

President's Report

The 1st 6 months of 2022 . . . or . . . the day the White House called NASPGHAN

Benjamin D Gold, MD, FAAP, FACG, NASPGHAN-F



To my Friends and Colleagues of **NASPGHAN**, CPNP and APGNN:

Greetings and I hope that this column finds all of you well, safe, and enjoying the beginning of summer, the end of fellowship training for all our 3rd year fellows (congratulations!!), or the beginning of the academic year for those in training as well as Mother's Day, Father's Day and Juneteenth!

It was Thursday May 19th around 10:15 AM, the last day on hospital service, my week-long 'tour of duty' and I was rounding with the team and then, the text came through . . . sent to both me and Jen Lightdale, and the text was from Margaret Stallings. Immediately I started thinking "what could this be about" as Margaret, if you know her, is not one to text often, and, because the timing, well, this was a little unusual, as almost all of Council and leadership were preparing to travel the next day to San Diego and DDW 2022. I know, if you are reading this intently, you are like – 'ok, what did the text say?' And then I looked at the message and it read, "*White House just called. HELP! Can one of you call me.*"

So of course, I did – and found out that Catherine (call me "Cat") Oakar (she/her/hers), the Special Assistant to the President for Public Health and Disparities had called Margaret and **NASPGHAN**, on direct order from President Biden (or as Cat put it, "she was calling with the highest of authority") in order to get guidance on how to best address the formula shortage crises. Without getting into the details, and with lots of pride and heart-felt thanks, the "small but mighty" group from **NASPGHAN**, Margaret, Jen Lightdale, Camille Bonta who leads our advocacy efforts, Mark Corkins and Anthony Porto who have worked closely with the AAP Section of Nutrition, as well as Mitch Cohen and the SOGHN to facilitate partnering with the AAP, had the initial briefing call of almost 1½ hours later that day. This call was the first of now many calls with

the White House, explaining the medical issues faced by patients who received specialty formulas, the problems faced by parents and families in access, as well as providers. We have also discussed developing a plan and strategies to best address the shortage crises now and put into place processes to prevent it from happening in the future, including getting the Medical Nutrition and Equity Act across the finish line. The White House is employing and promoting our website, specifically our resources including the formula sheet for substitution of specialty formulas should they not be available.

In addition, very recently, **NASPGHAN** leadership, in support of the dynamic team of Saeed Mohammad, Rohit Kohli and Saul Karpen, representing the Hepatology Committee and the AASLD Pediatric SIG, bridging **NASPGHAN** and the AASLD, put together a Webinar on Acute Hepatitis that included participation from the CDC and WHO. This group is also launching an IRB-approved epidemiological project to track cases nationally, in a manner like the efforts that were so successful with COVID and a variety of digestive health issues (e.g., www.covidibd.org).

COVID vaccines are now (as of June 18, 2022) available for infants down to 6 months of age and up through our elderly populations, and the world is beginning to open. The 3rd Year Fellows Conference, thanks to the meticulous planning of Training Committee Director Chris Lee and Danny Mallon was held in person in December in Miami – without one case of COVID post-meeting, and, we have now held the 1st Year Fellows Conference, in Orlando, January 2022, and, the 2nd Year Fellows Conference, in Scottsdale, AZ, April 2022, in person – as well as the 2022 annual planning meeting – in person!! Further, we were able to hold a successful **NASPGHAN** Foundation meeting in San Diego, CA at DDW 2022, May 21, and had face-to-face meetings with a number of our Foundation Partners during the weekend of May 20-22. We held a successful and exciting **NASPGHAN** Council as well as Council and Chairs meeting, Saturday May 21 in San Diego with presentations about

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1st half of the year accomplishments by a number of the Committee Chairs. Moreover, it was just wonderful to see the number of people who enthusiastically turned out for the annual DDW **NASPGHAN** Reception, Sunday evening May 22 – where we launched the “**I am NASPGHAN**” campaign for our 50th Anniversary celebration this coming October in Orlando.

NASPGHAN’s International Committee, led by Dr. Jose Garza, now a Councilor, and, the Committee now led by Dr. Hanh Vo, held two highly successful and well attended jointly developed and implemented webinars with our colleagues from the Asian Pan Pacific Society, APPSPGHAN with topics ranging from the east-west perspective of COVID-19 impact, and the implications in pediatric gastroenterology and non-IgE food allergy in Webinar 1, and, in Webinar 2, East and West perspectives on neonatal cholestasis as well as the **NASPGHAN** and APPSPGHAN perspective on H. pylori eradication therapy. **NASPGHAN** and APPSPGHAN are planning additional webinars to take place in the 2nd part of 2022. A group of **NASPGHAN** members just participated in a symposium entitled, **NASPGHAN** at LASPGHAN, at the 2022 LASPGHAN Annual Meeting in Quito, Ecuador on topics ranging from ARFID, advances in Neurogastroenterology and Motility to Hirschsprung’s and refractory constipation to an update on GERD management.

Further, social media presence of **NASPGHAN** has never been stronger, from the ‘twitter-sphere’ to Instagram to, now well into its 3rd year, increasingly popular Podcast called Bowel Sounds, which launched its inaugural episode at the 2019 Annual Meeting in Chicago. Bowel Sounds (led by Jennifer Lee, Peter Lu, Jason Silverman, and Temara Hajjat) has stepped up its game in the first 6 months of 2022, now appearing two or more times monthly. It brings key issues to our members, including those that are relevant to the society. These include clinical aspects of pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology, pancreatology and nutrition as well as the production crew’s unique talent of providing evidence and practical clinical points to highlighting the special individuals and their personalities who are the highly regarded experts within our organization.

From the training, mentoring and career development perspective – **NASPGHAN** more than any other sub-specialty organization, in my opinion, does it REALLY well – thanks to our outstanding Training and Professional Development Committees – starting with the 2nd year Pediatric Residents and the Teaching and Tomorrow program, as well as the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Year Fellow’s conferences now situated at key times during the year for that particular fellow class in training. However, after the 3rd year Fellows conference – there are no other conferences at subsequent stages of career development to facilitate additional networking, mentoring and life-work balance affirmation. With a generous donation from one of the **NASPGHAN** Foundation Sponsors, another exciting development and new educational endeavor for **NASPGHAN**, led by the Professional Development Committee (Rina Sanghavi) and Training Committee (Christine Lee) is the upcoming Junior Career/Faculty Development Conference to take place in Chicago, IL December 1st – 3rd 2022. With an outstanding faculty being assembled and 50 carefully, and objectively selected junior attendings/faculty, from 2 to 7 years post completion of Fellowship Training, this Conference will cover topics ranging from ‘fellow to full-fledged faculty’, ‘physician wellness’, ‘promotion and negotiation’ to ‘getting back on the bike’! I can’t tell you how thrilled I am that we are starting this next phase of career development for our

organization and a conference which will hopefully fulfill a much-needed gap for the junior members of **NASPGHAN**.

As mentioned above, **NASPGHAN** has committed to improving diversity, equity, and inclusion in our profession, Society, to diminish health care disparities, and to improving the social context of the marginalized patients we serve. The **NASPGHAN** Professional Development Committee (PDC), led by Rina Sanghavi and Kimberly Chien, continues to keep the issues of gender representation, equality, and participation at the forefront, and as mentioned, the PDC, in conjunction with the Diversity Special Interest Group led by Conrad Cole is undertaking a systematic assessment of our Society with respect to gender designation, ethnicity and race. The executive working group of the SIG: Dennis Spencer, Tiffany Patton, Crystal Tsai, Eyad Hanna and Val Cohran moved into the action phase to establish actionable goals, including **NASPGHAN** being an active member of the Intersociety group on diversity (IGD); a group that includes 2 member representatives (Drs Val. Cohran and Conrad Cole) and 1 staff member (Margaret Stallings) from the GI societies (AGA, AASLD, ACG, ASGE and **NASPGHAN**). IGD accomplishments include releasing statements in social media campaigns during the Minority Health Month, Asian Pacific American heritage month, National Indigenous Peoples Month, the National Hispanic Heritage Month, and most recently to support the LGBTQ+ community for Pride Month.

I would like to thank everyone who continues to make themselves available for Zoom meetings, for the Committee and SIG Chairs and Vice Chairs who continue to hold their meeting and work on the important Committee specific activities – some of which we heard at the Committee Chair and Council meeting in San Diego (yes, I did say in person) at DDW 2022. In addition, I would like to thank Harland Winter, Mel Heyman and Joel Rosh, as well as Margaret Stallings and Kim Rose for their hard work on the **NASPGHAN** 50-year history timeline and plans for the celebration at this year’s Annual Meeting. Further, my special thanks to the **NASPGHAN** National Office staff for continuing to do the Society’s work, and especially to Laura Smith, our **NASPGHAN** Meeting and Events Director and Margaret Stallings for making the in-person Fellow’s conferences, and in-person planning meeting a success.

In closing, as I enter the last few months of my presidency, I cannot feel more joy and love for our Society, our organization and the incredible number of talented, brilliant, hard-working and wonderful people who give selflessly to make **NASPGHAN** all that it can be – and then some!! All I can say is that there is much to look forward to and I do so with excitement for **NASPGHAN** and its future.

My wife Wanda, my family and I want to extend our warm wishes and love to you all for a safe, productive, and truly blessed latter half of 2022.

Stay safe, stay healthy and we look forward to seeing you in Orlando October 12–16, 2022 at the Annual Meeting 50th Anniversary Celebration!!!

Respectfully yours,



Benjamin D Gold, MD, FAAP, FACG, NASPGHAN-F
President, **NASPGHAN**
Children’s Center for Digestive Healthcare | Atlanta, GA

President-Elect Report

President-Elect, NASPGHAN: Jenifer Lightdale, MD, MPH



Hear ye! Hear ye! The red carpet has been steamed and will be laid out from October 12-15, 2022 – as we gather to celebrate **NASPGHAN's** 50th Anniversary at the Annual Meeting and Postgraduate Course at Rosen Shingle Creek in Orlando Florida! The Planning Committee did a fantastic job organizing an intentionally diverse meeting with amazing speakers representing over 50 different institutions, spread across various sessions. The sessions

are devoted to exploring hot topics in gastroenterology, hepatology, pancreatology, nutrition and many other special interest areas. The plan is to offer hybrid options for those of you unable to attend this once-in-a-lifetime golden anniversary celebration – but we truly hope the rest of you are already logging on to [“early-bird” registration](#) and making plans to join us!

Fittingly, much of the meeting will be steeped in commemorations of the rich history of **NASPGHAN**, including a grand interactive timeline project that is being put together by Drs. Harland Winter, Joel Rosh and Mel Heyman. We also will be projecting ahead by kicking off the meeting with a Single Topic Symposium dedicated to “The Next 50 Years: Technology and the Future of **NASPGHAN**” on Wednesday, October 12. Directed by Dr. Peter Lu, this full-day session will provide both historical perspectives on innovation in our field, as well as practical guides for using emerging healthcare technologies in our daily patient practice and medical education. The Symposium will conclude that evening with a unique “Baby Shark Tank” contest that everyone is invited to enter! Do you have an idea for a technology that could change all of our lives? Consider submitting your application and who knows? This could be the meeting that makes you rich! ([See details on the application process on pag 7](#)).

The one-day, always terrific, Postgraduate Course will follow on Thursday, October 13, and will provide comprehensive state-of-the-art discussions of pediatric endoscopy, hepatology, nutrition, intestinal inflammation, motility, and functional gastrointestinal disorders. Organized by the Professional Education Committee (led by Drs. Maria Oliva-Hemker and Toba Weinstein), the course will feature topic experts presenting on groundbreaking advances in the delivery of high-quality, patient-centered pediatric GI care. Virtual access to the entire Postgraduate Course will be made available to anyone unable to attend, and there will again be the opportunity to earn CME and MOC part II credits.

The Annual Meeting proper will begin at 5PM Thursday, October 14, with a Welcome Reception and Poster Session that will buzz with excitement, as pediatric GI clinicians, academicians, nurse providers, nutritionists, psychologists, and trainees reunite, to share and learn from each other's research and clinical presentations. The Annual Meeting will continue Friday morning with the Plenary Session, where Dr. Sandeep

Gupta will showcase the Year in Review and prize-winning laboratory and clinical science abstracts from various **NASPGHAN** members will also be featured. This year's plenary will also go down in history by featuring the gracious return of **NASPGHAN's** own Dr. Bill Balistreri, with his inimitable style, presenting the 2022 keynote William F Balistreri Lecture on the topic of “50 years: What was hot . . . What was not!” The plenary will also feature the Premier of the “I AM **NASPGHAN**” celebratory video that so many of you have contributed selfies to! Can't wait see the final cut!

Over Friday and Saturday, we will run more than 20 concurrent sessions featuring clinically relevant state-of-the art presentations by **NASPGHAN** thought leaders, as well as many authors of the top submitted research abstracts, on a broad range of topics, including liver transplantation; ARFID and other feeding disorders; inflammatory bowel disease; intestinal failure; cystic fibrosis; multi-omics; the microbiome; and neurogastroenterology. On Friday evening, sweet tears and champagne will be flowing as we celebrate this year's **NASPGHAN** awardees, including the 2022 recipients of the Harry Shwachman Award, Murray Davidson Award, and the Margaret Stallings Distinguished Service Award.

Throughout the meeting, always in-demand Hands-On Learning will be offered for endoscopy and neurogastroenterology, including reprisals by Drs. Doug Fishman and Catharine Walsh of their “Colonoscopy Skills” and “Train-the-Trainer” workshops. Drs. Norberto Rodriguez-Baez and Ericka Montijo Barrios will host the **NASPGHAN** meeting and reception in Spanish on Friday evening. Saturday will include both a Leadership Series Workshop directed by Drs. Rina Sanghavi and Sylvia Ofei on the topic of professionally leveling up, as well as the always-good-for-a-belly-laugh GI Jeopardy for Fellows and Faculty. Running in parallel over Friday and Saturday will be the Annual APGNN meeting for nurses and advanced practitioners, while the CPNP Nutrition Symposium will be designed to ensure first-class pediatric GI dietitian education and networking on Saturday. We will also be celebrating diversity and inclusion by welcoming future pediatric gastroenterologists in the 11th year of the Teaching and Tomorrow Program.

Finally, bring your ballgowns and tuxedos and get ready to party on Saturday night at the 50th Anniversary Gala! The “Gala Girlz” (a.k.a. Drs. Melanie Greifer and Christine Lee, along with Laura Smith and Margaret Stallings) are putting together an unparalleled Society social event where many **NASPGHAN** legends will be born.

Looking forward to walking the red carpet with all of you this October! Can't wait to see you there!

Jenifer R. Lightdale, MD, MPH
President-elect, **NASPGHAN**



Secretary–Treasurer's Report

Greetings from your Secretary Treasurer!

MEMBERSHIP

The current membership of **NASPGHAN** is about 2,604 (90 emeritus; 8 members who are also members of ESPGHAN; 459 fellows; 20 psychologists; 52 members of the Editorial Board; 1,904 full members; and 71 international). There are 47 Fellow of **NASPGHAN** members, 397 members in the Association of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition Nurses (APGNN) and 202 Council for Pediatric Nutrition Professionals (CPNP) who are actively involved in collaborative activities with **NASPGHAN**.

FINANCES

We did very well in 2021! **NASPGHAN** continues in a very strong financial position. **NASPGHAN's** primary revenue sources include membership dues, *JPGN* royalties, Annual Meeting registrations, investments and support from our supporters. In 2021, the membership dues, the *JPGN* income and royalties, the 2021 Annual Meeting and Postgraduate Course, and our investments exceeded expectations. In 2021, **NASPGHAN** had a positive net income of \$2,464,372.24.

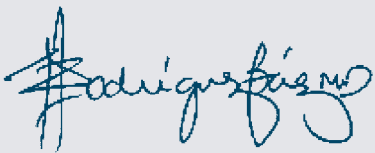
NASPGHAN continues to work with the financial firm Glenmede Trust Co., which has been instrumental in guiding us towards maintaining a growing investment portfolio. The **NASPGHAN** Finance Committee recommended to continue our current investment strategy and to organize a strategic planning meeting to identify new initiatives as well as continue supporting and expanding our current activities.

'I AM NASPGHAN'

NASPGHAN is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year! We are working on a number of exciting projects including an interactive virtual timeline on our website, a video celebrating our Society and our members, and a gala event at this year's annual meeting in Orlando, FL. We launched a fundraising campaign – 'I AM **NASPGHAN**' – to raise funds to commemorate 50 years of our Society's accomplishments and to ensure all of our **NASPGHAN** programs, grants, and resources will consistently be available for you. We are aiming for 100% participation of our members in this campaign. As of June 3rd, 2020, 47 members have made their contribution. We hope you will join us in showing your commitment to the future of your professional home.

Please feel free to contact me at (norberto.rodriguez-baez@utsouthwestern.edu) for any questions or concerns. I look forward to seeing you in-person at the celebration of the 50th anniversary of **NASPGHAN** in October 2022.

Your Secretary Treasurer,



Norberto Rodriguez-Baez, MD
Secretary-Treasurer, **NASPGHAN**
Dallas, TX



NEW NASPGHAN POSITION PAPER PUBLISHED IN MAY *JPGN*

The Role of Surgical Management in Chronic Pancreatitis in Children: A Position Paper From the North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition Pancreas Committee

Jaimie D. Nathan, Kate Ellery, Keshawadhana Balakrishnan, Heli Bhatt, Armando Ganoza, Sohail Z. Husain, Rakesh Kumar, Veronique D. Morinville, J. Antonio Quiros, Sarah J. Schwarzenberg, Zachary M. Sellers, Aliye Uc, Maisam Abu-El-Haija. (*JPGN*:2022:74:5:706-719).

Societal papers are accessible on the **NASPGHAN** website.



NASPGHAN Foundation News

.....Menno Verhave, MD.....

President, NASPGHAN Foundation

Dear Colleagues:

I have just returned from actual in-person meetings at DDW in San Diego. Even though I was a bit anxious as I prepared to leave, once I was there and again able to be with friends and colleagues from around the country, it quickly felt normal—it was truly exhilarating to be back.

After 2 years of Zoom meetings, it was great to see that we actually hadn't lost our social skills. The **NASPGHAN** reception was very well attended and the impromptu post-reception dinner gatherings alone made the trip worth it. Despite the losses and frustrations of the past 2 years, and even though Covid is still disrupting lives, there was a collective sense that we are finally moving forward again. There was also uniform commitment to the planning of our 50th anniversary meeting and celebration in Orlando in October, which promises to be our best meeting ever.

Through the collective efforts of so many of you, our organizations remains strong, and we continue to support our mission to promote education and research in pediatric GI, Nutrition, and Hepatology. Thanks to our collective work, and the support of our Partners, Foundation supported projects for 2022 have included:

► Online Education Modules

The ABCs of EGIDs Online Learning Modules

Supported by an educational grant from Takeda Pharmaceuticals America, Inc.

NASPGHAN Nutrition Curriculum for Pediatric Gastroenterology Fellows

Supported by an educational grant from Nestlé

► Webinars

Four-part Series on Parenteral Nutrition

Supported by an educational grant from Fresenius Kabi

Advances in Diagnosis and Treatment of Alagille Syndrome

Supported by educational grants from Mirum Pharmaceuticals, Albireo Pharma, Inc and Travere

EGIDs: Beyond the Esophagus

Supported by an educational grant from Allakos

Medical Management of Chronic Pancreatitis in Children: Maximizing Treatment and Improving Outcomes

Supported by and educational grant from AbbVie

Transnasal Endoscopy:

Going Where We Have Never Gone Before

Supported by an educational grant from Olympus America, Inc

All of the above are available for CME and MOC Part II credit on demand in the **NASPGHAN Learn on Line site**.

► DEI Initiatives

Teaching and Tomorrow URiM Program

Supported by an educational grant from Takeda Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Functional Formularies

Summer Student URiM Mentored Research Program

Supported by an educational grant from Takeda Pharmaceuticals Inc.

► Meetings and Events

Junior Faculty Conference – December 2022

Course Directors: Christine Lee, MD and Rina Sanghavi, MD

Supported by an educational grant from Fresenius Kabi

N²U

The popular N²U Course was again held virtually, led by members of the Nutrition committee & Course Director, Timothy Sentongo, MD.

Supported by an educational grant from Nutricia North America

► Professional Education

Fellows Toolbox Website

Supported by an educational grant from Reckitt Mead Johnson

Hepatitis C Slide Set and Grand Rounds

Supported by an educational grant from Gilead Sciences

► Patient & Family Education Modules

A Practical Approach to Nutritional Management of Children with Cholestatic Liver Diseases:

Tips For Patients and Caregivers

Supported by educational grants from Mirum Pharmaceuticals and Albireo Pharma, Inc.

Doc4me Updated

Supported by an educational grant from Takeda Pharmaceuticals Inc.

Thanks to Jeannie Huang, Foundation Treasurer.

GIKids

These materials continue to be updated and again thank you to the members of the Public Education Committee and special thanks to the web editors – Christine Waasdorp Hurtado, Riha Bhatt and Amanda Deacy Drews.

Digital Interactive Gastroenterology Education Suite For Trainees (DIGEST)

Supported by an educational grant from Abbott

EoE Patient Video

Supported by an educational grant from Takeda Pharmaceuticals Inc

Coming August 17:

Children with Cholestatic Liver Disease: Diagnostics

Organized by: The **NASPGHAN** Hepatology Committee

Supported by an educational grant from Mirum Pharmaceuticals, Albireo and Travere

Coming August 24:

The How, What and Ifs About Early Childhood Growth, Part 1
Moderator: Timothy Sentongo, MD, Chair of the Nutrition Committee
Supported by an educational grant from Reckitt Mead Johnson

Coming September 21:

Teaching Effectively to All Stages at All Ages
Organized by: The **NASPGHAN** Medical Education SIG

► Research

Research support for our members and affiliated professionals remains strong. In addition to a new grant to support research in pancreatic disease, we are exploring support for research related to transnasal endoscopy, and further information will be coming soon. Our research mission remains indebted to the Research Committee, led by Bruno Chumpitazi and Kathy Loomes, for their dedicated, hard work in reviewing the grant applications. We were proud to be able to award 10 grants this year and remain committed to the pursuit of new sources of research support for our members.

The mission of the Foundation is straightforward – “to fund and support the professional and patient education and research mission of **NASPGHAN**” – and as I have said before, that means “the Foundation is us”. I want to thank again all the **NASPGHAN**

members who have generously donated to the Foundation and ask those that have not yet, in honor of our 50th anniversary, please do so. Giving to the Foundation remains easy and mobile, just TEXT 4GIPEDS to 215-608-5488.

Our ongoing success would not be possible without the generous support of our Corporate Partners and Supporters, as well as the efforts of our Foundation Board and the executive leaders, Ann Scheimann (President-Elect), Barry Wershil (Past-President), Jeannie Huang (Secretary-Treasurer), and of course, Margaret Stallings and the dedicated staff in the **NASPGHAN** office.

Hoping to see you all in Orlando!

Sincerely,



Menno Verhave, MD
President, **NASPGHAN** Foundation
Boston, MA



SUPPORT YOUR FOUNDATION

Remember that you can donate to the **NASPGHAN** Foundation from your phone.

TEXT 4GIPEDS to 215-608-5488

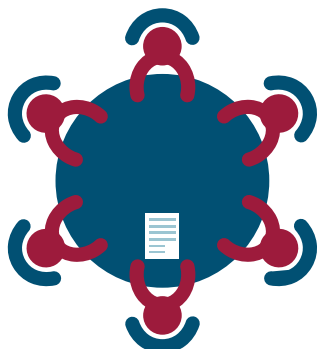
A donation link will appear that allows you to make your donation both quickly & securely.

[Click here If you would prefer to donate quickly and securely online!](#)

2022 NASPGHAN FOUNDATION GRANT DEADLINE JULY1

August 15, 2022 is the deadline for the **NASPGHAN** Foundation/Abbott Nutrition Advanced Fellowship in Pediatric Nutrition and the **NASPGHAN** Foundation Advanced Fellowship Training in Pediatric Endoscopy applications. **Applications can be submitted on the same site.**

View all of the 2022 NASPGHAN Foundation Grant opportunities available Now.



See the latest on
NASPGHAN Meetings
and
Meetings of Interest

2022 NASPGHAN ANNUAL MEETING ADVERTISING PACKAGE

Publicize your job openings at the **NASPGHAN** Annual Meeting October 12-15, 2022 in Orlando, FL as well on the **NASPGHAN** electronic Job Board.

With a specially-priced package, which will be posted soon on the [NASPGHAN website](#), you can receive a job posting on **NASPGHAN's** electronic Job Board and a discount on **NASPGHAN's** 2022 Annual Meeting job board, which will be available on a meeting app that will be used by all attendees at the Annual Meeting.

You can post an ad or get further details about the package by going to the [Job Board](#)

This is a limited time discount offer, with a deadline of late September.

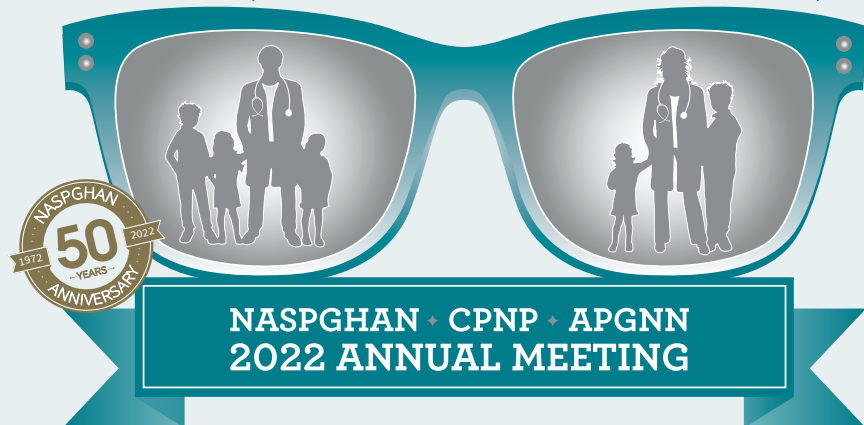
Please contact Kim Rose, Associate Director, **NASPGHAN**, with any questions. 215-641-9800 or (krose@naspgghan.org).



Whether you have a concept and plan sketched on a napkin or an early-stage company, [apply now](#). The top proposals will be selected to pitch in front of an expert panel of Sharks during the October 12th **NASPGHAN Single Topic Symposium on Technology!** The Baby Shark Tank winner will receive a \$500 award, promotion throughout the GI community, support to attend the AGA Tech Summit and Shark Tank Competition in April 2023, and invaluable bragging rights. Applications are due July 15th.

For more information on the **NASPGHAN** Baby Shark Tank [please view the application](#) or contact Ankur Chugh (achugh@mcw.edu) or John Rosen (jmrosen@cmh.edu).

OCTOBER 12-15, 2022 • ROSEN SHINGLE CREEK • ORLANDO, FL



2022 NASPGHAN ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

**Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of NASPGHAN
at this year's Annual Meeting!**

The **NASPGHAN** Annual Meeting, Postgraduate Course and Single Topic Symposium will be in person in Orlando, FL at the Rosen Shingle Creek, October 12-15, 2022. We are excited to be able to gather safely this year and have so many fun surprises planned, in addition to excellent programming. Make sure to stay until Sunday the 16th so you don't miss out on the **NASPGHAN** 50th Anniversary Gala of Legends-Past, Present and Future.

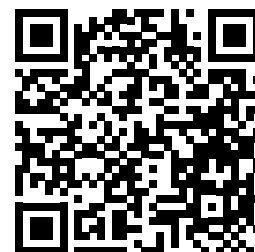
The full event schedule includes:

- ▶ **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12**
[Single Topic Symposium](#)
- ▶ **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13**
[Postgraduate Course](#)
- ▶ **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13—SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15**
[Annual Meetings of NASPGHAN/APGNN/CPNP](#)

[Registration is open](#) and information for the Annual Meeting, including the detailed program information and the link for hotel reservations, [are available online](#).

SINGLE TOPIC SYMPOSIUM COMPETITION

Have a great idea for a medical device that could change our field? **APPLY** for the first ever **NASPGHAN** Baby Shark Tank competition!!!



CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S AWARD WINNERS

NASPGHAN SHWACHMAN AWARD

Carlo Di Lorenzo, MD—Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, OH



NASPGHAN MARGARET STALLING DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Athos Bousvaros, MD, MPH—Boston Children's Hospital, Boston, MA



2022 AAP MURRAY DAVIDSON AWARD

Ronald E. Kleinman, MD, FAAP, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA

Please come to the 2022 Annual Meeting Awards Ceremony on Friday, October 14 at 4:15 PM to celebrate these recipients.



'I AM NASPGHAN' CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF

NASPGHAN is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year and is working on a number of exciting projects that include:

- ◆ A virtual timeline on the **NASPGHAN** website, which will be interactive and enduring
- ◆ A video celebrating the Society and its members
- ◆ A gala event at this year's Annual Meeting in Orlando.

In addition to these activities, fundraising campaign – “**I AM NASPGHAN – 50 years of progress**” has been launched. The purpose of this campaign is to raise funds

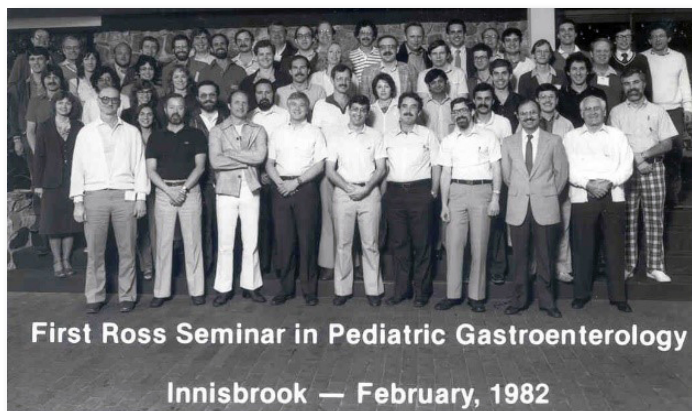
to commemorate 50 years of **NASPGHAN** accomplishments and to ensure that all **NASPGHAN** programs, grants, and resources will consistently be available. **NASPGHAN** is aiming for 100% member participation. No donation is too small! Please join us in showing your commitment to the future of your professional home.

► You can [donate on line](#) or on your cell phone by texting **NASPGHAN50** to 215-608-5488. ◀

NASPGHAN members will have a chance to participate in a weekly challenge as part of the commemoration of the society's 50th Anniversary. Every Friday, there will be a “**Friday Funday Photo Challenge**.” The challenge kicked off on June 17 with two pictures of the first Fellows Conferences that took place in 1982, asking for identifications of those who attended. What will be the next challenge? Wait and see. All answers are to be emailed to (photos@naspghan.org).

This weekly challenge is in conjunction with a **NASPGHAN** historical timeline that will appear on the **NASPGHAN** website in the next few months.

First week challenge—can you name the individuals in these two pictures from the first fellows conferences?



NASPGHAN Reception Digestive Disease Week 2022

Digestive Disease Week was back in May with its first in-person event in two years. Held in San Diego, DDW 2022 attracted many **NASPGHAN** members who also found time to attend a special **NASPGHAN** reception on Sunday, May 22. Turnout was great. Members were thrilled to see their colleagues in person.



CPNP **NASPGHAN**

COUNCIL FOR PEDIATRIC
NUTRITION PROFESSIONALS



*Carmyn Thompson,
CPNP President*

Hello **NASPGHAN** Colleagues!

I can hardly believe that summer is upon us and I hope you are able to enjoy it! CPNP is looking forward to joining you soon for the next **NASPGHAN** Annual Meeting with high hopes that we will all be able to celebrate both an in-person event and the 50th anniversary of **NASPGHAN**!

CPNP has been excited to work on several new projects over the Winter/Spring. One of our main goals for 2022 is to begin

our mentor program in pairing experienced members with either new members or members that are new to their area of practice. I'm pleased to say that we were able to match our first mentor/mentee and were able to have them meet virtually. Although it was not the format we envisioned, I think this pairing made the most of the experience and we look forward to expanding on the program in the future. If you know of any RDs who might be a fit for the mentor program, please have them reach out via email (cpnp.naspghan@gmail.com).

In addition to the educational programming for the CPNP symposium in conjunction with the Annual Meeting, CPNP has also been working on content for our first webinar! We are excited about the possibility to connect with our members throughout the year and offer educational opportunities beyond our symposium.

We are very happy to have been asked to work with our **NASPGHAN** colleagues on several projects, including the development of a joint webinar and a formula task force to address the current shortages. In addition, we are working with the association in evaluating the **NASPGHAN** website. We also continue to appreciate the opportunity to continue with the **NASPGHAN** Foundation research/grant review!

We continue to work on our Nutrition Pearls. We often have increases in membership and more feedback from our **NASPGHAN** and APGNN colleagues after a Pearl is released, so we consider them a vital part of CPNP. If you work with any dietitians that have an interesting topic or are looking for ways to get involved with CPNP, please send them our way!

I am looking forward to the fall celebration of **NASPGHAN's** 50th anniversary and I am so honored to have had the opportunity to be part of such a wonderful organization!

Sincerely,

Carmyn Thompson

Carmyn Thompson, RD, LDN
President, CPNP, Council for Pediatric Nutrition Professionals



*Elizabeth Burch,
APGNN President*



Dear **NASPGHAN** Members,

The first part of 2022 for the Association of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition Nurses (APGNN) has been full of exciting updates and advances for our organization. As many of you know, we launched the Pediatric Gastroenterology Nursing Assessment-Based Certificate Program in late December. The evidence-based modules focus on the fundamentals of Pediatric GI and participants are awarded a Certificate of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition Nursing after passing the program. We've had tremendous interest from our membership along with several institutions who have purchased module bundles for the division nurses and advanced practice providers. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive thus far and we look forward to continued interest and participation. As a reminder, discounts are available to APGNN, **NASPGHAN**, and CPNP members as well as institutions looking to purchase multiple bundles.

Thank you to **NASPGHAN** for including APGNN in the January program planning weekend. The following month, APGNN held our board retreat in Denver to finalize meeting details and the yearly strategic plan. We have a dynamic agenda lined up for the Annual Meeting in October, with a mix of nurses, nurse practitioners, dietitians, psychologists and physicians speaking on topics ranging from disordered eating, NICU transition care, endoscopy, and more. New this year for APGNN is an entire session dedicated to Intestinal Rehabilitation, which we hope to expand upon in coming years.

In March, APGNN revealed our brand-new website that received a complete overhaul in both visual appeal and the Members Only content. APGNN Telephone Triage protocols, Clinical Inquiry resources, and Member accomplishments are just a few of the offerings available through the site. Detailed information about the Annual Meeting, scholarships/awards, and the certificate program are also highlighted, including special acknowledgement to the physician reviewers of the program. Explore the updated site at (www.apgnn.org)!

On behalf of APGNN, thank you for your continued support and engagement. We look forward to seeing everyone in person in Florida!

Warm Regards,

Elizabeth Burch, CPNP

Elizabeth Burch, MSN, RN, CPNP
APGNN President-Elect

Committee and Special Interest Group Reports

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Chair: Hanh Vo, MD, PhD

First, we would like to thank our outgoing members for their contributions and welcome the new members who have recently joined us. We also thank the **NASPGHAN** leadership and Jose Garza, MD, our council liaison, for supporting our ongoing collaborations with other sister societies.

The International Committee continues its collaborative efforts and works on strategies to facilitate interactions and foster collaborations with other pediatric GI societies worldwide, specifically strengthening the current relationships with LASPGHAN and APPSPGHAN. Highlights of collaborative activities achieved by the Committee since last year include:

- ▶ In collaboration with LASPGHAN, we have successfully launched **NASPGHAN visits LASPGHAN webinars** in 4/2021, a series of 4 weekly educational webinars where a **NASPGHAN** member presented a topic and a LASPGHAN member moderated the session.
- ▶ In collaboration with APPSPGHAN, we initiated a **NASPGHAN-APPSPGHAN joint webinar** series to share our knowledge and perspectives on various pediatric digestive diseases, with speakers from each Society highlighting the East and West perspectives on each topic. The first two webinars launched last year (8/2021 and 10/2021) focused on Covid-19 impact and implications in pediatric gastroenterology, non-IgE food allergy, neonatal cholestasis and a debate on H. pylori treatment. The third webinar (3/2022) discussed the concepts and challenges in pediatric living-donor liver transplant and the management outcomes of pediatric liver transplantation. The fourth webinar is scheduled for 9/2022, so stay tuned. This webinar series is also available on-demand via [NASPGHAN LearnOnline](#) and offers **NASPGHAN** members an opportunity to earn CME and MOC Part II credit.
- ▶ The Committee continues to organize the **NASPGHAN-LASPGHAN session** at the 2022 **NASPGHAN** Annual Meeting to strengthen our long-standing collaboration with LASPGHAN. This year's session will include two moderators and three speakers from both societies and cover two topics: (1) Small bowel malabsorptive disorders and Masqueraders of IBS, and (2) Diagnosing celiac disease on both sides of the Atlantic: the 2020 ESPGHAN guidelines and practice realities in North and Latin America. LASPGHAN abstract presentations will also be included. We continue to offer two Meet-the-Professor breakfast sessions in Spanish.

In the coming years, the Committee plans to enhance our joint educational activities and initiate collaborative research projects with LASPGHAN and APPSPGHAN. We would welcome any suggestions and ideas from all **NASPGHAN** members and look forward to collaborating with other **NASPGHAN** Committees on these initiatives.

Finally, the Global Health (GH) SIG, overseen by the International Committee and led by Amer Al-Nimr, MD, and Kerri Gosselin, MD, MPH, has been very active with the following activities over the past year:

- ▶ Sponsored the first annual GH SIG Education Forum (7/2021) and the first annual GH SIG Journal Club (3/2022)
- ▶ GH SIG membership presented and highlighted GH topics at the 2021 **NASPGHAN** Virtual Annual Meeting, including health disparities in liver disease, diverse populations and IBD, GI health issues in international adoptees, Enteropathogenic *E. coli* and viral hepatitis
- ▶ Promoting GH SIG engagement with social media: created a Twitter account and logo in 2020 [@pedsgi_global](#)
- ▶ Foster engagement among GH membership at the 2022 **NASPGHAN** Annual Meeting; GH topics of interest include:
 - Meet-the-Professor breakfast session on GH training and opportunities for pediatric GI fellows or junior faculty
 - Updates on hepatitis B and C
 - GH abstracts

NUTRITION COMMITTEE

Chair: Timothy Sentongo, MD
Vice-Chair: Debora Duro, MD

The Nutrition Committee remains lively with 38 active members, including representatives from the Intestinal Failure Special Interest Group (SIG) and Council for Pediatric Nutrition Professionals (CPNP). The availability of Zoom has amazingly facilitated 'face-to-name matching' and collegiality! The whole committee meets at least quarterly by Zoom, while small subcommittees tackling designated projects meet more frequently. The projects include, but are not limited to topical reviews for publication, reviewing Foundation Grants, highlighting aspects of childhood nutrition that need advocacy and any nutrition related assignments delegated by **NASPGHAN** leadership.

Early this year we were all presented with the mammoth challenge imposed by Abbott's nationwide recall of specialized powdered formula. A short web survey that was conducted by the Nutrition Committee to gauge the impact revealed that 97% of respondents representing pediatric gastroenterology providers and their patient families dependent on the recalled formulas were negatively impacted. The survey also enabled practitioners to provide feedback about previously unrecognized systemic gaps in supply of specialized nutrition products, ability to respond to manufacturing and supply chain disruptions and insurance coverage. This documentation has been very helpful as **NASPGHAN** and nearly 40 other organizations advocate for signing of the Medical Nutrition Equity Act.

In early April, the Committee held the 11th annual Nutrition University (N²U) virtually. ([See page 16.](#)) It was, again, a successful event with more than 80% of the participants strongly agreed that the program was very relevant their work.

While virtual has helped our Committee, we look forward to the in-person celebration of **NASPGHAN's** 50th Anniversary at the 2022 Annual Meeting in October.

PANCREAS COMMITTEE

Chair: Maisam Abu-El-Haija, MD

Vice-Chair: Zachary Sellers, MD, PhD

As one of the most junior committees within **NASPGHAN**, established only as of 2014, the Pancreas Committee has accomplished some huge milestones and taken leaps of progress towards improving the knowledge about the field. Committee efforts are put into projects through a team approach and eagerness to collaborate with much enthusiasm. The Committee's mission is "Improve the knowledge and care of children with pancreatic disorders". The Committee has taken significant steps towards fulfilling that mission, educating ourselves, educating our **NASPGHAN** colleagues through our participation in the Annual Meeting, educating the community through society papers and educating the patients through materials on GIKids.org and other avenues. Indeed, an approach that is encompassing all 360 degrees.

This year the Committee partnered with the **NASPGHAN** Foundation and industry to secure the first ever pancreas research grant. The Committee is very excited to see the next generation of junior scientists invested in the field of Pancreatology. In April, the Pancreas Committee hosted a webinar on chronic pancreatitis management in children. The webinar co-chairs were Drs. Maisam Abu-El-Haija and Michael Wilsey. Speakers were Drs. A. Jay Freeman, Asim Maqbool and Racha Khalaf. The webinar was highly successful, and the Committee is grateful to all the efforts that went into organizing, executing, and broadcasting it.



We are grateful to the executive committee and their leadership: Dr. Michael Wilsey (Outreach Director), and Dr. Zachary Sellers (Vice Chair). Thank you to all the wonderful committee members who are carrying different workloads in the following arenas; patient animation, society papers, and designing a Single Topic Symposium and other important activities for pancreas.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair: Rina Sanghavi, MD

Vice-Chair: Kimberley Chien, MD

The Professional Development Committee (PDC) have been hard at work developing new and ongoing resources to support **NASPGHAN** members' career development. Along with support from the **NASPGHAN** leadership and the Training Committee, the Professional Development Committee will launch the first Junior Faculty Career Development Conference supported by a generous grant from Fresenius Kabi. This conference will take place December 1-3 in Chicago.

In addition, the Committee is currently reviewing applications for positions on **NASPGHAN** committees and strive to ensure diverse representation on all committees. We thank you all for providing details with your committee interest application forms to help us in this process. In the [February 2022 JPGN](#), we published a review and call to action on the current state of diversity in selected leadership positions in training programs for pediatric GI in the United States. [We found underrepresentation of women in positions of leadership that control finances, and under representation of minority races in all leadership positions.](#)

In continued response to this, we will once again host our Women in Medicine breakfast at the Annual Meeting in Florida October, 13-15 this year. We hope to see support from all members for this, including both men and women, to truly move the needle towards progress. Our PDC sessions this year will feature some amazing speakers on a variety of topics of professional interest. Please review the **NASPGHAN** Annual Meeting agenda for details and try to attend our sessions.

In addition, we continue to have professional development resources to help members build upon their clinical knowledge base and/or enhance their procedural skills, enhance their leadership skills, improve presentation and teaching skills, advance their careers in academic medicine and maintain wellness. [Please visit the website to access these resources.](#) If you have ideas or questions pertinent to professional development, please feel free to reach out to the chair or vice chair at any time.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Chair: Peter Lu, MD, MS

It has been a busy few months for the Technology Committee since our last update!

First of all, we are thrilled to have the opportunity to host the Single Topic Symposium at this year's 50th Anniversary **NASPGHAN** Annual Meeting, titled "The Next 50 Years: Technology and the Future of Pediatric Gastroenterology." Mark your calendars – the symposium will take place on Wednesday, October 12. We hope to recognize the tradition of innovation within pediatric gastroenterology, discuss the opportunities technology offers both the clinician and the researcher in our current era, and learn about ways technology will shape the next

50 years of our Society and field. Our planning committee includes the leaders of the Technology Committee (Peter Lu, Ankur Chugh, Jason Silverman, Jenn Lee), Data Science SIG (Sana Syed, Jasbir Dhaliwal), EHR SIG (Jeannie Huang) and Telehealth SIG (John Rosen). Don't miss it – we guarantee that it will be the best symposium of your professional career (or at least the best symposium on technology and pediatric gastroenterology of calendar year 2022).

Our **NASPGHAN** podcast, *Bowel Sounds: The Pediatric GI Podcast*, remains hyperactive (blame Jon Moses for the excellent pun). We recently reached over 100,000 episode downloads from 127 countries and territories since our first episode with Carlo Di Lorenzo at the 2019 Annual Meeting! Thanks to the hard work of Jason, Kathleen Regan, and the Professional Education Committee, our recent podcast episodes are now eligible for CME and we are working on making our past episodes CME-eligible as well. We have also started a series of episodes in partnership with *JPGN*, including a recent episode with Jim Squires on the recent pediatric acute liver failure position paper. Finally, our May 23 episode with Marc Benninga from Amsterdam begins a series of episodes with guests from outside of **NASPGHAN** – started because of input from loyal listeners around the globe. If you don't already, subscribe now on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or wherever you listen to podcasts to hear hosts Temara Hajjat, Jason, Jenn, and Peter talk to leaders in our field about their favorite Netflix shows (and other stuff). New episodes come out every other Monday.

Our Social Media Subcommittee, led by chair Kevin Watson, has been hard at work growing the social media presence of our society. We now have over 4,000 followers on Twitter, over 2,000 on YouTube, and over 1,000 on Instagram and Facebook. Brandon Sparks has been working with Opus, our website and social media management company, to generate our day-to-day **NASPGHAN** and GIKids posts. We have designated a committee liaison, Temara, to facilitate access to our social media platforms for all of our committees and SIGs. One of our recent collaborative projects is with our Diversity SIG to highlight the diversity of our society and field. Through this collaboration, we featured B U.K. Li (former **NASPGHAN** President, cyclic vomiting syndrome authority, and founder of the Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association) on our social media platforms and website, in recognition of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. One of the Social Media Subcommittee's most exciting projects (which many of you have already participated in) is our monthly [#PedsGICChat](#) on Twitter, led by Ross Maltz, Rudy Sanchez, Kevin and Temara. Each chat continues the conversation of a Bowel Sounds podcast episode. Our first chat in April 2022 was on

pediatric acute liver failure with guest Mohit Kehar and our second chat in May 2022 was on pregnancy and fertility in inflammatory bowel disease with an esteemed panel that included Sandra Kim, Hilary Michel, Whitney Gray and Traci Kazmerski. Our hope is that the chat will provide an opportunity to learn and interact with other colleagues between meetings in a bi-directional way (as opposed to our webinars and podcasts). [Follow @PedsGICChat on Twitter](#) to make sure you don't miss future chats!

Our Website Subcommittee, led by chair Eduardo Rosas-Blum, was created to facilitate ongoing improvement of our **NASPGHAN** website – which is not only a resource we all use regularly but also the face of our organization to the public. We started by gathering data with a survey of our membership. If you have not already, please complete the survey sent by Eduardo, Ada Lee, and Nicole Martin. Search for “**NASPGHAN** Website Feedback” in your email if you can't find the invitation.

We've created a Technology Evaluation & Development Subcommittee, led by chair John Hollier, in response to a growing interest among members of both our Committee and our Society more broadly, in the adoption and development of digital tools and medical technology. [You can access the survey here.](#)

Our goal of supporting innovation in our field has also led to the creation of a must-see first-ever Baby Shark Tank event at this year's Single Topic Symposium, organized by Ankur and John Rosen. Finalists will be selected to pitch their pediatric gastroenterology-related innovation to a panel of Sharks (which will include our President, President-Elect, and several others with experience in medical technology commercialization). The winner will receive a monetary prize, invaluable bragging rights, and complimentary entry to the Shark Tank competition at the AGA's annual Tech Summit. Information on how to apply will be coming soon!

Finally, we are also putting the finishing touches on a societal position paper on how social media can and should be used by individuals, organizations, and our society to improve how we do our work as clinicians, researchers, and educators. Thank you to our writing team (Jason, Ankur, Nicole, John Hollier, Priya Venkataraman, Rajitha Venkatesh, Vikram Raghu, Miranda van Tilburg and Peter).

If you made it this far, you're probably Ankur proofreading this update again. But if there happens to be anyone else, we have even more exciting projects that we will be revealing soon. We all recognize the good that social media can do – but also the very, very bad. Our committee has been busy thinking of ways (with the help of other individuals and committees) to fulfill our responsibility to fight misinformation – especially misinformation in our own field. More to come!

Welcome New 2022 NASPGHAN Members (as of June 2022)

Samir Gadepalli

Mohammad Hussein

Dominique Mark

Kelly Rodriguez

Jacklyn Stellway

Zubin Grover

Rachel M. Krugfit

Marina Orsi

Amanda Schuck-Pfhan

Joel Winnick

NASPGHAN—Abbott

2022 First-Year Pediatric GI Fellows Conference

Course Co-Directors: Brian McFerron, MD & Elizabeth Milet, MD



The **NASPGHAN**-Abbott First-Year Fellows Conference returned to in-person in Orlando, Florida at the Rosen Plaza Hotel from January 13-16, 2022. We celebrated the 20th anniversary of this conference. More than 115 fellows from throughout North America participated in this dynamic conference.

The conference provided exposure to multiple aspects of pediatric gastroenterology, including various career paths for the pediatric gastroenterologist, the mentor/mentee relationship, maximizing scholarly/research time during fellowship, fostering resilience throughout training and beyond as well as a dedicated portion of the meeting to discuss ways to promote diversity, equity and inclusion in our field. Various lectures ranged from “Developing Your Research Project” to “How to Choose Your Mentor” to “Optimizing Your Experience as a Mentee” to “Finding the Right Career Path” to “Emotional Intelligence” and “Work-Life Integration” among others. Each series of lectures were followed by open panel discussions in which faculty discussed their individual career pathways, including their successes and failures. Small group sessions were held each day as well. A variety of topics were available for attendees to choose from to foster career exploration as well as options to discuss common professional conundrums. Each evening, the group relaxed with the now famous GI Jeopardy, karaoke night and ended the highly successful conference with faculty and fellows dancing late into the night (with a surprise appearance by Dr. Norberto Rodriguez-Baez)!



Making this conference possible was a terrific group of faculty with a diversity of clinical and research interests: Drs. Brian McFerron (Course Co-Director), Elizabeth Milet (Course Co-Director), Ericka Montijo (Mexican Councilor), Ben Gold (NASPGHAN President), Christine Lee, Jose Garza, Joseph Croffie, Bruno Chumpitazi, Jen Colombo, Ed de Zoeten, Rula Harb and Karyn Wulf (Abbott – Medical Director).

This conference, which began in 2002, continues due to the generous support of Abbott Nutrition (Donnie Michel), guidance and support by Margaret Stallings (**NASPGHAN** Executive Director), and the incredible conference planning by Howard Wise (CTP Group). This conference has been instrumental in the development of lasting professional relationships within the field of pediatric gastroenterology as well as fostering early career development. The group was thrilled to return to an in-person conference focused on the next generation of Pediatric Gastroenterologists!

NASPGHAN—Abbott

2022 Second-Year Pediatric GI Fellows Conference

Course Co-Directors: Jose M Garza, MD & Melanie Greifer, MD



NASPGHAN /Abbott 2nd Year Fellows Conference
March 31 - April 2, 2022

Abbott supported the **NASPGHAN** Second-Year Fellows Conference, which took place on March 31st-April 2 in Scottsdale, Arizona. Careful planning and effort were vital in assuring the safety of the attendees, and we are happy to report that thanks to our strict protocols and **NASPGHAN** “bubble,” there were zero COVID cases!

The conference provided second-year Pediatric GI Fellows from across North America with the opportunity to meet and network with faculty and their co-fellows in person for the first time since the start of their fellowship. Fellows were exposed to a career-building program that included topics on how to apply, prepare and interview for a job, work/life integration, faculty panels, and small groups highlighting different career paths. The diverse and energetic **NASPGHAN** faculty represented various backgrounds and career paths. They participated in faculty panels, including “Fasten your seatbelts, it’s going to be a bumpy ride,” where faculty shared their different personal and career challenges and how they overcame them – this has become a fellow favorite during the conferences.

Special thanks to Donnie Michel and Abbott for supporting this successful meeting for another great year. Finally the conference included Line Dancing on the Western night and a DJ for disco night which allowed us to have fun and decompress while maintaining our safe bubble. We are so thankful to the 2022 faculty without whom this meeting could not have happened: Eric Benchimol, Valeria Cohran, Rosalyn Diaz, Rima Fawaz, Benjamin Gold, Mel Heyman, Christine Lee, Jenifer Lightdale, Kathleen Loomes, Peter Lu, Mitchel Shub, Jennifer Strople, and Catharine Walsh. Last but NOT least, this annual conference would never happen without the ever-present dedication, energy, hard work, and unwavering support of Margaret Stallings, Laura Smith and the **NASPGHAN** National office.



NASPGHAN Nutrition University (N²U) Held Virtually

Chair: Timothy Sentongo, MD



On April 8, 9 and 10, **NASPGHAN** Nutrition University (N²U) was held virtually with 40 participants.

Of the 40 attendees, 20 were third year fellows, 10 were junior faculty and 10 were registered dietitians. The activities were limited to 3.5 hours each day to avoid virtual fatigue. More than 80% of the participants strongly agreed that the program was very relevant their work.

Special thanks to the engaging faculty: Florencia Brioni, MS, RD; Alison Cassin, MS, RD, CSP, LD; Valeria Cohran, MD; Debra Duro, MD, MS; Praveen S. Goday, MBBS; Kirsten Jones, RD, CSP, LD; Catherine Larson-Nath, MD, CNSC; Nicole Martin, RD, CSP, CD; Maria Mascarenhas, MBBS; Lauren Matschull, MBA, RD, CD, CNSC; Laura Padula, MS, RD, CSP, LDN; Jill Rockwell, RD, CSP, LD, CNSC, CCTD; Robert J. Shulman, MD; Justine Turner, MBBS, FRACP, PhD.

A big acknowledgment also goes to the CME reviewers, Margaret Stallings, Laura Smith and the other supportive staff at our **NASPGHAN** office for their tremendous behind-the-scenes preparatory work involved in successfully organizing events. Once again, two thumbs up to Kenny Reff of Limelight Communications for enhancing the virtual learning experience.

Finally, thanks to the **NASPGHAN** Foundation and Nutricia North America for its ongoing, unwavering support of N²U.



JPGN

News from the Editor

Sandeep K. Gupta MD
Western Hemisphere, JPGN

Happy Summer 2022! It continues to amaze me how our Journal is growing – and the Editorial Team is grateful for your support as readers and authors. It was

great to see so many of our colleagues at DDW and we just cannot wait to meet again at **NASPGHAN's** 50th anniversary celebrations this Fall. Below are some notes from our editors who are helping lead several of our newer offerings.

Tanaz Danialifar, MD—CME Editor

JPGN recently launched the Post Publication Educational Materials Newsletter, which is distributed to members of the PedsGI Bulletin Board. It highlights a range of educational materials for which **NASPGHAN** members and non-members can earn CME/MOC Part II credits. The educational content includes highlighted infographics, self-assessment questions on some articles, and Image of the Month Quick Poll. Feel free to share the material with your colleagues, medical students, residents, fellows and other health care professionals.

Please let us know your thoughts on this initiative, how you are utilizing the material, and what can we do differently. A record 663 readers obtained CME credits on JPGN materials in 2021.

Darla Shores, MD—Invited Reviews Editor

JPGN is seeking high quality articles for the Topic of the Month and Invited Review section. If you have ideas about where the gaps are in practice and knowledge are for your trainees, young faculty and specialized senior faculty wishing to stay up to date beyond their area of expertise, please share them with us! We will use your ideas to guide our invitations for articles for these highly valued papers. Please send ideas to Invited Reviews Editor (dshores1@jhmi.edu).

Athos Bousvaros, MD—Societal Papers Editor

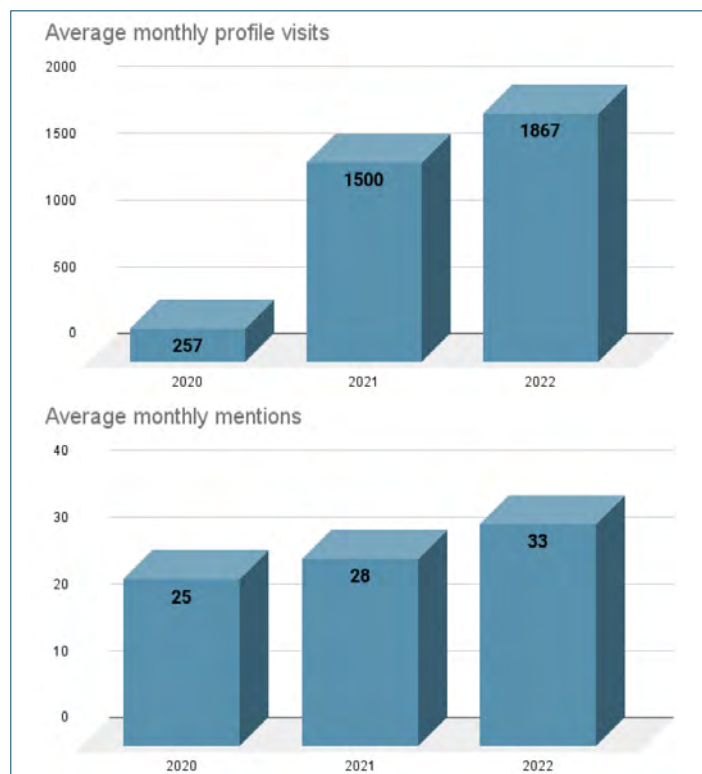
NASPGHAN Clinical Practice Guidelines and Position Papers are educational tools intended to provide clinical guidance and suggestions for best practice to active clinicians. Over the past year, several important [NASPGHAN position papers have been published](#), providing guidance on care of central lines, liver failure, chronic pancreatitis, and other topics. Several more position papers are currently in preparation, focusing on topics such as transition to adult care and social media. All published position papers are freely available on the **NASPGHAN** website, and we encourage clinicians to review the recommendations in these papers. We always encourage feedback from **NASPGHAN** members on our position papers and email me at (Athos.Bousvaros@childrens.harvard.edu).

Jason Silverman, MD—Social Media Editor

The addition of the Image of the Month Quick Poll to the JPGN website has been a huge hit, and related social media posts have created some of the highest engagement and visits back to the JPGN website of all posts. We continue to refresh the Quick Poll about twice a month.

The first special JPGN episode of the [Bowel Sounds podcast](#) was released April 11, 2022.

Please continue to provide your Twitter handle to JPGN when submitting your work - this helps us promote your articles. We appreciate your continuing to like and re-tweet our posts at [facebook](#) the JPGN and [Twitter](#) @JPGNOnline. Below are some recent social media metrics for JPGN.



Jeannie Huang, MD—Associate Editor

At the upcoming **NASPGHAN** Annual Meeting, we will be hosting a Meet the Editors Breakfast session on Saturday October 15, 2022. A panel of editors from both our journals – JPGN and *JPGN Reports* – will discuss the various facets of publishing in our journals and share their thoughts on commonly encountered issues. We hope you will sign up for this informative breakfast session.

Ali Manieri—Lead Publisher

You will note several changes and updates to the JPGN website, www.jpgn.org, including the Quick Poll and Infographics carousel. We have linked to Bowel Sounds on the landing page. We are excited to enhance the website Table of Contents with a representative figure/table for each article as shown in the screen-shot below. Please continue to share your ideas for website and journal enhancement.



I hope the preceding information gives you a glimpse of the work your editorial team is doing to elevate the educational offerings of *JPGN*. In addition, the June 2022 issue of *JPGN* carries an editorial on '2021 *JPGN* Highlights'.

Please continue to submit your work to *JPGN* – our average turn-around time from submission to first decision for peer-reviewed manuscript is just over 3 weeks at 23.9 days. [Thank you for submitting your work to *JPGN*.](#)



We look forward to your ideas, thoughts, suggestions and advice – my email is (sgupta@iu.edu)

Sandeep K. Gupta MD
Editor-in-Chief, JPGN, Western Hemisphere

2022 NASPGHAN, APGNN, CPNP DIRECTORIES NOW AVAILABLE IN NASPGHAN MEMBER CENTER



The 2022 annual **NASPGHAN**, **APGNN** and **CPNP** membership directories are now posted on the **NASPGHAN** website. The PDF versions of the **NASPGHAN** directory, **CPNP** directory and **APGNN** directory are in the [member section of the NASPGHAN website](#). Members can also search for other **NASPGHAN**

members in the Member Center *Members Only* Member Search Directory, which reflects the live membership database and current information for each member. It is searchable by name as well as location. Use your **NASPGHAN** user name and password to access the Member Center.

NASPGHAN 2022 Elections

Congratulations to the following **NASPGHAN** members who have been selected to run in this year's elections. Stay tuned for more information on when ballots will be sent and on how you can "Meet the Candidates".

PRESIDENT ELECT

Vicky Ng
 Justine Turner

ETHICS CHAIR

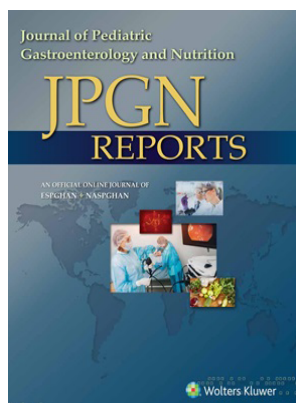
Miranda van Tilburg
 William Wenner

MEXICAN COUNCILOR

Jorge Chávez Saenz
 Ulises Leal Quirogo
 Erick Toro Monjaraz

COUNCILOR

Kevin Kelly
 Christine Lee
 Dedrick Moulton
 Jennifer Stroppe
 Qian Yuan



JPGN REPORTS

News from the Editor

Mel Heyman, MD
Western Hemisphere, JPGN Reports

JPGN Reports, our new open access journal, is doing well. Thank you to all

of you who are submitting manuscripts for potential publication in *JPGN Reports*, our clinically oriented journal.

We have had more than 400 submissions and more than 200 accepted articles to date. In 2021 alone, *JPGN Reports* had 134 unique, new submissions and received 129 additional manuscripts transferred directly from the *Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition (JPGN)*. Transferred manuscripts include transfer of reviews, if done, by *JPGN*; authors then have the opportunity to revise their manuscripts before submitting to *JPGN Reports*. Note that submissions transferred to *JPGN Reports* from *JPGN* may still undergo review by the Editors and by invited reviewers. Acceptance rates for *JPGN Reports* are approximately 61% of all new submissions and 67% of all transferred submissions.

Articles are published continuously after acceptance, proofing, and final author approval. Each quarter a Compendium is published, comprised of articles published online in *JPGN Reports* during the prior three months, since the prior Compendium. The most recent Compendium was published online in May 2022 and can be [viewed on the website](#).

JPGN Reports welcomes your case reports and other clinically related materials (see [“About the Journal” on the website](#) for full description). The publisher (Wolters Kluwer) and the editors continue to work closely to prepare our application for PubMed Central review and approval hopefully in the next few months. PubMed Central is a free digital repository that archives open access full-text scholarly articles that have been published. Once approved, all published articles to date (from inception of the journal) will be indexed in PubMed. After PubMed Central approval, we anticipate that the Web of Science, a unifying research tool that enables the user to acquire, analyze, and disseminate database information, will pick up *JPGN Reports* and begin tracking citations of the *JPGN Reports*' publications to generate an impact factor two years after journal acceptance ([by the Web of Science](#)).

Recently updated Instructions for Authors (IFAs) can be found on the [website](#).

PEER REVIEW FOR JPGN REPORTS

As with other peer-review journals (including *JPGN*), *JPGN Reports* has issues with reviewer compliance. For our journal, approximately 50% of all reviewers who are invited to review a manuscript decline or do not answer the request to review. This is a frustrating issue for our Associate Editors, who strive to provide rapid turnaround to authors. Having to invite another set of reviewers for a submission can take several days, and in some cases, reviews may be delayed by 10-14 days, or rarely longer, thus delaying decisions for our authors. Therefore, I again encourage all of you to help our journal (and *JPGN*!) with our peer review process. YOU are the experts in pediatric gastroenterology, and, especially for clinical work, we depend on your expertise in helping to determine what to publish and/or how to improve manuscripts submitted to our journal.

Marianna Hagan, our managing editor, recently updated our reviewer database. Please review your information to assure that we can contact you to review submissions to *JPGN Reports*. If you would like to review manuscripts submitted to *JPGN Reports* and have not received an invitation to review in the last year, please make sure your information is correct on our website and/or contact Marianna at (marianna.hagan@wolterskluwer.com). If you have specific clinical or other interests and expertise, please let Marianna or Dr. Heyman (Mel.Heyman@ucsf.edu) know to pass this information to the Editors. CME credit is available for reviewers of submissions to *JPGN Reports*. Thank you for participating in our peer review process!

ARE YOU FOLLOWING JPGN REPORTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA?

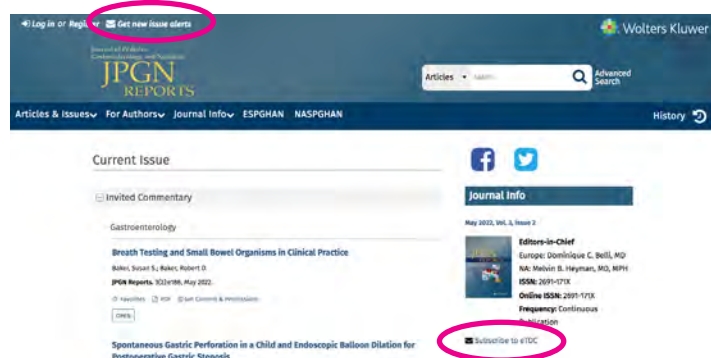
Our Social Media Editors, Natasha Cavalcante and Dr. Rajitha Venkatesh, have been actively posting on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). Make sure to “Like”, “Follow” and “Share” your posts – these help build interest and visibility in our Journal and articles published within the journal.

Of special note, our publisher has complimented the progress (number of submissions, publications) of our new journal, *JPGN Reports*, and noted that we have had recent case reports receiving a large amount of attention on social media. [Altmetrics](#), a measure that gauges immediate attention to articles, is a less formal way, compared with the Impact Factor, to judge the impact and reach of articles and thus of a journal. For example, a recent article on [SARS-CoV-2](#) showed presence of viral material in the intestinal epithelium three months after infection and (as of May 19, 2022) has an Altmetric score of 1493! A second article on liver failure due to type 2 autoimmune hepatitis associated with [SARS-CoV-2 infection](#) has an Altmetric score of 1537 (May 22, 2022)! Thus, our case reports are having a significant impact within the medical and outside communities.

CHANGE OF EDITOR-IN-CHIEF FOR JPGN REPORTS

As of January 1, 2023, Dr. Sandeep Gupta will be taking over as the Editor-in-Chief for *JPGN Reports*. It has been a privilege and a pleasure for me to serve as the inaugural Editor-in-Chief for our new journal over the last two years, hopefully getting us on the right track. My immediate goal remains to pursue PubMed Central approval before handing the reigns to Sandeep, who I'm sure, will do a wonderful job carrying the journal forward.

Subscribe to alerts and to the electronic table of contents by signing up at the [JPGN Reports website](#).



Please feel free to contact Marianna (marianna.hagan@wolterskluwer.com) or me (mel.heyman@ucsf.edu) if you have any further questions or suggestions.

Have a safe and fun summer!

Mel Heyman, MD
Editor-in-Chief, Western Hemisphere, *JPGN Reports*



Billing & Coding

Provided by Kathleen A. Mueller, RN, CPC, CCS-P, QMC, QMGC, CGCS, ICD-10 Proficient President, AskMueller Consulting, LLC in Association with McVey Associates, Inc.

NASPGHAN SUMMER 2022

Welcome to the second half of 2022. One of the major issues this year involves billing for the services provided to inpatients when the care is done by both physician and advance practice providers, otherwise known as split-shared policy. In one of the Q&A questions, this will be explored in more detail and the discussion will provide information about the proposed policy for 2023. That policy involves solely billing under the provider that spends more than 50% in the total care of the patient. Currently, multiple societies worked together to draft a proposal submitted to CMS on 4-23-22, which states to continue billing under the provider who either did the substantive documentation in the visit or the provider who did more than 50% of the total visit time with the patient that date citing dramatic negative financial impact to the practices. Most likely, this will be under consideration with no final answer for at least 60 days after the proposal was submitted.

Q&A SESSION

QUESTION #1

I am having a hard time understanding the split shared service and the modifier FS. When my Nurse Practitioner sees a patient in a hospital setting, both providers need to have documentation on the hospital notes besides their signatures? Is it the same rules for office setting and would I be adding the FS in these cases? When would I be using the Modifier FS—Every time our nurse practitioner and a physician are on the same note? Is the FS for reporting purposes only or would it effect the reimbursement as well?

ANSWER #1

1. APPs can function and bill independently. Split-share only applies to the hospital not the office.
2. Yes, the FS goes on the visit in the hospital when notes are in the record for both providers on the same date and it goes on the billing provider's claim that did the substantial portion of the visit. FS is for reporting only and right now is only required by Medicare and some BCBS plans. The modifier is informational only. However, some other commercial payers (eg, Cigna and United Healthcare) say to submit the claim under the provider that does the substantive part of the visit, but they just don't use the term "split-shared" service.

Here is some more information on the split shared visit rule:

- ▶ A split shared visit is a medically necessary encounter where both the physician and the NPP (Non-Physician Practitioner) each perform a substantive portion of an E&M visit on the same date of service with the same patient. You must bill under the practitioner who performed the substantive portion of the encounter.
- ▶ [More information on CMS Split-Shared Policy](#)

	2022	2023
Who can bill?	Non Critical Care: A) Whomever performed one of the three key components in its entirety OR B) Whomever spends more than half the total visit time Critical Care: Whomever spends more than half the total visit time.	All Services: Whomever spends more than half of the total visit time <u>ONLY</u>
Face-to-Face Requirement	Beginning in 2022, one of the practitioners must have had a face-to-face (in-person) contact with the patient but this does not necessarily have to be the physician nor practitioner who performs the substantive portion and bills for the visit. (This means the substantive portion can be comprised of time that is with or without direct patient contact).	Same rules apply in 2023

Example #1:

- ▶ APN Sally documents a hospital progress note, which contains the chief complaint, interval history, physical examination, and portions of the assessment/plan of care
- ▶ Physician adds an attestation to Sally's note which contains the COMPLETE assessment/plan of care
- ▶ Visit may be billed under the physician
- ▶ For year 2022 only.

Example #2:

- ▶ APN Sally documents a hospital progress note where she spent 15 minutes in the care of the patient.
- ▶ Physician adds an attestation to Sally's progress note and spent 35 minutes in the care of the patient.
- ▶ Visit may be billed under the physician
- ▶ Make sure each provider documented details to support time billing
- ▶ For year 2022 & 2023

QUESTION #2

I Patient was seen in the office on 3/30. Later in the day, the patient presented to the hospital. There was no indication in the office note that the patient needed to or should present to the hospital. I billed the new patient visit first. My coworker billed a subsequent hospital visit for the patient later, unaware I had already billed the new patient visit for the same day. MCR paid both services but then has recouped the money for the new patient visit. Since we can only bill one visit on the

3/30 DOS, which is the appropriate service to bill for, the new patient visit or the subsequent hospital visit?

ANSWER #2

Only one E&M visit is payable to the same practice on the same date so you would bill the visit where the patient ended up. In this case, the inpatient visit would be billable. Since there is no “3-year rule” for initial inpatient care, an initial inpatient visit would be billable.

This issue occurs even when the patient is sent from the office to the ER/hospital. There must be communication from the provider to the charge entry staff when the patient is sent to the hospital. Office charges should be held on those patients until location of the patient is confirmed for that date.

QUESTION #3

We are receiving payer denials when we are submitting claims for e/m services for the same date of service by two of our providers with two different specialties (Colon rectal surgeon vs. Gastroenterology). Both physician’s bill under the same group NPI and tax id. Would two visits performed on the same date of service be eligible for payment if they were provided by two different specialties?

ANSWER #3

Yes, both visits should be paid since two different specialty providers saw the patient and documented visits. Make sure that your colorectal surgeon is set up/credentialed with a different taxonomy code 208C00000X for colorectal surgery from your gastroenterologist’s taxonomy code of 207RG0100X. If not, that is most likely your problem.

QUESTION #4

Our providers have finally agreed that some of their visits should be based upon total time not medical decision making as per the 2021 E&M revisions in the office. What do you suggest we use as verbiage if we start to add the time spent on our office notes?

ANSWER #4

It seem to have taken over a year for providers to get comfortable with the new guidelines. Since a good percentage of follow-up care does involve reviewing of internal records and coordination of care in addition to the face-to-face time with the patient and their families, it makes sense for pediatric gastroenterology providers to learn to document time appropriately. Listed below, are some examples.

Examples:

I spent _____ minutes reviewing her records , _____ minutes in history, examination, and counseling and an additional _____ minutes documenting this visit, coordination of care and adding new orders.

or

_____ minutes of total time spent in the care of the patient on the day of her visit reviewing records, examining the patient, documentation and coordination of care.

Best practice is to break down the time as listed in the first example.



American Academy of Pediatrics Corner

A primary goal of the Section on Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (SOGHN) of the American Academy of Pediatrics is to connect

pediatric gastroenterologists with primary care pediatricians (PCPs) through AAP. In 2021, 7 AAP chapters received grants through a competitive application process for the GI Speakers Program as part of their Chapter CME/Annual Meeting. Presentations on relevant GI topics were given at State Chapter meetings for Maine, New Mexico, Florida, Colorado, Ohio, Georgia and Massachusetts, and speakers included Noah Hoffman, MD, Deborah Duro, MD, FAAP, Barbara Howard, MD, Christine Waasdorp, MD, FAAP, Reema Gulati, MD, FAAP, Sarah Adams, MD, FAAP, Barbara McElhanon, MD, Steven Liu, MD, Jose Garza, MD, Jay Fong, MD, FAAP, and Laurie Fishman, MD, FAAP. We look forward to continuing this program in 2022 and to partnering with **NASPGHAN** on a proposed new chapter speakers program on Hepatitis C.

Estella Alonso, MD, FAAP, Lurie Children’s Hospital, received the Murray Davidson Award from the SOGHN at this year’s **NASPGHAN** Awards Ceremony. We were pleased to recognize her contributions as a trailblazer in our field, akin to the efforts of Murray Davidson, MD, FAAP, after whom the award is named. More information about these awards and our SOGHN activities can be found at www.aap.org/SOGHN.

The SOGHN has established the Patient and Family Education Subcommittee, under the leadership of Christine Waasdorp Hurtado, MD, MSCS, FAAP. They have already updated articles for HealthyChildren.org, the AAP Parenting Website, on the FODMAP diet, Hepatitis C, GERD, and Infant Vomiting. And they are now working on Celiac Disease and Fatty Liver (NAFLD). I’m excited that these articles are being updated since this web site is trusted and gets a great deal of parent traffic.

For more information or to volunteer for a committee role in the SOGHN, contact Debra Burrowes at (dburrowes@aap.org).

Mitch Cohen, MD, FAAP

Chair, AAP Section on Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Nutrition
(mcohen@peds.uab.edu)

Public Affairs & Advocacy Report

Effective Advocacy Requires Individual Commitment and Collaboration



JENNIFER DOTSON, MD, MPH

Chair, NASPGHAN Public Affairs & Advocacy Committee

In the **NASPGHAN** 2022 winter newsletter, I asked **NASPGHAN** members to “be the squeaky wheel” when it comes to grassroots advocacy. We all have incredible demands on our time, but advocacy on behalf of our patients is a cornerstone of our profession, and that advocacy extends to policymakers.

Since the beginning of 2022, **NASPGHAN** has been actively engaged on a number of policy issues, some of which are highlighted below. I want to thank every **NASPGHAN** member who has heeded our calls to action this year, whether it has been commenting in support of the proposed magnet safety standard, or asking members of Congress to support legislation to improve access to medical foods. The midterm elections are approaching. This means we have a narrow window of opportunity to convince lawmakers that the issues we care about deserve their attention and support.

Once again, I encourage you to take part in **NASPGHAN**’s advocacy efforts by responding to our calls to action. Be the squeaky wheel, and, collectively, our advocacy will be the grease that drives success.

MEDICAL NUTRITION

The current infant formula shortage is shining a bright light on the vulnerability of patients with GI and metabolic disorders that rely on specialty formulas. For more than five years, **NASPGHAN** has led a coalition of patient and provider organizations advocating for legislation that would require insurance companies to cover these formulas. While co-sponsorship of the legislation - the *Medical Nutrition Equity Act* - has grown, many congressional staff don’t understand the essential nature of these formulas for some patients.

While **NASPGHAN** is advocating for immediate actions to stem the formula crisis, as well as long-term solutions to prevent a shortage of this magnitude in the future, we are also educating Congress that even when the shortage subsides, many patients will remain in crisis because insurance companies deny or restrict access to these formulas and is why passage of the Medical Nutrition Equity Act is necessary.

Information about the MNEA and information for contacting your members of Congress can be found [here](#).

HIGH-POWERED MAGNETS

On Jan. 10, 2022, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) published a proposal to establish a mandatory safety standard for magnets. The new rule would require each loose, separable magnet within a magnet set to be either too large enough to swallow, or to have a flux index of less than 50 kG2 mm2. If finalized, the rule would effectively ban the high-powered magnet sets that have posed serious injury risks to children.

For more than a decade, **NASPGHAN** has advocated for a ban on the sale of tiny high-powered magnets. **NASPGHAN** fought for and won a strong safety standard that was put into place in 2015, but ultimately repealed following a successful legal challenge by Zen Magnets.

On March 28, **NASPGHAN** and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) provided joint comment to the CPSC in support of the new proposed safety standard. On March 2, Mazen Abbas, DO, delivered oral remarks before the Commission in support of the proposed rule, and many **NASPGHAN** members responded to a call to action by submitting individual comments to the CPSC. The

CPSC received 715 comments on the rule, including many opposing the proposed standard.

NASPGHAN’s advocacy for a strong safety standard extends to Congress, as preparations are underway for introduction of legislation that would put a magnet safety standard into law.

ACCESS TO DEHYDRATED ALCOHOL

Regulatory change in 2020 altered access to an antimicrobial (ethanol/dehydrated alcohol) lock solution effective at preventing CLABSI among for infants and children with intestinal failure. In 2018, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Ablysinol (dehydrated alcohol) as a treatment for patients with symptomatic hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy. Because it was granted orphan drug status, the FDA required manufacturers of unapproved ethanol products to remove those products from the marketplace until obtaining FDA approval for other indicated uses. The manufacturer of Ablysinol, Belcher Pharmaceuticals, has drastically increased its price since obtaining orphan drug status — more than 700 percent — creating significant access barriers.

On March 7, a meeting, spearheaded by Dr. Ethan Mezoff and in collaboration with **NASPGHAN** Public Affairs and Advocacy Committee (PAAC), was held with the FDA to present ongoing access challenges and to discuss possible alternatives to Ablysinol, including Tetrasodium (Kitelock).

Planning is currently underway for a follow-up meeting with the FDA.

NON-MEDICAL SWITCHING

Increasingly, gastroenterology, like many other specialties, is struggling with changes to drug formularies that often require patients to abandon current treatment for a competitor product. In pediatric gastroenterology, the practice of non-medical switching of biologics is widespread among payers and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), despite appeals from physicians to allow their patients to remain on their current therapy. **NASPGHAN** is advocating for bipartisan federal legislation that outlines situations in which a group health plan must grant an exception to “fail first” protocols, including when a patient is stable on his/her current medication. **NASPGHAN** members can advocate against non-medical switching by asking their members of Congress to cosponsor the Safe Step Act.

Today there exists an elaborate and opaque system to control and manipulate drug prices, including the use of rebates that drug companies pay to PBMs. **NASPGHAN** is concerned rebates are influencing formulary decisions, which may not always be in the best interest of patients. In May, **NASPGHAN** joined other GI societies in a letter to the Federal Trade Commission asking for an examination of possible anti-competitive conduct by drug manufacturers, PBMs and insurers, including rebates that drug manufacturers provide to payers or PBMs in exchange for market-share guarantees or preferred formulary placement.

PEDIATRIC SUBSPECIALTY LOAN REPAYMENT

In 2020, Congress reauthorized the Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment Program, which was first authorized under the Affordable Care Act but never funded by Congress. This March, Congress provided first-ever funding for the program at \$5 million. The modest funding level is an important step, but greater funding will be needed if loan repayment is going to reach those pediatric subspecialties that patients often must wait weeks or months or travel long distances to access. The pediatric specialty community is seeking \$30 million for the program for the next fiscal year, and **NASPGHAN** is working alongside the American Academy of Pediatrics and other societies to make sure the distribution of loan repayment dollars is equitable among eligible specialties.

NEWS from Our Foundation Partners

ALBIREO PHARMA, INC.



Albireo Grants in Rare Liver Disease

SPARK is an exciting new program established by Albireo to identify and drive forward improvements in the quality of care for rare liver diseases, beginning with progressive familial intrahepatic cholestasis (PFIC) in 2022.

SPARK is a grant-based program designed to encourage new ideas with the potential to demonstrate best practices in patient-centered care. We hope that it will attract applications from the rare liver disease and PFIC communities, including healthcare professionals as well as experts and advocates.

Applications are invited for sustainable, innovative, replicable projects which improve the standard of care of PFIC and optimize the care pathway by:

- ▶ Introducing interventions that can measurably improve the time to diagnosis
- ▶ Measurably reducing the time between diagnosis and the initiation of appropriate, high-quality care
- ▶ Measurably improving the standard of care of PFIC patients
- ▶ Measurably improving access to care for PFIC patients in remote areas

Be the SPARK – Register Today

www.spark-grants.com

www.albireopharma.com

Nutricia



Introduction

The GROW-IN Study is the first US clinical trial evaluating an energy- and protein- enriched infant formula (EPEF) (30 kcal/fl. oz, 2.6g/100kcal) for term infants with/at risk of growth failure, increased energy requirements, or requiring fluid restriction. The study, led by principal investigator, Dr. Praveen Goday, involved six US centers.

Study Design

This open-label, single-arm prospective study aimed to assess growth, safety, and tolerance of EPEF in term infants with poor growth, defined as weight-for-length z-score (WFL) ≤ -1.0 or weight gain ≤ -2.0 z-score over the previous 4-8 weeks. The primary objective was to improve weight as measured by change in weight-for-age z score (WFA) and weight gain velocity (g/day) \geq median weight gain velocity for age. The secondary study objectives included improvements in WFL and the following z scores: length-for-age (LFA), head circumference-for-age (HC), and mid-upper-arm-circumference-for-age (MUAC), and formula tolerance.

Results

A total of 26 subjects completed the study per protocol. The leading cause of poor growth was congenital heart disease (58%), followed by other organic causes (35%), and non-organic causes (8%).

Formula Intake

On average, subjects consumed $120 (\pm 27) - 129 (\pm 39)$ kcal/kg per day over the 16 weeks with $>90\%$ of calories coming from EPEF. Across all visits, infants with CHD consumed similar amounts of EPEF (mean kcal/kg per day) as infants without CHD ($p=0.40$). Infants in the CHD group consumed a significantly higher percentage of total calories from study formula at all visits ($p = 0.03$), with differences most pronounced at 12 weeks and 16 weeks.

Growth

Twenty (83%, 20/24) infants attained weight gain velocity that exceeded the WHO median at ≥ 1 time point and 16 (67%, 16/24) exceeded the WHO median weight gain velocity for the overall study period. Improvements in z-scores were significant at 16 weeks for WFA, WFL, and HC ($p=0.0001$) as well as for LFA ($p=0.003$). Mean \pm SD z-scores at baseline and 16-weeks were: -2.06 ± 1.31 and -1.73 ± 1.53 for LFA, -2.02 ± 0.75 and -1.30 ± 0.55 for WFL, -1.50 ± 1.23 and -0.85 ± 1.37 for HC, and -1.94 ± 1.42 and -0.50 ± 1.09 for MUAC.

Tolerance

Vomiting, fussiness, and number of stools per day did not differ significantly from baseline at any time point. Changes in stool consistency from baseline were noted at 2, 4, and 16 weeks ($p < 0.05$). Frequency of spit-up was lower from week 4 to week 16 ($p < 0.04$), flatulence decreased at 16 weeks ($p = 0.05$), crying decreased at 2 and 16 weeks ($p < 0.02$), and gassiness decreased at 12 and 16 weeks ($p < 0.02$).

Conclusions

EPEF is safe, well tolerated, and improves weight gain in infants with poor growth.

Access the full text of this publication [here](#).

Would you consider consulting on an experience program for EPEF? [Visit NLC here](#).

Reckitt-Mead Johnson



This spring, emerging science was presented at the Pediatric Academic Society (PAS) Conference in Denver, Colorado. A collection of abstracts, posters, and videos regarding an investigation into healthcare provider (HCP) experience using extensively hydrolyzed infant formula (EHF) or amino acid based infant formula (AAF) to treat symptoms of cow's milk protein allergy (CMPA) was presented. Here are the highlights of this emerging data.

What is known: CMPA impacts up to 2%-3% of infants in North America. Clinical experience suggests that hypoallergenic formulas may be effective in treating infants with symptoms of CMPA in the short-term. However, short-term efficacy data regarding AAF and EHF treatment is lacking.

What this data adds: This is the largest prospective study examining short-term efficacy of CMPA symptom reduction using AAF and EHF in infants < 6 months of age in an outpatient clinical setting. During the unprecedented formula shortage, efficacy data is essential to help clinicians practice evidence-based medicine when treating infants with symptoms of CMPA.

Methods: A prospective cohort analysis of de-identified survey data obtained from HCPs treating infants < 6 months of age with symptoms suggestive of CMPA. AAF was used to treat 107 patients and EHF with LGG (EHF-LGG) was used to treat 222 patients with CMPA. Symptoms ranging from allergic, gastrointestinal, and colic-like manifestations were documented before and after consecutive clinic visits for change.

Results: Of those with GI symptoms at visit one treated with AAF, 98% (n=56) improved bloody stools, 90% (n=66) improved diarrhea, 93% (n=54) improved vomiting. Of those with allergic symptoms, 91% (n=52) improved with rash/eczema, 95% (n=41) improved pruritis. Of those with colic 94% (n=78) improved by second visit. For the infants using EHF-LGG, those with GI symptoms, 93% (n=193) improved by second visit.

Conclusions: This preliminary data set suggests the use of AAF may be effective in treating allergic symptoms, gastrointestinal symptoms, and colic symptoms in infants with suspected protein allergy. Similarly, EHF-LGG appears to provide clinical relief and rapid reduction of GI symptoms in infants < 6 months of age with symptoms of CMPA, often by the next follow-up visit.

Next Steps: Additional data from this series will be submitted to future academic conferences. Further data analysis and manuscripts are in development.

Amino Acid Formula Improves Gastrointestinal Symptoms in Infants with Suspected CMPA: A Prospective Cohort Analysis. E-PAS2022: 1183812.

GI Symptom Improvement in Infants with Suspected CMPA Treated with Extensively Hydrolyzed Formula in a Clinical Setting: A Prospective Cohort Analysis. E-PAS2022: 1183786.

Allergic Symptom Reduction at the Next Follow-up Visit in Infants with Suspected CMPA Treated with Amino Acid Formula: A Prospective Cohort Analysis. E-PAS2022: 1183796.

Amino Acid Formula Improves Infant Colic Symptoms at the First Follow-up Visit in Patients with Suspected CMPA: A Prospective Cohort Study. E-PAS2022: 1183803.

Takeda Pharmaceuticals, Inc.



A Study of Prucalopride in Breastfeeding Women with Constipation

Purpose:

Prucalopride is a medicine used to treat constipation. The main aim of the study is to measure prucalopride concentrations in breast milk. Other aims are to check the growth and development of babies breastfed by their mothers who took prucalopride and to check if the babies had any side effects. During the study, participants will provide one set of milk samples over 24 hours using an electric breast pump. Breast milk samples will be collected at home and will be shipped to the laboratory. Also, participants will be asked questions during telephone interviews every 2 months in the first year of their baby's life. They will also be asked to complete growth and development questionnaires about their baby.

This is a prospective, observational cohort study. Patients are not asked to change their treatment plan. All information is collected remotely, and the study is open to participants across the United States.

Clinical Trial Information:

For more information about the study, [please visit this site](#) or clinicaltrials.gov

For additional information about the study or subject enrollment, call +1-877-825-3327



GI KIDS CONTINUES TO PROVIDE VALUABLE RESOURCES

Be sure to visit www.gikids.org often as existing topics are updated and new topics are added, such as:

- ♦ [Neonatal Cholestasis](#)
- ♦ [Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency](#)
- ♦ [FODMAP](#)
- ♦ [Autoimmune Hepatitis](#)
- ♦ [Cystic Fibrosis Liver Disease](#)
- ♦ [PFIC](#)
- ♦ [Cognitive Behavioral Therapy](#)

With clear pictures and illustrations, updated information on diagnosis, testing, procedures and treatment, GIKids is an excellent resource for NASPGHAN members and patient families.

NASPGHAN DEVELOPS TOOL TO HELP DURING FORMULA SHORTAGES

NASPGHAN has developed a useful tool to help families affected by the formula shortages.

The information, which can be found on the [NASPGHAN website](#) and [here](#), provides categories of formulas by *protein type*. Formulas within each category are comparable and safe to substitute for each other, in case of shortages. *Any substitution should only be done under the recommendation and supervision of a healthcare professional.*

NASPGHAN does not endorse any specific formulas, nor the general use of formula over possible use of breast milk as the optimal source of infant nutrition. **NASPGHAN** would also note that toddler formula is not necessary for otherwise healthy children >12 months of life.

Employment Opportunities

POST YOUR JOBS AND LOOK FOR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ONLINE

VIEW ALL NASPGHAN FEATURED JOBS

▶ **PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGIST**

Gundersen Health System
La Crosse, WI

▶ **PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGIST BC/BE**

Palo Alto Foundation Medical Group
Dublin, CA

▶ **PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGIST**

Children's National Hospital
Washington, DC

▶ **DIVISION & SECTION CHIEF PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGY, NORTON CHILDREN'S MEDICAL GROUP AND UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

Norton Children's and University of Louisville School of Medicine
Louisville, KY

▶ **PHYSICIAN PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGY**

MultiCare
Tacoma, WA

▶ **PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGIST/HEPATOLOGIST**

University of Utah School of Medicine
Salt Lake City, UT

▶ **PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGIST**

University of Utah School of Medicine
Salt Lake City, UT

▶ **GASTROENTEROLOGY PANCREAS DISEASE RESEARCH FACULTY OPPORTUNITY**

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
Cincinnati, OH

▶ **COMPLEX CARE PEDIATRICIAN**

Penn State Health
Hershey, PA

▶ **GASTROENTEROLOGIST FOR VETERANS**

Veterans Affairs
Wilkes-Barre, PA

▶ **GASTROENTEROLOGIST FOR VETERANS**

Veterans Affairs
Poplar Bluff, MO

▶ **PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGIST**

Albany Medical Center
Albany, NY

▶ **PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGIST**

The Children's Hospital at Saint Francis
Tulsa, OK

▶ **PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGIST**

Dothan Pediatric Subspecialty Clinic
Dothan, AL

▶ **PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGIST**

UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA

▶ **PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGIST**

Cleveland Clinic Children's
Cleveland, OH

▶ **PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGIST**

Sanford Health
Sioux Falls, SD

▶ **PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGIST WITH EXPERTISE IN GUT MOTILITY**

University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital
Iowa City, IA

▶ **ASSISTANT/ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGIST**

LSUHSC Shreveport
Shreveport, LA

▶ **PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGY/ DIRECTOR OF PEDIATRIC HEPATOLOGY**

Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU
Richmond, VA

▶ **CLINICAL ASSISTANT, ASSOCIATE, OR FULL PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS, DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY**

UBMD Pediatrics
Buffalo, NY

▶ **PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGIST**

Saint Francis Health System
Tulsa, OK