NASPGHAN Digest
OUR LATEST NASPGHAN NEWS & UPDATES
SUMMER 2024 • VOLUME 26, NO.1

President's Report

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

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Happy one year anniversary to the 2024-2026 NASPGHAN strategic plan!! As posted on the **NASPGHAN** website, this plan was developed last spring with invaluable input from all of you and provides a collective vision for the roles **NASPGHAN** can play in the future of pediatric gastroenterology, pancreatology, hepatology, and nutrition. Over this past year, it has also become an important touchstone for everyone involved in making **NASPGHAN** run by actively helping us to focus on the following 4 key priorities:

- **Member Engagement,** by which we aim to ensure **NASPGHAN** provides inclusive and equitable opportunities for members to learn, grow, and contribute across all career levels and practice settings.
- **Organizational Effectiveness,** which reflects **NASPGHAN's** commitment to the long-term sustainability and growth of the Society, as well as its investments in the infrastructure and human resources needed to advance our mission.
- **Professional Advocacy** to improve the well-being of our members by addressing practice and policy issues of importance to pediatric gastroenterologists. In particular, we are determined to advocate for conditions that allow our members to dedicate more time to patient care, education, and research.
- **Quality Care and Research,** through which we seek to improve equity in health outcomes for children in all communities by diversifying our workforce and by providing our members with safe, equitable, and evidence-based resources.

I'm thrilled to report that these 4 strategic priorities were specifically highlighted in May at Digestive Disease Week (DDW) in Washington, DC, when committee chairs reviewed with Council all their amazing activities and how they align with the strategic plan. For example, from an engagement, quality care and research perspective, the Public Education Committee Meeting, chaired by Amethyst Kurbegov, has launched a new initiative that pairs senior members with fellows to update GIKids.org content, and in doing so both enhances **NASPGHAN** materials, while encouraging member networking and mentorship. In another great initiative that maps to the same priorities, the Pancreas Committee, chaired by Zack Sellers, is gamifying things up with "Flash Cards" designed to engross us all in developing skills for diagnosing and managing pancreatic diseases.

All in all, the Council and Chairs meeting provided a lively orientation to how each component of **NASPGHAN** is doing its part to further our collective mission! In other examples of strategic activities, the Clinical Practice Committee, chaired by Mala Setty, has designated a GI Kids Webpage Working Group to collaborate with the Public Education Committee to review and create content, and to pilot ways to share access using EHR tools. The Clinical Care and Quality Committee, chaired by Joe Picoraro, is focused on improving our society's clinical position paper development processes in ways that enhance organizational efficiency for **NASPGHAN.** Also, through our Advocacy Committee, as chaired by Jennifer Dotson, **NASPGHAN** continues to actively engage with policymakers to address critical member issues including insurance coverage, availability of ERCP scopes for our smallest patients, and dedicated research funding for digestive diseases in children.

Meanwhile, **NASPGHAN** has unbelievably benefitted from wise input on ways to improve our organizational effectiveness from our Councilors, as well as from my dear colleagues on the executive team, Vicky Ng, Ben Gold, Manu Sood and Ann Scheimann. In particular, we have recently announced 3 new committees that fill important gaps in **NASPGHAN's** organizational structure and contribute to **NASPGHAN's** mission and goals: Women in Medicine; Gastroenterology, Immunology and Microbiome; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. We hope these new committees will allow **NASPGHAN** to better support the society as a whole, as well as our burgeoning Special Interest Groups (SIGs), by ensuring contemporary opportunities for all members to contribute. They also will make it easier for us to align with a number of national and international medical societies (including ESPGHAN, LASPGHAN,

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AAP, AGA, AASLD, ACG and ASGE) that have similar committees that are interested in collaborating with us.

Back home in the **NASPGHAN** National Office, we also have focused on organizational effectiveness by seeking opportunities to streamline operations, improve member services and enhance our financial stability (see column from Manu Sood and Jeannie Huang, as our Secretary Treasurers of **NASPGHAN** and the **NASPGHAN** Foundation). We have also been actively recruiting and expanding staff positions to support our growing needs. These include work by our committees and SIGs to promote guidelines, webinars, mentoring programs, and research opportunities, as well as our abilities as an organization to schedule "in person" meetings across the calendar year, where we can experience the invaluable joys of networking and advancing our field together. Please join me in thanking all who work for **NASPGHAN,** and also see Vicky's column for an update on 52nd Annual Meeting this November in Hollywood Florida. I am so looking forward to seeing all of you there as I pass her the gavel!

Finally, **NASPGHAN's** commitment to improving our organizational effectiveness is also proving pivotal as we look to the future and begin succession planning for our next Executive Director. Indeed, as some may have heard through the **NASPGHAN** grapevine, Margaret Stallings — our current ED, and de facto National Office heart and soul for 38 years — has communicated her intention to retire. While the thought of transition brings a mix of emotions, we are committed to working with Margaret to ensuring a smooth and thoughtful process. Thank you to all as we enter this new chapter for helping to honor her legacy by advancing **NASPGHAN's** mission with the same passion and purpose that she has exemplified throughout her tenure.

As we move forward, I just want to reiterate how your continued involvement, as our members, is crucial to our success. Together, we can ensure that **NASPGHAN** remains a vibrant, inclusive, and forward-thinking organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of children with digestive disorders everywhere!

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

President–Elect Report

President-Elect, NASPGHAN: Vicky Lee Ng, MD

To my **NASPGHAN** Family:

As we embrace the warmth and vibrancy of Summer 2024, I am filled with immense gratitude for our incredible community. Your collective dedication to improving patient care, advancing knowledge, and fostering engagement and collaboration amongst our members is the heartbeat of **NASPGHAN**.

With many thanks to the 2024 Planning Committee and our amazing **NASPGHAN** office, I am super excited to welcome you all to our next Annual Meeting at The Diplomat Hotel in Hollywood, Florida, on November 7-9, 2024. Our agenda is brimming with multiple opportunities to learn, to connect, and to collaborate. Please mark your calendars, register for the Annual Meeting here, and see our regularly updated itinerary here.

I extend my enormous appreciation to the EEsAL (Ensuring Equity in Awards and Leadership) task force, **NASPGHAN** Council, and Awards Review committee, for their tireless efforts in identifying, shepherding, and adjudicating nominee applications for the Shwachman, Master Educator, and Margaret Stallings (Distinguished Service) awards. A record number of applications highlighting the exceptional talent and dedication within our pediatric community were received this year. Recognizing excellence in our field honors the outstanding dedication and accomplishments of our more senior members, while inspiring future generations to persevere in their passions, innovation, and excellence. Please stay tuned for the 2024 awardees!!

Grateful appreciation to the many **NASPGHAN** members who have generously shared feedback, lent an ear, offered a hand, and provided invaluable assistance. There is no "I" in TEAM. Let's continue to unite and achieve greatness as one community, as we strive to be THE voice for children with gastrointestinal conditions in North America and beyond.

Wishing you a joyful and rejuvenating summer!

Warmest regards,

Vicky Lee Ng, MD
President-elect, **NASPGHAN**

NASPGHAN & NASPGHAN FOUNDATION
Secretary–Treasurer Report

Greetings **NASPGHAN** Members! We hope that you have plans to enjoy the summer with your family and friends.

MEMBERSHIP

NASPGHAN's main strength relies on members like you who are committed to support our organization. The current membership of **NASPGHAN** is 2,866! That includes 2,062 Full members; 518 Fellows; 11 ESPGHAN members; 115 Emeritus members; 51 Editorial Board members; 37 Psychologists; 71 International members, and 1 Affiliate member. We now have 68 Fellows of **NASPGHAN—** for those of you interested in becoming fellows, as well as 390 members in the Association of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition Nurses (APGNN) and 313 Council for Pediatric Nutrition Professionals (CPNP) — our sister organizations who are actively involved in collaborative activities with **NASPGHAN.**

FINANCES

The primary revenue sources for **NASPGHAN** are membership dues, journal royalties, Annual Meetings, investments, and industry support. While both the **NASPGHAN** and the **NASPGHAN Foundation** investment portfolios have yet to recover fully, the recent market rebound has brought **NASPGHAN's** balance to around 10.4 million and that of the Foundation at 4.3 million. In addition, the **NASPGHAN** and the **NASPGHAN Foundation** are happy to report net positive incomes in 2023 from the net loss in 2022.

As many of you know, with the growth of our Society and the significant number of programs and initiatives offered to our members, **NASPGHAN** Executive Leadership recently organized a strategic planning meeting to establish goals and priorities regarding our future. Accordingly, as in the past several years, **NASPGHAN** and the **NASPGHAN Foundation** will continue to make investments in infrastructure to support this vision. Importantly, this upcoming year will also bring needed investments to reconfigure leadership for both **NASPGHAN** and **NASPGHAN Foundation.**

As always, we welcome members to provide input regarding the best way to use our resources as well as to reach out to discuss new initiatives to continue supporting our members and to expand our current activities. We look forward to another successful Annual Meeting this coming November in Hollywood, Florida. See you all there!

Sincerely,

Manu Sood, MD

Manu Sood, MD
Secretary-Treasurer, **NASPGHAN**
Peoria, IL

Jeannie Huang, MD, MPH

Jeannie Huang, MD, MPH
Secretary-Treasurer, **NASPGHAN Foundation**
San Diego, CA

NASPGHAN Foundation Report

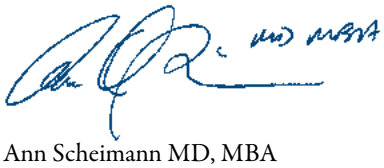
Ann Scheimann, MD, MBA
President, NASPGHAN Foundation

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

As we navigate through 2024, the continuation of in-person retreats (fellows, junior faculty) and conferences (N^2U) along with completion of the continuing education webinar series focused upon management of cholestatic liver disease in children and support of the URIM summer student research program have been recent events sponsored by the **NASPGHAN Foundation.** There are several exciting campaigns developed by **NASPGHAN** committees and supported by the **NASPGHAN Foundation** which are scheduled to launch within the next several months focused on blenderized diets, culinary medicine, eosinophilic esophagitis, and incorporation of technology within practice with several other activities in the development phase. There have been new additions to the **NASPGHAN Foundation** including Sandy Kim (Fall 2023— at large member), Cara Mack (May 2024) and Rohit Kohli (May 2024) — please consider joining the **NASPGHAN Foundation** as an at-large member (feel free to reach out for information). Please take time to review the updated grant offerings (recently reformatted by the research committee) which have deadlines over the summer months — all are strongly encouraged to apply.

The mission statement of the **NASPGHAN Foundation** is "To Fund and Support the Professional, Patient Education and Research Missions of **NASPGHAN**." We greatly value the continuing financial support and generous donations of time by the membership at large, dedicated efforts of the **NASPGHAN** office staff, **NASPGHAN Foundation** staff (special thanks to Margaret and Debra) along with the contributions from our Foundation Partners as we work to improve the wellness of the children and families we serve. Through the collective efforts and contributions of so many of you, our organization remains strong —"SMALL BUT MIGHTY." I can't wait to see everyone at the **NASPGHAN** meeting in Hollywood, Florida in November!

Sincerely,



Ann Scheimann MD, MBA
President, **NASPGHAN Foundation**
Baltimore, MD

NASPGHAN-F

Apply for NASPGHAN Fellow (NASPGHAN-F) Status

Eligible **NASPGHAN** members can now apply for the Fellow of **NASPGHAN** status **(NASPGHAN–F).**

Attainment of the Fellow of **NASPGHAN** status is for those **NASPGHAN** members who have made significant contributions to the field of pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology or nutrition. Members with a strong career track record for success as clinicians, physician scientists (MD/DO, MD/DO/PhD) or researchers (PhD/ MSC) in the field of pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition are encouraged to apply. Fellow status can be attained by meeting all criteria for either Clinical Practice or Research expertise. The **NASPGHAN** Executive Council will review all applications, focusing on the quality and breadth of clinical, research and educational contributions and service to the field of pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition. Eligibility requirements are available online and details are available here.

Kerry Zabriskie Reed
APGNN President

Dear **NASPGHAN** Members,

I hope this update from the Association of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition Nurses (APGNN) finds you well as we enter the summer months and school vacation season. The APGNN Board has been busy planning the upcoming 2024 Annual Meeting and we are excited about our conference agenda. I was fortunate to attend the **NASPGHAN** planning meeting in January and bring back content ideas and potential speakers to the rest of the board. The APGNN Board Retreat in Nashville was two weeks later and during the weekend, we worked to finalize the program sessions and prioritize the goals for APGNN in the coming years with a focus on maintenance of the Assessment-Based Certificate Program, member retention and member-only benefits.

For the Annual Meeting, we have a dynamic agenda with speakers from various disciplines including nurse practitioners, physician assistants, dietitians, psychologists, and physicians speaking on topics ranging from LGBTQ+ Centered Care, updates in the diagnosis and management of Celiac disease, management of refractory constipation and treatment options for obesity including bariatric surgery. As always, we will be offering several Awards during the Annual Meeting including the Excellence in Education Award, New Member Scholarship, Poster of Distinction Award, Excellence in Mentoring Award, Sue Peck Excellence in Nursing Practice and our newest Member Scholarship for Active Members. Please encourage your institution's team members to apply! The Susan Moyer **NASPGHAN Foundation** Research Grant is available, and we are thrilled to see two additional grant opportunities for APGNN members including the **NASPGHAN Foundation** Innovations in Clinical Care Grant and the Celiac Disease Foundation/**NASPGHAN** Foundation Pilot Grant. We are so appreciative of the Foundation's support in the promotion of nursing research.

APGNN is proud to continue offering the Clinical Handbook of Pediatric Gastroenterology. This has been a useful pocket reference for a variety of providers in the field of Pediatric GI and the 4th edition will be available at the 2024 Annual Meeting. We are very excited to announce this edition will be available in both hard copy and an electronic version. Thank you to Reckitt / Mead-Johnson for ongoing financial support in the development and publication of this resource.

The Pediatric Gastroenterology Nursing Assessment-Based Certificate Program continues to be a primary focus of the organization and has served as a wonderful on-boarding program for newly hired nurses/providers. Discounts remain available to APGNN, **NASPGHAN,** and CPNP members as well as institutions looking to purchase multiple bundles. We are in the process of reviewing and updating the current module content and next year will begin the process of developing 5 additional modules for certificate renewal. The renewal modules will be released in 2026.

Membership recruitment and retention continues to be a focus of the organization. This spring the membership voted to make Physician Assistants (PA) Full Members of the organization, which provides the opportunity to run for an APGNN Board Position, excluding Executive Board positions, and the ability to vote. Please encourage your PA partners to join APGNN and engage in all the organization has to offer. We again ran membership renewal incentives in January and May, to encourage timely dues payment. New membership perks for 2024 will include the development and release of a Subject Matter Expert (SME) Resource list. We are shifting our current Mentorship Program to this model, which will create a more versatile and accessible network. Our goal is for APGNN SMEs to be available for individual outreach to support members with specific questions/mentoring. Again, in March APGNN held its second year of "Meet the Board" Zoom calls. We held two one-hour informal Zoom chats for members to come ask clinical questions, learn about the organization, and consider committee/board positions. It was great to have an increased turnout in members who came with questions and many expressed interests in APGNN engagement. Finally, the Clinical Inquiry Committee continues to produce resources in our members-only section of the website which supports nursing research, abstract submission and publications.

On behalf of APGNN, thank you for your continued support and engagement. The **NASPGHAN** leadership and Executive Office has embraced APGNN each year, and we are so appreciative of the collaboration. We look forward to seeing everyone in sunny Hollywood, Florida!

With gratitude,

Kerry Z Reed

Kerry Zabriskie Reed, RN, PNP, CPNP
APGNN President

See the latest on NASPGHAN Meetings and Meetings of Interest

American Academy of Pediatrics Corner

The American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition (SOGHN) is excited to share updates with **NASPGHAN** members!

AAP News—the American Academy of Pediatrics monthly news magazine—has been publishing a series on food allergies for primary care pediatricians. Kudos to Diana Montoya-Melo, MD (AAP District X), Erin Syverson, MD (AAP District I), and Rajitha Venkatesh, MD, MPH (AAP District V) for contributing articles. The practical, high-yield articles they wrote include "Eosinophilic gastrointestinal diseases: rare conditions you may see in your practice," "Food Protein-Induced Enterocolitis Syndrome (FPIES)," and "Food allergy testing often unnecessary in children with GI complaints."

A special congratulations to Erin Syverson, MD. In addition to writing for *AAP News,* Dr. Syverson led an AAP-**NASPGHAN** effort to ensure that payers continue to cover Flovent for children with eosinophilic esophagitis. Dr. Syverson's work is a shining example of how advocacy by pediatric gastroenterologists can lead to tangible, significant, and wide-spread improvements for our patients. We encourage others with advocacy ideas to reach out to us, so that we can strategize on how the AAP can help.

Conference season is around the corner, and this year we are excited once again to present the Murray Davidson Award and the Early-to Mid-Career Leadership Award. In addition, this year's AAP National Conference and Exhibition SOGHN H-program will feature Marsha Kay, MD (AAP District V) and it will be entitled "This should not be swallowed!" There will also be 3 outstanding fellows who will present along with Dr. Kay, who were chosen among a record number of applicants this year.

Finally, Mercedes Martinez, MD and Ryan Himes, MD (AAP District VII) continue to make an impact by sharing Hepatitis C information to the wider community. Dr. Martinez and Dr. Himes previously gave webinars to AAP state chapters in conjunction with **NASPGHAN.** In March, they presented with officials at the CDC to an audience of over >300 people, which included key thought and policy leaders in the United States government.

If you are interested in working with SOGHN, please reach out to us. We have three goals, to complement the powerful ongoing work in **NASPGHAN.** Our goals are:

- Medical education for primary care providers
- Advocacy for patients
- Development opportunities for AAP SOGHN members

For more information or to volunteer for a committee role in the SOGHN, please contact Pia Daniels, at (pdaniels@aap.org). We look forward to hearing from you!

Sanjiv Harpavat, MD, PhD, FAAP

CPNP NASPGHAN Council for Pediatric Nutrition Professionals

Abigail Lundin
CPNP President

Dear Members,

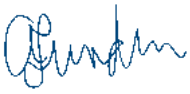
CPNP is continuing with more fantastic projects! Congratulations to our Nutrition Pearls the Podcast team on their one-year milestone. Season 2: let's go!

Huge thanks to the conference planning committee for their hard work in organizing our Nutrition Symposium in Florida this November. The topics on the agenda, from ARFID to liver transplant and bone health, promise to be both timely and informative. I'm particularly excited about the joint session with **NASPGHAN** on MAFLD management, which highlights our commitment to collaboration and innovation.

As we prepare for the conference, I encourage all members to take advantage of opportunities to apply for grants and submit abstracts. Your contributions are vital to the success of our community, and I look forward to seeing the impact of your work.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to pediatric nutrition. Here's to another year of growth and discovery.

Best regards,



Abigail Lundin, MS, RD, CPNP President

Welcome New 2024 NASPGHAN Members

Alexandra Antosy
Miriam El-Haoui
Bonnie Essner
Daniela Gattini
Monique Germone
Rebecca Gordon
Enju Liu
Suzanne MacFarland
Chetan Mandelia
Camden Elliott Matherne
John Sands
Debra Silberg
Elizabeth Turner

NASPGHAN—Abbott
2024 First-Year Pediatric GI Fellows Conference

Course Co-Directors: Edwin de Zoeten MD, PhD & Niviann Blondet MD

The **NASPGHAN**-Abbott First-Year Fellows' Conference was an amazing event held at the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando, Florida from January 11-14, 2024. This was the 22nd year of this conference! Almost 150 fellows from the United States, Canada and Mexico participated in this event.

The conference provided the first-year fellows a bit of respite from the daily grind of fellowship, an opportunity to connect with other trainees from across North America, as well as tools for making the most out of their first year of fellowship and beyond. Topics included how to cultivate the mentor/mentee relationships, 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 pediatric gastroenterology. Brief presentations 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 covering a variety of topics including time management, financial wellness, allyship, conflict resolution and overcoming imposter syndrome. As always at **NASPGHAN** meetings, the evening activities showed the unique personality of pediatric gastroenterology and hepatology, included the now famous GI Jeopardy, karaoke night, and ended with faculty and fellows' dance party lasting late into the night. Many of the **NASPGHAN** Council members joined in the dancing to show the fellows how we in **NASPGHAN** practice what we preach in terms of balancing fun and work.

Making this conference possible was a fantastic group of faculty with diverse backgrounds as well as clinical and research interests: Drs. Ed de Zoeten (Course Co-Director), Niviann Blondet (Course Co-Director), Jenifer Lightdale (**NASPGHAN** President), Jorge Chávez Sáenz (**NASPGHAN** Mexican representative), Peace Dike (Stanford University), Chelly Dykes (Children's Healthcare of Atlanta), Kahleb Graham (Cincinnati Children's), Jeanine Maclin (University of Alabama Birmingham), Danny Mallon (**NASPGHAN** Training Committee Chair), Amanda Muir (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia), Courtney Rusch (Fellows Committee Co-Chair), Nikhil Pai (McMaster Children's Hospital), John Stutts (Abbott–Pediatric Medical Director), and Menno Verhave (**NASPGHAN Foundation** Past President).

This conference, which began in 2002, continues due to the generous support of Abbott (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.

NASPGHAN—Abbott
2024 Second-Year Pediatric GI Fellows Conference

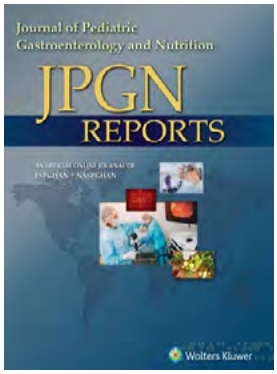
Course Co-Directors: Peter Lu, MD & Jennifer Strople, MD

Abbott supported the **NASPGHAN** Second-Year Fellows Conference, which took place from April 18-20. This year we returned to Scottsdale, Arizona and views of Camelback Mountain. The conference continued to provide our second-year pediatric GI Fellows from across North America with the opportunity to meet and network with faculty and their co-fellows.

Fellows participated in a curriculum focused on career development, helping them envision their best lives in pediatric GI, and how to apply, prepare and interview for a job, and pursue work/life integration through talks, multiple faculty panels, and small groups. In what has become a fellows conference tradition, the programming was highlighted by a moving faculty panel where they shared personal and professional challenges they faced and overcame. Our faculty included fifteen diverse, enthusiastic, and accomplished individuals who share a common passion for teaching and mentoring the future of our amazing organization.

Special thanks to Donnie Michel, Kathy Ruminsky and Abbott Nutrition for supporting this successful meeting for another great year, including our Fun Slingers and Country Singers night! Our faculty showed what they were made of and dressed to impress for the themed occasion. We are so thankful to the 2024 faculty without whom this meeting could not have happened: Danny Mallon (Training Committee Chair), Melanie Griefer, Eric Benchimol, Jose Garza, Ben Gold, Kathy Loomes, Ann Scheimann, Kevin Watson, Michael Wilsey, Evelyn Hsu, Sana Syed, Soma Kumar, and Amit Grover.

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.



JPGN and *JPGN REPORTS*

News from the Editor

Sandeep Gupta, MD
Western Hemisphere, JPGN Reports

It is exciting to present a mid-year update on our societal journals, *JPGN* and *JPGN Reports*. Much has happened in 2024 including a change in our publisher from Wolters Kluwer to Wiley. This transition presents opportunities along with ways to define new relationships, new processes, and a new vision. We appreciate the support of our authors, reviewers, readers, and professional community during this transition. We hope you have signed up for electronic Table of Content (eTOC) for *JPGN* and *JPGN Reports* to be delivered to your inboxes as each new issue is released. Our journals, in spirit of the electronic media age, now are only online. Paper copies may be purchased at an additional cost and please reach out if you have any questions about your subscription or ways to sign up for eTOC/journal access.

We continue to provide ways for you to engage with the journals, including the biweekly self-assessment quick poll on **www.jpgn.org** and CME questions on papers published in *JPGN*. Several articles in each issue of *JPGN* have educational tools such as graphical abstracts/visual highlights, and infographics embedded within the article itself. We hope you find these useful and engaging tools to inform you and your team members.

We continue to see an increasing numbers of submissions to *JPGN* and *JPGN Reports* and in response have expanded our editorial teams (visit **www.jpgn.org** and **www.jpgnreports.org**). With time a personality for *JPGN Reports* is being defined, nurtured, and enhanced. In addition to case reports, case series, certain original articles and brief reports are welcome to *JPGN Reports.* Survey-based manuscripts and manuscripts outlining methodologies for future studies are also considered for *JPGN Reports* among other submission types. **Author guidelines.**

We are planning a Clinical-Pathological Case series for *JPGN Reports,* and a new section in *JPGN* called Research Reports, which will consider limited data-sets — stay tuned for further details. Over the last couple of years, *JPGN* has introduced a section called Endoscopy and Procedures, and has re-invigorated the Topic of Month series — both these initiatives have been very successful with increasing submissions and engagement of our community. Thank you for being part of our societal journals.

Finally, it was very rewarding to co-host with our European Editorial team colleagues a session highlighting our journals at the recently concluded ESPGHAN Annual Congress in Milan. We look forward to engaging with you at the upcoming **NASPGHAN** annual meeting and the World Congress — both in Fall 2024.

Please feel free to reach out with ideas, suggestions, comments, and ways we can further elevate *JPGN* and *JPGN Reports.* My email is (skgupta@uabmc.edu) and cell is 317-532-7284.

Sandeep K. Gupta MD
Editor-in-Chief, *JPGN* and *JPGN Reports,* Western Hemisphere
University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)
Birmingham, AL
(skgupta@uabmc.edu)

APPLY NOW FOR 2024 ANNUAL MEETING TEACHING AND TOMORROW URiM PROGRAM

The Pediatric GI Teaching and Tomorrow Program of **NASPGHAN** strives to attract stellar residents to consider subspecialty training in pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology, and nutrition. All participants in Teaching and Tomorrow attend three tailored career panel discussions/sessions in addition to a very popular social networking reception, where they are invited as a group to meet with current fellows, as well as program director representatives from most GI fellowship programs in North America. Through these tailored and one-on-one meetings, we share our enthusiasm and guidance for careers in pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition.

NASPGHAN is committed to being as diverse, equitable and inclusive a society as possible and has recognized the power of the Teaching and Tomorrow Program to bring promising pediatric residents of all races, ethnicities, genders, and social backgrounds from all over North America to our **NASPGHAN** Annual Meeting to see first-hand the cutting edge basic and clinical science of our subspecialty.

Our Teaching and Tomorrow Program will provide up to 15 scholarships to interested 1st and 2nd year pediatric residents and 4th year medical students who self-identify as Underrepresented in Medicine (URIM). In addition to networking with other participants while attending the program's scheduled sessions, scholarship awardees will be matched with a **NASPGHAN** fellow and/or attending physician (often themselves a Teaching and Tomorrow Program alumnus) who will serve as an additional professional contact and **NASPGHAN** ambassador.

The Foundation would provide support by covering the cost of all Teaching and Tomorrow program events, Annual Meeting program registration, travel, hotel, and meal stipend for the duration of the conference.

Applications are being accepted now, with a deadline of August 1, 2024. Details and the application can be found **here.**

Committee and Special Interest Group Reports

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chair: Toba Weinstein, MD
Vice-Chair: Maria Perez, DO

The highlight of the year for the Professional Education Committee (PEC) is always the Postgraduate Course. This year we will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Postgraduate Course when we congregate in Hollywood, Florida in November. The first Postgraduate Course (PG) took place in 1994 and has now grown to include 5 sessions with a total of 18 speakers.

Course planning takes place throughout the entire year with input from all arms of **NASPGHAN,** especially our various committees and you, our membership. We take your evaluations seriously and our goal is to generate the best possible course and to continue to improve in the content and quality provided. Members of the PEC play a pivotal role in reviewing the talks which we have found has led to consistently higher quality of presentations over the years and in ensuring that CME and MOC Part II credits are available. Of course, none of this would occur without Laura Smith, Margaret Stallings and our amazing **NASPGHAN** National Office. Please feel free to email us your thoughts and suggestions about Postgraduate Course topics and speakers to (tweinste@northwell.edu). We value your input.

The PEC works closely with **NASPGHAN** and the **NASPGHAN** Foundation in supporting all of its professional educational offerings. Since the pandemic the number of online offerings offered by **NASPGHAN** and hence the number of webinar submissions by our membership has increased dramatically. We have created a transparent submission and review process for these webinars. Many of our members are involved in reviewing and providing thoughtful feedback to several of these educational activities including Bowel Sounds and Webinars allowing us to provide ongoing CME for these educational activities.

We also have members involved with symposia development for our specialty at other national meetings including Dr. Nadia Ovchinsky who works with the AASLD Pediatric Special Interest Group and Dr. Maria Perez and Dr. Thomas Ciecierega who are on the program planning committee for the Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) annual meeting where **NASPGHAN** was well represented with impressive gastroenterology and liver sessions.

PEC members also assist in reviewing *JPGN* publications so that CME and MOC credits can be provided to **NASPGHAN** members who read highlighted articles each month. A special thank you to our PEC member Dr. Tanaz Danialifar who serves as CME editor and Dr. Sandeep Gupta, *JPGN* **NASPGHAN** Editor who continues to work closely with our committee.

We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to the entire membership of the Professional Education Committee for contributing throughout the year in furthering our goals to provide valuable education to **NASPGHAN** members. We are more than just the Postgraduate Course. Looking forward to seeing everyone in person at the Annual Meeting.

CLINICAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Chair: Mala Setty, MD
Vice-Chair: Khyati Mehta, MD

Hello **NASPGHAN** friends and colleagues! It has been an honor to Chair the Clinical Practice Committee (CPC) the past 2 1/2 years, and I am equally grateful to have Khyati Mehta as Vice Chair during this time! Our members and special interest groups have been highly productive and continue to work tirelessly to help advance clinical practice and I would be remiss to not mention all their amazing contributions. Several have led in the recent transformative changes that have taken place in pediatric gastroenterology clinical practice. Our members have helped to update core topics on our **NASPGHAN** Clinical Practice webpage with essential and timely information building tools to address practical challenges in clinical operations, prior authorization, billing, and coding, and continue to work on educational tools to address knowledge gaps that may exist.

Another focus has been on the rapidly changing landscape with the advent of telehealth-based technology and the now ubiquitous electronic health record. Since 2021, the CPC has hosted the Telehealth SIG, led by John Rosen, MD and Elizabeth Berg, MD, and the Electronic Health Record SIG, led by Jeannie Huang, MD. During this time, the Telehealth SIG has generated several key publications including an enquiry into aspects of equity and inclusion, a Position Statement for Telehealth, an online webinar series, some with ongoing clinical research and cross-collaborations with outside groups. The EHR SIG has been equally productive, contributing to the Technology Single Topic Symposium in the 2022 Annual **NASPGHAN** Meeting, a full session during the 2023 Annual meeting, several published tools on the **NASPGHAN** website, and an upcoming Position Paper, to name a few.

There has been cross collaboration within **NASPGHAN** and outside societies to help share concerns related to recruitment, retention, as well as burnout and resiliency. Our members are currently completing work on a practice survey to examine related factors, including current clinical practice trends and operational considerations with the hope to share and publish these results over the coming year. We are teaming up with the Public Education Committee to support the maintenance needs for the incredible patient-facing website, **GI Kids.** Under the purview of the CPC, we proudly champion the **NASPGHAN** Innovations in Clinical Care Grants, which has fostered the role of clinicians who are focused on advancements, many of which have directly benefited patients. The recent years have been filled with much change and progress and the CPC looks forward to continuing our work in service of **NASPGHAN** members!

NASPGHAN Reception
Digestive Disease Week 2024

Digestive Disease Week was in May 2024, and many **NASPGHAN** members attended the meeting held in Washington, DC. **NASPGHAN** was thrilled to hold a roof-top reception at The Morrow Hotel.

BOWEL SOUNDS' 5TH (!) SEASON

Bowel Sounds' 5th (!) season continues with new episodes released every other Monday. So far this season the podcast has covered a wide range of topics including **esophageal atresia**, **cystic fibrosis**, **hepatitis B**, **surgery in ulcerative colitis** as well as common issues in GI practice including **picky eaters**, **functional abdominal pain in the setting of organic GI disease** and **tackling prior authorizations and medication approvals**. We also had not one, but TWO year in review episodes featuring *JPGN* Editor **Dr. Sandeep Gupta** and the legendary **Dr. Bill Balistreri**. Throughout the season Bowel Sounds has continued collaborating with *JPGN* on special episodes highlighting key journal articles covering **telemedicine** and **social media use in pediatric gastroenterology**.

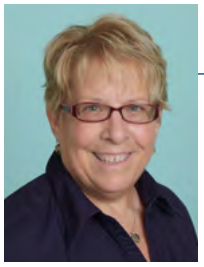
Bowel Sounds also hit the road this year with an invited talk at the BSPGHAN Annual Meeting in Bristol, UK where Jason Silverman represented the group to talk about Medical Education through Podcasting (and even received the perfect memento).

There is a lot more still to come during Season 5, but the group are already making plans for the kickoff of Season 6, right after the **NASPGHAN** Annual Meeting. As always, expect more informative discussions and interviews full of clinical pearls and inspiring personal stories in every episode. Be sure to continue to send your suggestions and feedback to Bowel Sounds through its social media channels or by email at (bowelsounds@naspghan.org) as Bowel Sounds loves hearing from its listeners. Stay tuned as there is a lot more still to come!

2024 NASPGHAN, APGNN, CPNP DIRECTORIES NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

The 2024 annual **NASPGHAN**, APGNN and CPNP membership directories are now available as pdf files on the **NASPGHAN website** in the members only section.

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** username and password to access the Member Center.



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.

2024 CMS Physician Fee Schedule

- Update on Physician Fee Schedule after H.R. 4366, the "Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024," signed on March 9, 2024. Effective March 9, 2024, the conversion factor for the physician fee schedule got a 1.68% boost. This is only for services from March 9, 2024, through December 31, 2024.
- Released March 13, 2024, the conversion factor is: $33.28 per RVU instead of $32.74.
- The final calendar year 2024 PFS conversion factor is $32.74, a decrease of $1.15.
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services cms.gov

Even though pediatric GI practices do not see a high percentage of Medicare patients, many fee schedules from your commercial payers are based upon a percentage of the Medicare fee schedule.

G2211 and the Pediatric Practice

Code G2211 describes "visit complexity inherent to evaluation and management associated with medical care services that serve as the continuing focal point for all needed health care services and/or with medical care services that are part of ongoing care related to a patient's single, serious condition or a complex." The code is designed as an add-on code to CPT E/M codes 99202-99215 for patients who will have a "longitudinal" relationship with the practice for a chronic medical condition and is worth around $16.00. This code was designed by CMS and is approved by Medicare and Medicare Replacement Plans. The majority of commercial payers consider this bundled into the E/M visit and will not pay separately for this code.

Q&A Session

Q: If doctor is doing a colonoscopy on a patient with Crohn's disease and finds a 3mm polyp in the proximal ascending colon and remove with a cold snare and also finds a 4mm polyp in the mid ascending colon and removes with biopsy forceps, can you code both 45385, 45380-59 since they are in different areas of the ascending colon?

A: Per CCI policy listed below, as long as there are different techniques to different lesions, each is separately reportable. That is why it is essential that the physicians document the specific locations and instruments used to treat/remove the lesions during endoscopy.

CMS Correct Coding Manual (Chapter 6, Section H, #25) "25. The NCCI PTP edit with column one CPT code 45385 (flexible colonoscopy with removal of tumor(s), polyp(s), or lesion(s) by snare technique) and column two CPT code 45380 (flexible colonoscopy with single or multiple biopsies) is often bypassed by using modifier 59 or -X{EPSU}. Use of modifier 59 or XS is only appropriate if the two procedures are performed on separate lesions."

Multiple Endoscopy Policy Versus Multiple Surgery Policy

MULTIPLE ENDOSCOPY POLICY

- Published by CMS and effective 3-1-1993
- Allows payment for more than one endoscopic procedure as long as it is done to a separate lesion/location and the use of a different technique/instrument
- Recognized by insurance carriers that follow CCI (Correct Coding Initiative) edits **(Found on CMS website)**
- Payment of 100% of highest RVU and then the difference between each additional procedure minus the base code (head of the family) Example: 45385 and 45380

  Current RVUs for 2024
  - 45385 has 7.49 RVUs
  - 45380 has 5.92 RVUs
  - 45378, G0121 & G0105 has 5.45 RVUs
  - Payment would be based on 7.49 RVUS and 0.47 RVUs (Difference between 45380 and 45378). 45378 is never billed. The Medicare carrier will automatically do that for you.
- Multiple endoscopy policy does not apply to two different families of codes. That reimbursement is based upon multiple surgery policy:
  - Example: EGD and Colonoscopy

MULTIPLE SURGERY POLICY

- Commercial payers usually follow multiple surgery policy where payment is 100% of first procedure and 50% for each additional procedure by most commercial payers.

Q: What's the best ICD-10 code to use for 'high ileostomy output'?

A: It is very common for ileostomy output to be liquid in nature right after surgery but after a while, the small intestine adapts, and stool becomes more formed. Diarrhea is not an appropriate code to use either.

The best code to use would be other complication of ileostomy, K94.19 until the cause is determined.

Q: Provider sees patient in 08/2022 as a Consultation request for abdominal pain submitted level 99244. The same provider has received another request for 04/ 2024 for the same patient for swallowing issues.

Can the provider bill this as a consultation since this is a new problem?

A: It depends on what insurance the patient has. Most payers no longer accept consultation codes. If the payer does accept consultation codes, this would be considered a new consult since there is no 3-year rule for consults for a completely new problem. If the payer doesn't accept consult codes, this would be billed as a follow up visit.

Q: Can you please help me figure this out. Patient has a J pouch – Doctor states in his procedure note that the scope is advanced through anus to the ileorectal anastomosis, "J pouch seen, Ileum"(exact words in the note) Biopsies were taken in the distal ileum. He codes it as a pouchoscopy (44386) but his procedure note states it is a flexible sigmoidoscopy with biopsy. I don't know which way to go.

A: A j-pouch Involves joining the small intestine directly to the anal canal, after removal of parts of the large intestine. Since biopsies were taken in the pouch, I would assign 44386 (Endoscopic evaluation of small intestinal pouch (eg, Kock pouch, ileal reservoir [S or J]); with biopsy, single or multiple). It is quite possible that your physician is not aware that there is a specific CPT code for this procedure.

Day on the Hill

NASPGHAN Members took the opportunity of DDW being held in Washington, DC to spend the day on the Hill. Members were able to meet with their congressional representatives to discuss and advocate for priorities including the Medical Nutrition Equity Act and the issue of Payer Interference in Medical Decision Making. You can make your representatives voice heard on these important issues in our **Advocacy Action Center**.

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT ALL THE LATEST ANNUAL MEETING UPDATES!

NASPGHAN ✦ CPNP ✦ APGNN ANNUAL MEETING
The Diplomat Beach Hotel ✦ Hollywood, Florida
6-9 NOVEMBER 2024

Public Affairs & Advocacy Report

STRENGTHEN YOUR RESOLVE TO ADVOCATE, DON'T RETREAT

JENNIFER DOTSON, MD, MPH

Chair, NASPGHAN Public Affairs &Advocacy Committee

In my mid-year advocacy update last summer, I wrote that I was optimistic Democrats and Republicans would find common ground in the remaining two years of the 118th Congress on important policy issues, including areas that showed early signs of bipartisan consensus such as regulation of pharmacy benefit management (PBM) companies, better health care price transparency, and commonsense legislation like the Safe Step Act to protect patients from egregious insurance company medication fail-first protocols. A year later, our country sits at the feet of the one of the least productive Congresses in American history.

According to the govtrack.us, only 2 percent of the 15,632 bills introduced in the 118th Congress have been signed into law. Even those numbers are misleading. Many of those bills were not related to policy, such as the naming of post offices.

I am disappointed, but I remain committed in my resolve to advocate on behalf of my patients and my profession for policies that improve access to care and new treatments, protect children from harm and injury, expand opportunities for medical research and reduce the administrative burden that overwhelms physicians and other health care professionals.

Despite Congress' failings, the state of **NASPGHAN** advocacy is strong. Over the past year, **NASPGHAN** was recognized for its commitment to the White House Challenge on Hunger, Nutrition and Health. **NASPGHAN** fought back against legal challenges to a strong safety standard for high-powered magnets, and we told Congress that we are sick and tired of insurance companies overriding our medical decisions.

I invite you to read more below about how **NASPGHAN** is advocating for you and your patients, and, more importantly, I ask you to join me in my resolve to advocate and take part in the policy making process whether it is responding to a **NASPGHAN** call to action, getting to know your elected officials, or writing an opinion piece for your local newspaper. Together, we can make a difference.

Yours in Advocacy,

Jennifer L . Dotson, MD, MPH
Chair, **NASPGHAN** Public Affairs and Advocacy Committee

STEP THERAPY & PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

As Congress enters the home stretch of the 118th Congress, patient and provider organizations continue to pressure lawmakers to advance legislation that would create common sense exceptions to insurer fail-first, or step-therapy, protocols. The Safe Step Act (S. 652 / H.R. 2630) has the support of 206 cosponsors in the House and 41 in the Senate, but the battle for the bill's passage is all uphill. To advance the legislation, Congress would need to find offsets, or a way to pay for the bill, which some estimates peg at roughly $3 billion over 10 years.

Meanwhile, a growing number of states are considering legislation to protect patients from utilization management tactics that impede timely access to care, and the Biden Administration released earlier this year a final rule that makes improvements to prior authorization practices used by health insurers, including state Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Fee-for-Service (FFS) programs, Medicaid managed care plans, CHIP managed care entities, and Qualified Health Plan (QHP) issuers on the Federally Facilitated Exchanges (FFEs).

Starting in 2026, plans will need to provide a specific reason for denied prior authorization decisions. These rules to not apply to authorization requests for drugs and biologics; although, the Administration said it will consider options for future rulemaking to address improvements to the prior authorization processes for drugs.

MEDICAL NUTRITION EQUITY ACT

NASPGHAN remains committed to the Medical Nutrition Equity Act (H.R. 6892) which was introduced at the end of 2023. The bill, which would broaden coverage of medically necessary foods and specialized formulas for individuals with GI and metabolic disorders, has struggled to gain traction among key lawmakers because of the size and the scope of the bill. **NASPGHAN** is exploring alternative legislative strategies in the Senate that could include advancing the bill in phases.

PRODUCT SAFETY

Last August, **NASPGHAN** and the American Academy of Pediatrics filed an amicus brief in support of the federal magnet safety standard and mounted a strong response to a legal challenge by magnet manufacturers that seek to have the safety standard vacated. The Court had paused the case while it considered another case that challenged the safety standard for infant pillows. In that case, like the magnet case, challenges were made to the constitutionality of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). The court ruled in favor of the CPSC, which means the magnet case can now move forward. While the case is pending the magnet safety standard remains in effect.

In other foreign body news, **NASPGHAN** is supporting legislation that would ban water bead products (S.4298 / H.R. 6468).

ACCESS TO CARE

NASPGHAN policy and advocacy activities often involve engaging with insurance companies to improve patient access to care. Over the past several months, **NASPGHAN** has communicated with payers on access to Fluticasone HFA for patients with Eosinophilic Esophagitis following the discontinuation of Flovent. **NASPGHAN** has also been encouraging payers across the country to provide coverage of Percutaneous Electrical Nerve Field Stimulation for children with functional abdominal pain disorders. And, most recently, **NASPGHAN** asked the FDA to consider a new ethanol locking device to prevent catheter-related bloodstream infections in pediatric intestinal failure patients.

5K Run to Benefit GI Kids

Ava Byrd suffered with debilitating stomachaches since eighth grade. She is now a rising senior at Big Horn High School in Wyoming and is finally feeling better.

The 17-year-old was recently diagnosed with celiac disease and said she is "slowly but surely" recovering and has turned to the GIKids website for information about her diagnosis. Ava was so happy to find GIKids when she scoured the internet about her diagnosis, in fact, that when her high school suggested a fun run in her honor, Ava insisted all proceeds go specifically to the GIKids website.

"When my cross country coach talked about a fun run, I said that I wanted it to go to a good cause," Ava said. "I felt I wanted to pay it forward and thank the doctors and everyone else who has helped me."

GIKids, she said, is something that has definitely helped her. Ava said she has particularly found helpful the detailed description and explanation of celiac disease, educational videos and the listing of all food and ingredients that contain gluten.

The run was Saturday June 8, 2024 in Big Horn, Wyoming and raised $530 for GIKids and the **NASPGHAN** Foundation. **NASPGHAN** provided silicone bracelets with the GIKids name for each race participant.

When Ava's stomach pains began in eighth grade, she was hospitalized for one week, but continued school and her regular activities. As the pain worsened and she continued to lose weight her junior year of high school, she was hospitalized for three months in Billings, Montana; Denver, Colorado, and Carlsbad, California. Three months ago, after numerous tests and dietary changes, it was finally determined that she had celiac disease. She also has a peanut allergy and a dairy intolerance.

Her family has been supportive with her father, mother and younger brother making frequent trips to visit her during her Denver and California hospitalizations. Her school in Big Horn also has stood behind her. During Ava's hospitalization, her high school principal drove 8 hours to deliver gifts and an oversized card signed by students and staff. The fun run was the idea of her classmates who wanted to do an event to recognize Ava, according to her cross country coach and chemistry teacher Tish Cooper.

4k Fun(d) Run/Walk

To benefit the GI Kids organization for pediatric health.

@ Malcolm-Wallop Park Path
(the north side of town
near Sheridan Motors)

GI Kids

Celebrate health with us.
10am June 8th
Jogging strollers: YES
Dogs on a leash: YES
$10/participant
recommended donation
Cash or Check only

Hosted by BHHS Cross Country team and Class of 2025!
Parking provided by EMIT.
Gluten-free nutrition from the Food Group.

While high school is out for the summer and Ava continues to feel better, the rising high school senior is continuing study on an associates degree in health sciences at the local community college and hopes after graduation in 2025 to eventually go to college and medical school and become a doctor.

SEE YOU AT THE 2024 ANNUAL MEETING!

Join us in Hollywood, FL this November at THE DIPLOMAT HOTEL!

Detailed information is available here and REGISTRATION IS OPEN.

Early bird registration rates are available until August 31.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

EGID Xcelerating Care, Research and Innovation in an Evolving Landscape

Course Directors:

Rajitha D. Venkatesh, MD,MPH—*Nationwide Children's Hospital*

James Franciosi, MD, MS—*Nemours Children's Hospital*

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Postgraduate Course

Course Directors:

Toba Weinstein, MD—*Cohen Children's Medical Center, Northwell Health*

Maria Perez, DO—*Ann & Robert H Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago*

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7—SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

NASPGHAN/CPNP/APGNN Annual Meeting

2024 NASPGHAN/CPNP/APGNN ANNUAL MEETING ADVERTISING PACKAGE

Publicize your job openings at the NASPGHAN Annual Meeting November 6-9 Hollywood, FL as well on the NASPGHAN electronic Job Board.

With a specially priced package, posted soon on the NASPGHAN website, you can receive a job posting on NASPGHAN's electronic Job Board and a discount on NASPGHAN's 2024 Annual Meeting job board, which will be available on a meeting app 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 Wanda Ford with any questions.

215-641-9800 or wford@naspghan.org

Baby Shark Tank Returns to NASPGHAN: Apply Now!

NASPGHAN is again hosting Baby Shark Tank in which healthcare innovations will be showcased at the Annual Meeting. Jump into the tank – applications are due August 30 and the LIVE event, with finalists pitching to the Sharks and selection of the winner, will be November 7 at 4pm following the Postgraduate Course.

SUBMIT YOUR IDEA HERE!

This contest is open to all meeting these requirements:

1. Innovation, medical device, or technology in an early stage of development (not yet commercially available)
2. Meets need of digestive health for patients, families, or the medical team (not limited to pediatrics)
3. Limited to 1 entry per applicant
4. Agreement for any information shared in the Shark Tank to be publicized through video recording and/or print (i.e. your idea could be shared)

For any questions about the application process or Baby Shark Tank in general, please contact either: Ankur Chugh (achugh@mcw.edu) or John Rosen (jmrosen@cmh.edu).

NEWS *from Our Foundation Partners*

RECKITT/MEAD JOHNSON NUTRITION

OPINION: INSIGHTS FROM NOCERINO ET AL.'S STUDY ON COW'S MILK ALLERGY

by Michael Wilsey, MD, NASPGHAN-F

Nocerino R, et al. The step-down approach in children with cow's milk allergy: Results of a randomized controlled trial. Allergy. 2023 Sep;78(9):2477-2486.

Identifying effective dietary strategies remains pivotal in pediatric allergy management, particularly cow's milk allergy (CMA). The recent study "The Step-Down Approach in Children with Cow's Milk Allergy" by Nocerino et al. introduces an innovative method of managing CMA through dietary adaptation, specifically transitioning from an amino acid-based formula (AAF) to an extensively hydrolyzed casein formula with Lacticaseibacillus rhamnosus strain GG (EHCF + LGG).

This randomized controlled trial targeted infants under six months of age (n=60) with IgE-mediated (skin prick positive) CMP initially managed with AAF. After a month on AAF formula, infants who tolerated EHCF + LGG (98%) were either kept on AAF or switched to EHCF + LGG as part of a double-blind placebo-controlled food challenge (DBPCFC). The aim was to evaluate their immune tolerance to cow's milk proteins after 12 months. Results showed that the EHCF + LGG group (0.48, 95% CI 0.29–0.67) achieved a significantly higher rate of immune tolerance compared to the AAF group (0.03, 95% CI 0.001–0.17), indicating EHCF + LGG's greater effectiveness in promoting faster immune tolerance in IgE-mediated CMA.

These findings are important as they challenge the conventional reliance on AAF alone for managing severe CMA cases. They suggest a step-down approach to EHCF + LGG might be more effective, particularly in cost and acquiring immune tolerance to cow's milk proteins.

Additionally, these findings are significant considering current studies suggesting the natural history of CMA disease has progressed over time, with slower resolution rates and more cases persisting into school age and beyond.[1,2] Furthermore, the study underscores the need to consider formula composition in managing CMA, as different formulas can impact immune tolerance development differently.[1-3] It also supports emerging evidence that EHCF + LGG can beneficially influence the gut microbiome, boosting the immune-modulatory effects necessary for developing tolerance.[1-3]

In conclusion, Nocerino et al.'s seminal study shifts the paradigm of CMA management from a static, one-size-fits-all approach to a more dynamic and potentially more effective step-down approach using EHCF + LGG to facilitate immune tolerance to cow's milk proteins. It underscores the necessity to re-evaluate current guidelines and adapt them to incorporate these new findings, which could significantly alter the trajectory of immune tolerance acquisition in pediatric CMA. This trial broadens our understanding and encourages future research to explore similar nutritional interventions in other allergic conditions.

References:

1. Berni Canani R, et al. Gut microbiome as a target for innovative strategies against food allergy. *Front Immunol.* 2019; 10: 191.

2. Paparo L, et al. Randomized controlled trial on the influence of dietary intervention on epigenetic mechanisms in children with CMA. *Sci Rep.* 2019; 9: 2828.

3. Baldassarre ME, et al. LGG improves recovery in infants with blood in the stools and presumptive allergic colitis compared with EHF alone. *J Pediatr.* 2010; 156: 397-401

PFIZER

CLINICAL STUDIES FOR PEDIATRIC PATIENTS WITH MODERATELY TO SEVERELY ACTIVE ULCERATIVE COLITIS (UC)

Pfizer is currently recruiting for 2 ongoing clinical trials in pediatric patients with moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis.

1. A Phase 3 open-label study of etrasimod, for adolescent patients aged ≥12 to <18 years with moderately to severely active UC.

2. A Phase 3 open-label study of tofacitinib (OVATION), for pediatric patients aged 2-17 years old with moderately to severely active UC.

In addition, we are continuing to look for sites to participate in the etrasimod study listed above. Please contact Franziska Frutsch if you are interested in participating and would like more details related to initiating the site selection process.

Contact Information:

Franziska Frutsch
Email: (Franziska.Frutsch@pfizer.com)

More information for these studies **can be found here.**

Clinical Trial Study Identifiers — etrasimod study: NCT05287126
tofacitinib study: NCT04624230

Employment Opportunities

Post Your Jobs and Look for Employment Opportunities Online
(and have them link to the web)

- **JOB SEEKERS**, increase your chances of getting the job you want.
  - **Subscribe for free** to the exclusive Job Flash™ Email and have featured jobs from our top employers sent straight to your inbox.
  - Create job alerts and receive notifications when positions matching your criteria are posted.
  - Access everything you need to know to plan your next career move with the **Career Planning Portal**
- **EMPLOYERS,** get maximum exposure.
  - Email your job offers directly to the inboxes of 2,500+ pediatric gastroenterology professionals via our exclusive **Job Flash™ Email!**
  - Search, find, and contact qualified talent through our **CV Bank**
  - Upgrade your job postings to distribute them to a network of more than 1,000 recruitment sites or sites that are marketed specifically to attract diverse and/or veteran candidates.

EXPLORE THE JOB BOARD & RESOURCES

JULY 2024 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR/CLINICAL PEDIATRICS GASTROENTEROLOGY
UT Health
San Antonio, TX

ACADEMIC PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGISTS AT ALL ACADEMIC RANKS
University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital
Cleveland, OH

FACULTY APPOINTMENT | PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGIST
Norton Children's Hospital — University of Louisville — Pediatric Gastroenterology
Louisville, KY

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

PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGIST OPPORTUNITIES WITH KAISER PERMANENTE IN ROSEVILLE, CALIFORNIA
The Permanente Medical Group, Inc.
Roseville, CA

PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGIST
Ascension Medical Group
Indianapolis, IN

PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGY OPPORTUNITY BY STUNNING LAKE SUPERIOR
Essentia Health
Duluth, MN

PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGIST
University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital
IA

PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGIST WITH EXPERTISE IN GUT MOTILITY
University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital
Iowa City, IA

PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGIST
Arkansas Children's Hospital
Springdale, AR

PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGIST
Saskatchewan Health Authority
Saskatoon, SK

MEDICAL DIRECTOR, LIVER TRANSPLANT
Lehigh Valley Health Network
Allentown, PA

PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGY, HEPATOLOGY & NUTRITION FACULTY
Children's Nebraska
NE

PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGIST
LifeBridge Health
Baltimore, MD

PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGY POSITION
Carilion Clinic
Roanoke, VA

PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGIST
St. Luke's Health System
Boise, ID

DIVISION CHIEF PEDIATRIC ENDOCRINOLOGY AND DIABETES
Penn State Health
Hershey, PA

STAFF PHYSICIAN - PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGY
UCLA Health
Santa Monica, CA