaigc-members.com\)](https://www.cgaigc-members.com)

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 this year:

Episode 1

Collaborative Group of the Americas on Inherited Gastrointestinal Cancer Position statement on multigene panel testing for patients with colorectal cancer and/or polyposis.

Brandie Heald Leach, MS, CGC (Cleveland Clinic)

Episode 2

A multi-institutional cohort of therapy-associated polyposis in childhood and young adulthood cancer survivors

Leah Biller, MD (Dana Farber Cancer Institute)

Episode 3

Serrated Polyposis Syndrome Updates

Arne Bleijenberg, MD and Evelien Dekker, MD, PhD (Amsterdam University Medical Center)

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 another podcast episode in September!

4. Research committee update

Coming to your inbox soon! The CGA-IGC Research & Membership committee will be distributing two surveys later in 2020 and we encourage your participation.

- Update to member-associated registries: Based on member feedback, CGA-IGC will be offering the option to publish your registry information on our public facing webpage or exclusively on our members-only page.
- Clinical practice survey: The purpose of this questionnaire is to evaluate CGA-IGC member practices regarding universal Lynch syndrome screening, risk assessment, and surveillance for atypical cases.

Highlighted CGA-IGC Member Publications:

Potential impact of family history-based screening guidelines on the detection of early-onset colorectal cancer

Gupta S, Bharti B, Ahnen DJ, et al. *Cancer*. 2020;126(13):3013-3020.

PMID: 32307706

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32307706/>

Naproxen chemoprevention promotes immune activation in Lynch syndrome colorectal mucosa

Reyes-Uribe L, Wu W, Gelincik O, et al. [published online ahead of print, 2020 Jul 8]. *Gut*. 2020

PMID: 32641470

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32641470/>

5. Member Highlights

Our spotlight this month is on Dr. Randall Brand. He is the current President-Elect of the CGA-IGC and will be starting his term as President at the upcoming annual meeting. He is a gastroenterologist at the University of Pittsburgh. He has focused on care of inherited cancer syndromes for many years, including starting his career performing endoscopic ultrasound surveillance for members of Dr. Henry Lynch's high-risk families. This has led to a focus on pancreatic cancer early detection and prevention in his career. He is a principal investigator for several U01 research grants funded by the NCI's Early Detection Research Network focused on the development of biomarkers for the early diagnosis/detection of pancreatic cancer. He also is the site leader for several collaborative research projects focusing on surveillance for hereditary pancreatic cancer, including CAPS5, PanFAM, and PRECEDE.

Dr. Brand has been very involved in the CGA-IGC on multiple levels since joining this organization, and his recent webinar on pancreatic cancer surveillance is an excellent example. If you missed it live, it is still available through the CGA-IGC member portal (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wTV_NjvKw2o&feature=youtu.be).

As we are all planning for our first ever virtual annual meeting, Dr. Brand mentioned "We are all disappointed that we will not be able to meet in person in Nashville for our annual CGA-IGC meeting. However our planning committee under the leadership of our President, Matt Yurgelun, has put together an amazing meeting, which will be quite informative and interactive despite the limitations imposed by being virtual. For all of us who are disappointed that we can't meet together in person in Nashville, we are tentatively planning on having our 2021 meeting there."

He also gave us a preview of his vision for 2021 and said "I am honored to assume leadership of the CGA-IGC next year and hope to build on the incredible efforts of our past presidents. One of my main goals next year is to expand efforts to diversify our membership and work on strategies to ensure that minority populations are engaged in GI cancer risk assessment."

6. Genetics in the News: deCode and the spread of COVID-19

The Iceland genetics registry, deCode, has been focused since January on studying COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) in the Icelandic population. A study originally published in the New England Journal of Medicine on April 14, 2020 was recently updated on June 11, 2020 at NEJM.org. In addition to describing the outcomes for the country's testing methods for both high-risk individuals and population screening and tracking methods for infections, this study also describes outcomes of sequencing the virus in 643 affected individuals. They used this sequencing data to investigate viral haplotypes and geographic origin of haplotypes. Read the full article here: <https://www.nejm.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/NEJMoa2006100?articleTools=true>.

7. Genetics in the News: Li-fraumeni syndrome and cancer risk

Multiple news outlets reported in July on work published by Dr. Kara Maxwell and CGA-IGC member Jackie Powers, CGC regarding a missense variant in *TP53* (c.100G>C) that is common among individuals with Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry. The study assessed the pathogenicity of this hypomorphic variant. Researchers utilized *in silico* analyses to predict pathogenicity, conducting tumor profiling with WES on a broad range of tumor types, as well as in vitro functional analyses. The study concludes that the c.100G>C variant, which has discordant classifications in ClinVar and is classified as a VUS by ClinGen's TP53 expert panel, causes a mild defect in p53 function and causes a low penetrance LFS. Read the full article here:

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32675277/>.

8. Twitter Jeopardy

Hopefully you were able to participate in CGA-IGC jeopardy this week! Weekly jeopardy questions will be e-mailed out with a survey link for answers. The winners will be announced for *Most Correct* each week, with ties being broken by response time, so don't let those emails go unopened!