



INTERNATIONAL GENETIC EPIDEMIOLOGY SOCIETY

Newsletter - *December 2015 Christmas Edition*

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Letter from the President

France Gagnon

Dear IGES Community,



We are now at the end of what I am certain was a very busy year for us all. As this year comes to an end, so does my mandate as President of our Society. It is therefore a good time to reflect on our achievements to date and to consider the future goals.

First of all, I would like to welcome Josée Dupuis in her new role as IGES President commencing in January. I would also like to sincerely thank all the Officers and Board Members for their commitment and genuine interest in working towards continuing and improving the success of our Society. I am

particularly grateful to the outgoing Officers, Past-President Alec Wilson, for his time and efforts in ensuring IGES' financial stability, and Heike Bickeböller, for her diligent and impeccable work as Secretary.

The financial stability that has been achieved over the past three years greatly contributed to the successful IGES 2015 scientific program. This allowed the Program Committee to introduce to our members some high-profile speakers from complementary disciplines and in turn provided our speakers, who are from relevant disciplines not yet well represented by IGES membership, with an introduction to our Society.

While we continue to solidify IGES' finances, I envision that investing in the improvement of our internal infrastructure will be key to ensuring the long-term success of our Society. I believe that the implementation of the intranet proposal that is being finalized by the Communications Committee will be a very good beginning in this direction.

This coming year, IGES will celebrate its 25th anniversary! IGES is the only international scientific society with a focus on novel epidemiological study designs and methods for genetic and genomic applications. IGES is poised to make an impact on population health in this era of massive availability of data. Because of this, I strongly believe that we should be confident in setting ambitious goals for IGES.

I am very optimistic for the future and the continuing success of IGES. This was particularly well reflected during the meeting in Baltimore. At this meeting, I had an opportunity to listen to some ideas and suggestions that were shared by our new and emerging investigators, a very dynamic, enthusiastic, engaged, and creative group! You are the future of IGES and we should mentor your growth as IGES leaders.

Friends, I thank you for having given me the opportunity to serve as your President, and I wish you all a wonderful holiday season!

France



Toronto University Campus

IGES 2016 Membership Drive
Reminder of Dues Payment by January 1, 2016

Dear IGES Members,

IGES would like to thank all the current members in 2015 for their continued support of the Society. The Membership Drive for 2016 started on November 1 this year and is well underway. A warm thank you to all of you who have already renewed their membership for the coming year, either at the meeting in Baltimore or via the website since. This early financial support is both vital to the Society and central to the preparations for the Toronto meeting next year.

Please allow us to remind you that the **2016 membership fee is due by January 1, 2016**. As an incentive to renew by this date, the rate has been kept at the **2015 level of US\$130** for regular professional membership **if renewed by January 1, 2016**.

The membership fee when registering **on or after January 2, 2016** will be raised to **US\$155**, which was agreed at the Baltimore Business Meeting in October 2015.

To renew your membership for 2016, please visit <http://www.geneticepi.org/membership> and click the 2016 IGES membership registration/renewal link, which will direct you to the event registration page.

We would also like to remind members of the fact that membership registration and annual meeting registration has now been separate since 2014, which was decided during the 2013 Business Meeting in Chicago. This measure was taken specifically to improve the drastic financial situation that the unification of the two fees had caused. **Registration for the annual meeting does not automatically make you a member of the Society for that year**. In order to qualify for the reduced Member meeting registration rate, you must already be a current member of the Society. You may still renew Society membership *for the following year* during the Meeting.

If you already renewed your membership for 2016 at the Baltimore meeting, your receipt (for professional members) will specify "Professional 2015 IGES Member Registration-(fee includes entrance to banquet)" and "2016 IGES Professional Membership" separately. If it ONLY specifies "Professional 2015 IGES Member Registration-(fee includes entrance to banquet)", then you registered only for the 2015 annual meeting. As mentioned in the October newsletter, we will reword the meeting receipts for 2016 and beyond, in order to avoid this possible source of confusion in the future with respect to membership registration being separate.

These are the rates for 2016 membership:

- Regular member **130 USD**, if paid by January 1, 2016 (early-bird)
- Regular member **155 USD** if paid on or after January 2, 2016 (approved at the Baltimore Business Meeting)
- Student member with online access to Journal **68 USD**, please pay by January 1, 2016
- Student member without online access to Journal **25USD**, please pay by January 1, 2016

Further information regarding membership registration and renewal may be found on the IGES website at <http://www.geneticepi.org/membership>

Treasurer's Corner
Mariza de Andrade

The last two years have been challenging for IGES, so as the IGES Treasurer I am pleased to share with members that we are now in good standing financially, though not totally off the hook. We will continue to be careful in our negotiations and management of resources to maintain this good standing.

The 2015 IGES Meeting in Baltimore was a success! I would like to thank our former President, Alec Wilson, for his leadership, fiscal prudence and for his skillful negotiations with ASHG in support of the 2015 IGES meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, US.

I would also like to thank Heike Bickeböllner, IGES Secretary, and Andrew Entwistle for their diligence in exploring and correcting issues with our database setup, which will continue to benefit IGES in the future. I would like to emphasize that **the IGES membership fee is separate from the IGES annual meeting registration fee**. For you to pay the member's reduced registration fee for the 2016 annual meeting, you must first pay the IGES membership fee for 2016. For your information, IGES membership registration for 2016 is now open. If you register by **January 1, 2016**, you will pay the same membership rate as 2015. Membership fees go up after this date, which was decided at the Baltimore business meeting.

As a reminder for this year, IGES is a charitable and educational organization, and any contribution provided by its members is tax-deductible as allowable by law. This can be done along with your membership renewal process. Your continuous support of IGES is appreciated!

I hope to see you all at the 2016 IGES Meeting in Toronto, Canada!

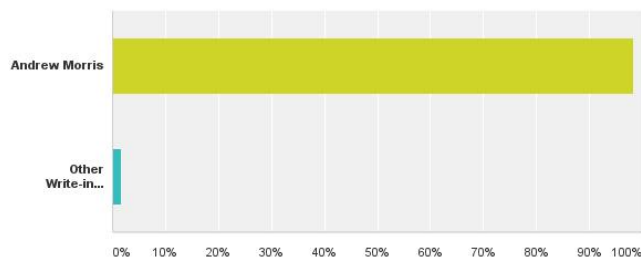
Mariza de Andrade
Treasurer

2015 Election for 2017 President and 2016 Members of the Board of Directors Results

Thank you to all the members who cast their votes in the recent ballot. Here are the results of the 2015 Election.

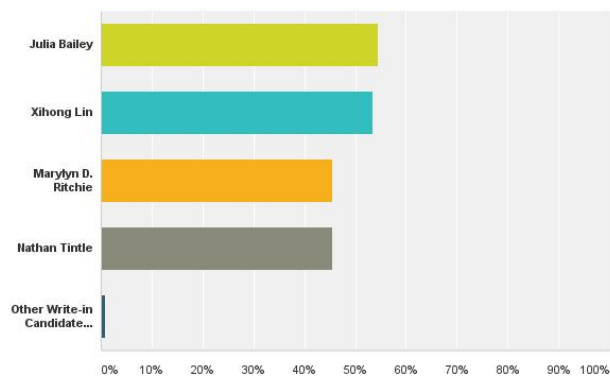
We congratulate Andrew Morris on his election as IGES President in 2017. Andrew will take on the role of President-Elect in 2016.

Q1 Who is your choice for IGES President-Elect to serve as President in 2017? You may only select one option!



Our congratulations also go out to Julia Bailey and Xihong Lin on their election as Members of the IGES Board of Directors to serve from 2016 to 2019.

Q2 Please select only 2 candidates from the list below to serve on the Board of Directors



The electoral turnout, as a percentage of all current members in 2015 this year, was 33.04%.

Congratulations to the successful candidates and thank you to everyone for your candidacy and support of IGES.

**Election of IGES Secretary July 2016 – June 2019
(Please vote – Candidate list)**

All current IGES members are eligible to cast their vote in the election of a new IGES Secretary for the period of office of three years from July 2016 to June 2019, in accordance with the IGES Bylaws.

The ballot shall take place from

00:00 UTC, March 1, 2016 and last 45 days until 23:59 UTC April 15, 2016.

The results shall be published in the Pre-Conference Newsletter in May 2016.

The candidate nominated for this position is

Heather Cordell.

Please find Heather's biosketch below.

In accordance with Article IV, Section 2 (Election) of the IGES bylaws, "Nominations for any office in the corporation can be made from the membership when supported by five members in good standing. The nominating committee (board of directors) will contact those nominated and obtain permission to place their names before the membership. An election shall be held by online ballot for the purpose of electing one of those nominated to each office."

Members shall be given the ***calendar month of January 2016*** in order to nominate anyone else in addition to the above-named candidate.

Your nomination along with your list of at least 5 supporters in good standing may be sent to the IGES Board of Directors.

**Nominated Candidate for the Position of
IGES Secretary**

Heather Cordell is Professor of Statistical Genetics and a Wellcome Senior Fellow in the Institute of Genetic Medicine at Newcastle University, UK. Heather obtained her undergraduate degree in mathematics from Cambridge University followed by an MSc in applied statistics and DPhil (PhD) in mathematical genetics from Oxford University. She then spent three postdoctoral years at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. From 2000-2004 Heather held a Wellcome Trust/JDRF Career Development Fellowship at the Department of Medical Genetics in Cambridge, and in October 2004 she took up a Wellcome Senior Fellowship at the same department. In 2006 Heather moved to Newcastle University to take up the newly-established Chair of Statistical Genetics. In addition to being involved in a number of applied studies, Heather's research interests include the development of methods for detecting linkage/association (including maternal and parent-of-origin effects) using family-based data, and the modelling of effects at multiple disease loci (including interaction effects) simultaneously. Heather was previously (2006-2012) a member of the Board of Directors of the International Genetic Epidemiology Society and acted as the 2010-2011 President of the Society.



Five selected publications:

Cordell HJ, Han Y, Mells GF, Li Y, Hirschfield GM, Greene CS, Xie G, Juran BD, Zhu D, Qian DC, Floyd JA, Morley KI, Prati D, Lleo A, Cusi D; Canadian-US PBC Consortium; Italian PBC Genetics Study Group; UK-PBC Consortium, Gershwin ME, Anderson CA, Lazaridis KN, Invernizzi P, Seldin MF, Sandford RN, Amos CI, Siminovitch KA (2015) International genome-wide meta-analysis identifies new primary biliary cirrhosis risk loci and targetable pathogenic pathways. *Nature Communications* 6:8019. PMID: 26394269.

Howey R, Mamasoula C, Töpf A, Nudel R, Goodship JA, Keavney BD, Cordell HJ (2015) Increased power for detection of parent-of-origin effects via the use of haplotype estimation. *American Journal of Human Genetics* 97(3):419-34. PMID: 26320892.

Eu-Ahsunthornwattana J, Miller EN, Fakiola M, The Wellcome Trust Case Control Consortium 2, Jeronimo SMB, Blackwell JM, Cordell, HJ (2014) Comparison of methods to account for relatedness in genome-wide association studies with family-based data. *PLOS Genetics* 10(7):e1004445. PMID: 25033443.

Cordell HJ, Bentham J, Töpf A, Zelenika D, Heath S, Mamasoula C, Cosgrove C, Blue G, Granados-Riveron J, Setchfield K, Thornborough C, Breckpot J, Soemedi R, Martin R, van Engelen K, Moorman AFM, Zwinderman AH, Barnett P, Koopman TT, Adriaens ME, Varro A, George AL Jr., dos Remedios C, Bishopric NH, Bezzina CR, O'Sullivan J, Gewillig M, Bu'Lock FA, Winlaw D, Bhattacharya S, Devriendt K, Brook JD, Mulder BJM, Mital S, Postma AV, Lathrop GM, Farrall M, Goodship JA, Keavney B (2013) Genome-wide association study of multiple congenital heart disease phenotypes identifies a susceptibility locus for atrial septal defect at chromosome 4p16. *Nature Genetics* 45(7):822-824. PMID: 23708191.

Ainsworth HF, Unwin J, Jamison DL and Cordell HJ (2011) Investigation of maternal effects, maternal-foetal interactions and parent-of-origin effects (imprinting), using mothers and their offspring. *Genetic Epidemiology* 35:19-45. PMID: 21181895

Annual Meeting – Toronto 2016
Specific Dates For Your Diaries

As announced officially in the last newsletter, the 25th IGES Annual Meeting will be held in the city of **Toronto, Canada**, from **October 24 until October 26, 2016**.

The Toronto Program Committee has now finalized a number of deadlines for you all:

<i>April 1, 2016</i>	Call for abstracts opens
<i>May 1, 2016</i>	Deadline for early abstract submission (VISA)
<i>May 15, 2016</i>	Notification for early abstract submission
<i>June 15, 2016</i>	General abstract submission deadline (no extensions)
<i>July 15, 2016</i>	Notification of acceptance and type of presentation



2015 IGES Officials

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

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

Current **officers are**: President: France Gagnon; Past President: Alexander F. Wilson; President-Elect: Josée Dupuis; 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 Barrett, L. Adrienne Cupples, Celia Greenwood, Inke König, Andrew Paterson, and Kristel Van Steen.

The **Education Committee** is chaired by Elizabeth Gillanders. The **ELSI Committee** is chaired by Claire Simpson. The **Membership Committee** is chaired by Yan Sun. Please refer to the website for the current respective committee members.

This year's **Publications Committee** is chaired by Josée Dupuis. Standing member as Editor of Genetic Epidemiology is Sanjay Shete. Further members are Shelley Bull, Denise Daly, France Gagnon, Peter Kraft, Rasika Mathia, Bertram Müller-Myhsok, and Michael Nothnagel.

The **Program Committee** for 2015 is chaired by André Scherag. Further members are Justo Lorenzo Bermejo, Emmanuelle Bouzigon, Andrew Morris, Andrew Paterson, Nathan Tintle, Alec Wilson, France Gagnon and Josée Dupuis.

The **Young Investigators Committee** is chaired by Elizabeth Blue (formerly Marchani). Please refer to the website for the respective committee members.

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 **Wiley/Genetic Epidemiology Liaison Committee** is chaired by Mike Province. Members are Sanjay Shete, Angelo Canty, and Alexander Wilson.

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

The **office** is thankfully organized by Lynn Carrasco.

IGES Web Site: <http://www.geneticepi.org/>

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

IGES Twitter page: <https://twitter.com/Iges2013>

IGES Facebook page exclusively for Young Investigators:

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

The December 2015 Christmas Newsletter was edited, proofread, and formatted by Andrew Entwistle.

❁❁ *Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all!* ❁❁