



INTERNATIONAL GENETIC EPIDEMIOLOGY SOCIETY

Newsletter – Christmas/December 2013

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Dear colleagues,

Now we are nearing the end of my presidential year, it is time for a brief reflection.

As you all know, this year has been dominated by the very difficult financial situation IGES is in and this has led to some restructuring and reorganization. In all the decisions, the officers wanted to remain as transparent as possible, so that all the members not only understand but are also able to support the necessary changes. The feedback we received was very positive, for which we are truly thankful.

It is a fact that IGES is the only international society that deals with genetic epidemiology. We have clear international tasks, such as commenting on guidelines on genomic data sharing. This work is only possible with IGES in good financial shape. It is clear that we need to continue our consolidation course in 2014.

One of the next important steps is the negotiation of a new contract with Wiley for our journal “Genetic Epidemiology”. The respective committee is chaired by my successor Alexander F. Wilson. We hope that the result will be positive for all.

During the coming year, another important milestone is to make our next annual meeting a success. We have already received strong support from many people. For example, the pharmacogenetics network P-STAR, led by Marylyn Ritchie, will jointly organize the educational workshop on pharmacogenomics with our Education Committee. Links have also been established to other European societies. You will find more detailed information in this newsletter.

Despite our efforts, we still need to consolidate our finances. Please help us to complete this task by renewing your IGES membership. Moreover, you can support IGES further by donation, which may be done during the registration process. (In case of problems, please contact DeLaine Anderson, Anderson.DeLaine@mayo.edu.)

We are on good track, though a lot remains to be done. All the changes and positive development over the last few months were only possible with your support.

Thank you very much for all your support this year and in the years to come. It was a great honor to have been your President in 2013.

In my home country of Germany, Christmas is our most important holiday. Therefore I close with THE German wish at this time of the year: **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

Andreas Ziegler

IGES Election Results

We would like to present the newly-elected IGES officers and board members, who will take up office starting 1 January 2014. Please refer to the pre-election newsletter for their biosketches. Congratulations and thank you for your willingness and input to serve IGES.

President-Elect is **France Gagnon**



Treasurer is **Mariza de Andrade**



The two new members on the Board of Directors are: **Jenny Barrett and Inke R. König**



Position Statement in response to “Draft NIH Genomic Data Sharing Policy Request for Public Comments”

In September 2013, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) requested comments on their proposed new genomic data sharing policy. IGES’ Ethical, Legal and Social Affairs Committee considered the proposal and had a number of concerns about it. We wrote a position statement highlighting our concerns and recommendations. The letter was approved by the Board of Directors and submitted to the NIH. In summary, it is the position of IGES that the proposed policy presents a number of problems and challenges for researchers. Furthermore, the structure of the policy (in particular the very short embargo limits) places smaller research groups at a disadvantage in favor of the very largest institutions. It undermines the formation of national and international collaborations and fails to protect participants or prior research investments adequately. It is our recommendation that these issues be examined in more detail and that substantial revisions be made prior to its adoption.

The full statement can be found on our website:

<http://www.geneticepi.org/statements/>

2014 Annual Meeting in Vienna

Great progress has been made with respect to our annual meeting in 2014. The Scientific Program Committee, chaired by Justo Lorenzo Bermejo, has already confirmed the following three invited speakers for the conference:

Krista Fischer (*Tartu University, Estonian Genome Center*) will describe her research project 'Causal inference methodology for studies involving conventional and Mendelian randomization'.

Christoph Bock (*Research Center for Molecular Medicine of the Austrian Academy of Sciences*) will report on the European BLUEPRINT project consortium (<http://blueprint-epigenome.eu/>) and outline computational/experimental approaches towards a rational design of epigenetic combination therapies.

Sebastian Zöllner (*University of Michigan, School of Public Health*) will be talking about his latest results on coalescent theory in the framework of genetic association studies.

We are very grateful to the Working Group "Human Genetics" of the German Society of Medical Informatics, Biometry, and Epidemiology (gmds) and the Working Group "Population Genetics" of the German Region of the International Biometric Society (DR-IBS) for the joint organization of the invited speakers.

The **Mini Symposium on Personalized Medicine**, jointly held with the International Society of Clinical Biostatistics, has been finalized. It will start on 28 August at 9.00 am. The following speakers have been invited:

Martin Filipits (Vienna) will start by talking on the clinical background. His presentation will be followed by a presentation on quality control in -omics studies, to be given by **Bertram Müller-Myhsok** (Munich). After a coffee break, the third speaker will be **Joan Bailey-Wilson** (Baltimore), who will focus on risk prediction models in families. Finally, **Andreas Ziegler** (Lübeck) will talk on study designs for predictive biomarkers.

The Mini Symposium will take place at the University of Vienna, and we will need to take the tram to return to the conference venue for the **Educational Workshop on Pharmacogenomics**. The workshop will start at 2.00 pm and is jointly organized by the IGES Education Committee and P-STAR, the PGRN Statistical Analysis Resource for the coordination of statistical analysis and methods development in the PGRN (<https://pgrn-star.org/>).

More information on the whole Vienna program can be found on our website. Please also note that you can download the meeting flyer from our website by following the link given in the subsequent section.



**INTERNATIONAL GENETIC
EPIDEMIOLOGY SOCIETY**

Austria is a combination of pristine landscapes and bustling cities, historic towns and cutting-edge architecture, love of tradition and thirst for the new.

23RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE VIENNA, AUSTRIA, AUGUST 28-30, 2014

Held in conjunction with 35th Annual Meeting of the International Society of Clinical Biostatistics
Immediately following Genetic Analysis Workshop 19
Conference location: Imperial Riding School Renaissance Hotel, Vienna

IMPORTANT DATES
January 15, 2014: Call for abstracts
March 2014: Early bird registration
June 4, 2014: Abstract submission deadline
August 28, 2014: Conference begins

Scientific Program Chair: Justo Lorenzo-Bermejo, Heidelberg, Germany
Local Organizing Chairman: Andreas Ziegler, Lübeck, Germany



2014 MEETING AGENDA:
August 28: Mini Symposium and Educational Workshop
Welcome Reception
August 29: Conference and Poster Session
Banquet at the MOYA
August 30: Conference and Poster Session
More information on: www.geneticepi.org

<http://www.geneticepi.org/iges-2014/>

**Website, Facebook and Twitter
(Communications Committee)**

Several new features have been added to our website and we are pleased to announce that IGES is now on Facebook and Twitter. The links to Facebook and Twitter have been added to our website. Please take a moment to follow us on Twitter and like us on Facebook to stay connected and spread the word.

Please also use our materials to foster the 2014 Annual Meeting and the Society. You can download the flyers under

Vienna meeting flyer:

<http://www.geneticepi.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/23RD-ANNUAL-CONFERENCE-2014-flyer-final.pdf>

IGES promotional flyer:

<http://www.geneticepi.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/IGES-2013-Pamphlet.pdf>

2013 IGES Officials

The names of all the IGES officials are available on our **website**:

<http://www.geneticepi.org/organization/>

The **officers** are: President: Andreas Ziegler; Past President: Suzanne Leal; President-Elect: Alexander F. Wilson; Treasurer: Mariza de Andrade; Secretary: Heike Bickeböllner; Editor-in-Chief, Genetic Epidemiology: Sanjay Shete.

Board members are the officers and the following 6 people: Jenny Chang Claude (outgoing), Adrienne Cupples, Cornelia van Duijn (outgoing), Josée Dupuis, Andrew Morris, and Kristen Van Steen.

The **Education Committee** is chaired by Elizabeth Gillanders. The committee has 13 members. The most recent members are Ellen Goode, Heather Ochs-Balcom, Stephanie Santorico, and Silke Szymczak.

The **ELSI Committee** is chaired by Claire Simpson and has 14 members. Outgoing members are Alison Klein and Gail Jarvik.

The **Membership Committee** consists of Yan Sun (chair), Danny Fallin, Jenny Chang-Claude, David Fardo, the outgoing members Saurabh Ghosh, Hemant Tiwari and Dharambir Sanghera, and the incoming members Ching-Ti Liu, Anwar Santoso and Ronnie Sebros. There are many more active ambassadors to particular regions of the world.

In 2013, the **Publication Committee** was chaired by Alexander Wilson. Standing member as editor of Genetic Epidemiology is Sanjay Shete. Further members were Andreas Ziegler (President), Nancy Saccone, Andrew Paterson, Mario Cleves, David Conti, Peter Kraft, Bertram Müller-Myhsok, Rasika Mathias, and Shelley Bull.

The 2013 **Program Committee** included Justo Lorenzo Bermejo, Brooke Fridley, Celia Greenwood (Chair), Jeanine Houwing-Duistermaat, Andrew Paterson, Sanjay Shete, Alexander Wilson (President-elect) and Andreas Ziegler (President).

The **Young Investigators Committee** includes Elizabeth Blue (formerly Marchani) (chair), Katie O'Brian, Melanie Quintana, Lara Sucheston, Amy Spencer, and Saskia Freytag.

The **Communication Committee** is chaired by Heike Bickeböllner (ex officio). Members are Saonli Basu, Jessica Dennis, Claire Simpson, Kristel van Steen, and Jin Zhou.

The **IGES webmaster** is Jessica Dennis. The **IGES Facebook and Twitter master** is Jin Zhou.

The **administrative office** is organized by Delaine Anderson and Lynn Carrasco.

IGES website: <http://www.geneticepi.org/>

IGES Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/geneticepi?ref=hl>

IGES Twitter page: <https://twitter.com/lges2013>

Please note that the IGES Facebook and Twitter pages were only set up recently and are currently in a fledgling state.

IGES Facebook page exclusively for Young Investigators:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/International-Genetic-Epidemiology-Society-Iges-Next-Generation/174416209303988?ref=hl>