Dear IGES Members,

It was nice to see so many of you in Toronto for IGES 2016! Special thanks to France Gagnon, past president, and to the local organizing committee comprised of France Gagnon, Celia Greenwood, Vanessa Olmo, Patricia Nguyen and Nora Zwingerman for coordinating such a successful gathering. Thanks are also owed to Nathan Tintle, the chair of the program committee, for the variety of invited keynote speakers and a great program overall. There was record attendance at the pre-meeting educational workshop titled ‘Big Data Phenotyping: Opportunities, Analytic Challenges, and Solutions,’ generously co-sponsored by the University of Toronto Dalla Lana School of Public Health and the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES).

Many awards were presented in Toronto, including three new ‘best poster awards’ with judging coordinated by the Young Investigator committee. Sincere congratulations to our 2016 awardees: Alexander F. Wilson (Leadership Award); Christopher N. Foley (Neel Award), Neneh Sallah (Williams Award), Matthew P. Conomos (Robert Elston Best Paper Award, with co-
authors Michael B. Miller and Timothy A. Thornton), and 1st, 2nd and 3rd best posters to James R. Staley, Stefan Konigorski and Anthony Francis Herzig, respectively. We also had a special award this year for the “Best Impromptu Presentation at IGES”, given to Karim Oualkacha for stepping in to provide guitar and vocal entertainment at the IGES banquet. Fun was had by all who stayed to enjoy!

The next IGES meeting will take place at Queens’ College in Cambridge, UK on September 9 to 11, 2017. Queens’ College is a gorgeous venue, and we are able to take advantage of the accommodation before the start of the university term. How many times in your life will you have the opportunity to experience life in an English college environment? Don’t miss this opportunity!

I hope to see many of you in Cambridge, UK. In the meantime, please register your votes for President-Elect and Board Members.

Josée Dupuis
2016 IGES President
I am pleased as Treasurer to share with IGES members that we are now in good financial standing, and that we will continue to be vigilant in our negotiations and management of resources to maintain this good standing. I would like to thank former presidents, Alec Wilson, Andreas Ziegler, and France Gagnon, for their leadership and fiscal prudence to achieve this. The 2016 IGES meeting in Toronto, Canada, was excellent, and France’s skillful negotiations with several organizations in Canada and the USA provided robust sponsorship for the meeting, and enabled IGES to once again distribute over $17K in travel and best poster awards to attendees.

I would like to remind IGES members that the 2017 IGES membership will open shortly; an e-mail reminder with details will be sent. You can also go to www.geneticepi.org for information. Please encourage your colleagues to join as well!

As a reminder for this year, IGES is a charitable and educational organization, and any contribution other than membership and meeting registration fee is tax-deductable. This can be done along with your membership renewal process. Your continuous support of IGES is appreciated!

Mariza de Andrade
Treasurer
Dear IGES members, as an official journal for our society, Genetic Epidemiology invites you to submit your work in the fields of statistical, epidemiological and population genetics. Genetic Epidemiology is interested in both methodological and applied papers. Examples include: applied genetic epidemiology papers (e.g. meta-analyses of GWAS, Secondary analyses of GWAS data), gene and environment interactions, risk prediction models, DNA methylation and RNA seq data analysis. Other novel work is welcome!

Editor’s pick paper from September 2016 issue:

**G-STRATEGY: Optimal Selection of Individuals for Sequencing in Genetic Association Studies (pages 446–460)**
Miaoyan Wang, Johanna Jakobsdottir, Albert V. Smith and Mary Sara McPeek
Version of Record online: 3 JUN 2016 | DOI: 10.1002/gepi.21982

**Family-Based Rare Variant Association Analysis: A Fast and Efficient Method of Multivariate Phenotype Association Analysis (pages 502–511)**
Longfei Wang, Sungyoung Lee, Jungsso Gim, Dandi Qiao, Michael Cho, Robert C Elston, Edwin K Silverman and Sungho Won
Version of Record online: 17 JUN 2016 | DOI: 10.1002/gepi.21985

The September 2016 issue can be found here:

**Special Issue:** We are also planning to have a special issue on **Cancer Genetic Epidemiology.** This will be an applied issue with a focus on analyses of GWAS data (e.g. pathway based analyses, interactions, secondary analyses, etc.). If you have interesting work related to this topic, please contact the editor or editorial board members (John Witte, Jaya Satagopan, Daniel Schaid, Alisa Goldstein, or Sanjay Shete).

**Benefits of Publishing in Genetic Epidemiology:** There is no publishing cost for authors (e.g. page charges, black-white figures). In addition, every year, the journal selects a few papers for “open access” (unrestricted online access) publishing at no cost to the authors. Please register with Wiley online library to receive email alerts for new content and saved searches. The website for registration is http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/user-registration.

**AUTHOR SERVICES:** Wiley has an updated list of services it offers our authors. For more information, please visit http://authorservices.wiley.com
We now offer Kudos (https://www.growkudos.com/), a social media service that provides authors with a free set of tools to explain and share their published work for greater usage and impact. Authors also receive access to a publication dashboard where they can view downloads, citations, and altmetrics for their articles.

This is your journal: make it reflect your work by submitting your papers to Genetic Epidemiology!

Thanks and I look forward to your active participation in the journal.

Sanjay Shete
Editor-in-Chief
sshete@mdanderson.org
Dear IGES members,

It is now time to renew your membership for 2017. We hope to have membership registration open by or soon after November 10, 2016. The early-bird membership fee is available before January 1, 2017.

Please observe the fact that membership registration and annual meeting registration have been separate since 2014. Therefore you are NOT automatically registered as an IGES member just with meeting attendance. A separate registration for IGES Society membership is necessary:

http://www.geneticepi.org/membership/

Rates for 2017 IGES membership:

- Regular member **US$130**, if paid by January 1, 2017 (early-bird)
- Regular member **US$155** if paid on or after January 2, 2017
- Student and Post-Doctoral Fellow* member with online access to Journal **US$68**, rate continues all year but please aim to pay by January 1, 2017
- Student and Post-Doctoral Fellow* member **without** online access to Journal **US$25**, rate continues all year but please aim to pay by January 1, 2017

* For eligibility see IGES website

Benefits of IGES membership:

- Receive complimentary on-line access to Genetic Epidemiology (the official IGES journal)
- Post announcements and job adverts on the IGES website at **no cost**
- Attend annual IGES scientific meetings at **reduced cost**
- Interact with scientific peers worldwide
- Learn about the latest methodolgical developments, software, and research findings in genetic epidemiology
- Help the society promote the field of genetic epidemiology internationally

Your IGES dues help to support...

- The **Roger Williams** and **James V. Neel** Awards ($1000 each to the best IGES presentation by a student and a young scientist)
- **Travel expenses** to the annual IGES meeting for worthy students in financial need
- **Continuing education** and outreach to the scientific community about the discipline, analytical methods, and software used in genetic epidemiology through workshops and classes
- Subsidies for **student subscriptions** to the journal Genetic Epidemiology
2017 IGES Elections
List of Candidates – Please Vote!

All current IGES members are eligible to vote in the upcoming election of members to the Board of Directors. You will receive your ballot paper electronically and separately from this newsletter. This newsletter contains the biosketches of all candidates.

Candidate for the position of President-Elect to serve as President in 2018:

**Inke König**

Candidates to serve as members on the Board of Directors (you will be requested to select only 2 candidates):

- **David Balding**
- **Jeanine Houwing-Duistermaat**
- **Tsaesung Park**
- **André Scherag**

[The ballot paper for these elections will be sent out by SurveyMonkey. Note that all members may opt-out of emails from IGES sent via Cvent and SurveyMonkey. However, please note that by opting out, you will no longer receive ANY mail at all from IGES, including important election announcements and ballot links, as well as the newsletters and our annual meeting announcements].
Inke R. König is Professor of Genetic Epidemiology and vice-head of the Institute of Medical Biometry and Statistics at the University of Lübeck, Germany. She received her habilitation in Medical Biometry and Statistics in 2008 and her Ph.D. in Human Biology in 2002. In 2007, she was awarded with the James V. Neel Young Investigator Award of the IGES.

Inke’s research interests encompass methodological developments and applications in diverse areas of genetic epidemiology and prognostic modeling. Current foci are on the modeling of interactions and subgroup effects in complex traits, machine learning methods, risk prediction models, and precision medicine. As senior statistician she contributed to a number of international research collaborations such as the CARDIoGRAM consortium, and she is principal investigator in the German Centre for Cardiovascular Research and the German Center for Lung Research. Inke has published more than 200 refereed papers, and she is co-author of the textbook “A Statistical Approach to Genetic Epidemiology” (Wiley-VCH).

Currently, Inke is on the IGES Board of Directors (term 2014-16), and she has previously served on the IGES Membership Committee and the IGES Scientific Program Committee, both of which she chaired.

Five selected publications:

- Ferrario PG & König IR (accepted) Transferring entropy to the realm of GxG interactions. Brief Bioinform
- König IR et al. (2014) How to include chromosome X in your genome-wide association study. Genet Epidemiol 38:97-103
- Loley C et al. (accepted) No association of coronary artery disease with X-chromosomal variants in comprehensive international meta-analysis. Sci Rep
- Wright MN et al. (2016) Do little interactions get lost in dark random forests? BMC Bioinformatics 17:145
David Balding is Professor of Statistical Genetics at the University of Melbourne since 2014, holding a joint appointment in the Schools of BioSciences and of Mathematics & Statistics. He is also founding Director of the University’s new Centre for Systems Genomics (sysgenmelb.org). He retains an affiliation with the UCL Genetics Institute, London, where he was Professor of Statistical Genetics since 2009. Prior to that he held professorial positions at the University of Reading and Imperial College London.

After graduating from the University of Newcastle (Australia) he took a D Phil in Mathematics (applied probability) from the University of Oxford (UK). He has since then worked to advance mathematical and statistical methods in genetics, including medical, population and forensic genetics.

In genetic epidemiology, he has worked to develop better statistical methods of analysis for genetic association studies, including methods for adjusting for the potential confounding effects of population structure and cryptic relatedness. Recently, he has helped to improve methods for dissecting the genetic architecture of complex traits using heritability analysis, and used similar statistical models to improve phenotypic prediction from genome-wide SNPs. In addition, he has helped to advance genetic association analysis in pharmacokinetics, and to predict the functional significance of novel DNA sequence variants for inherited cardiac conditions.

He is particularly known for authoring popular and influential review papers, on statistical methods for genetic association studies (2006), on Bayesian methods and on population structure and cryptic relatedness in genetic association studies (both 2009), on genome-wide epigenetic studies (2011) and on ways to measure relatedness between pairs of individuals and uses of this concept in genetic epidemiology and beyond (2015). He is also editor of the Handbook of Statistical Genetics (Wiley, 3rd ed 2007; 4th ed in preparation).

David has been an IGES member for over 20 years, and has enjoyed participating in many IGES conferences, a highlight being a debate with Nan Laird on the continuing need for family studies in genetic epidemiology, at the Hawaii meeting in 2009.

Keywords: statistical genetics, phenotype prediction, population genetics, complex disease, systems genomics

Five selected publications:

Jeanine Houwing-Duistermaat is professor in Data Analytics and Statistics at the University of Leeds, UK and professor of Statistical Genetics at Leiden University Medical Center, The Netherlands. Jeanine’s research interests lie in the development and application of statistical methods for analysis of genetic and omic data in epidemiological studies. She has many publications in both (bio)medical and biostatistical journals. She enjoys working in multidisciplinary teams. She is interested in using and combining different methodological techniques for data analysis: bioinformatics, machine learning and biostatistics. Her specific research interest are methods for the analysis of family data, for integrated analysis of multiple omics datasets and for analysis of next generation sequencing data. She is coordinator of a European funded consortium of 15 partners on the development of methods for integrated analysis of multiple omics dataset. She made an animation to explain the role of statistical methodology in precision medicine (www.mimomics.eu).

Jeanine is chair of the Dutch Region of the International Biometric Society. She has served on the editorial boards of Biometrics, Biostatistics and Genetic Epidemiology and was co-editor of Biometrics. She has served on many scientific program committees of conferences in Biostatistics and Genetic Epidemiology. She was on the IGES educational committee from 2011 to 2014 and on the scientific program committee from 2012 to 2014. Jeanine has participated in many Genetic Analyses Workshop (GAW) since 2000 and is currently a member of the GAW Advisory Committee.

Keywords: Multidisciplinary, Innovation, Strategy, Diversity, Visibility, Dissemination

Five selected publications:

**Taesung Park** is the Professor and Director of the Laboratory of Bioinformatics and Biostatistics at the Department of Statistics, and an Adjunct Professor in the Interdisciplinary Program in Bioinformatics at the Seoul National University. He was the Chair of the Department of Statistics as well as the Head of the Interdisciplinary program in Bioinformatics. He has extensive experience in bioinformatics and statistical genetics. His expertise includes statistical methods for transcriptomics data, genome-wide association studies, and next-generation sequencing data, gene-gene interaction, and integration of high-dimensional omics data. Dr. Park has received several honorable grants in the area of bioinformatics and statistical genetics in Korea. He was the first awardee of National Research Laboratory (2005) and Creative Research Laboratory (2012) in the area of statistics and bioinformatics in Korea. Through the supports, he has played a leading role in East Asia for training young scientists in genetic epidemiology. He has organized several training courses in genetic epidemiology including two SAGE courses taught by Robert Elston and three short courses by Suzanne Leal. In addition, he has helped to provide a hub for communications among the researchers in Asia by organizing several International Symposiums on Statistical Genetics (ISSG). ISSG became a biannual international meeting in East Asia.

Dr. Park was a co-PI of Korea Association REsource (KARE) consortium, which was the first and the largest genome-wide association study of 10,000 subjects in Korea. He was also a co-PI of an international Type2Diabetes Genes Consortium supported by NIH. From these consortia, a several Nature and Nature Genetics papers were published. Currently he is a PI of several leading grants for developing bioinformatics tools for precision medicine in cancer studies. Dr. Park is a vice president and a recipient of ONBIT award (2014) of the Korean Society of Systems Biology and Bioinformatics. He is a council member of the International Biometric Society (IBS) and was the president of IBS Korea Region. He is a permanent member of Korean Statistical Society (KSS) and was its program director. He was the former Book Editor of Biometrics. Currently, he is an editorial board member of Genetic Epidemiology and Biostatics and Epidemiology, and the Associate Editor of the Computational Statistics and Data Analysis, Biometrical Journal, and Journal of Data Mining and Bioinformatics.

Keywords: communication, hard-working, expanding IGES to Asia, training, young scientists

*Five Selected Publications:*


**André Scherag** is Professor of Clinical Epidemiology at the Center for Sepsis Control and Care, Jena University Hospital (Germany). After studying Psychology and Biometry/Biostatistics in Marburg (Germany), Eugene (USA), and Heidelberg (Germany), he received a doctoral degree in genetic epidemiology (Marburg). The thesis topic was the development of analytic confidence interval estimators for the TDT design and with the extension of adaptive/flexible designs to high-dimensional testing problems while controlling the FWER in a strong sense. A. Scherag subsequently moved to Essen (Germany), where he headed the biostatistics working group and was head of biometry at the Center for Clinical Trials. He was responsible for both translational/basic scientists and clinical researchers covering a wide range of questions from small sample sized experiments to large epidemiological observational studies and regulatory RCTs. In the applied field of genetic epidemiology, he was analyst for several international GWAS consortia such as “Genetic Investigation of ANthropometric Traits” (GIANT), “Early Growth Genetics” (EGG) or “Genetic Consortium for Anorexia Nervosa” (GCAN). Accordingly, his research interests comprise clinical, genetic, and translational epidemiology as well as clinical trial statistics, biometry, bioinformatics, and biostatistics. He is particularly interested in methodological challenges connected to translating and communicating results from genetic epidemiology into evidence-based clinical practice, and thus to put some of the promises made by precision medicine into effect.

He is on the IGES scientific program committee (SPC) 2014-2016 and was SPC chair of the IGES 2015 meeting in Baltimore (USA). Together with the other members of the SPC, he centered this meeting on a broad range of methods and applications and on drawing people of related fields to IGES. Finally, A. Scherag is also interested in new ways of fascinating young scientists for of genetic epidemiology. In the Board of Directors he wants to continue working on both topics.

**Keywords:** interdisciplinary, evidence-based, dedicated, listening, young scientists

**Five selected publications:**


The 26th Annual IGES Meeting will take place from September 9-11, 2017 in beautiful Queens’ College, Cambridge, UK. Please visit the IGES meeting pages for the latest and most up-to-date information.

This section contains current news and announcements from the IGES Committees. Detailed committee reports were provided in the May 2016 newsletter. Here we report on recent and upcoming changes to Committee and Board memberships.

[We often have vacancies to fill on IGES committees. If you are interested in joining an IGES Committee, please contact the relevant Committee Chair listed on the IGES website, or email iges@geneticepi.org]

**Scientific Program Committee**
New members for 2017: Eleanor Wheeler, Chih-Chieh Wu
Rotating off in 2017: André Scherag, Nathan Tintle. Many thanks, André and Nathan, for your outstanding service to the Program Committee!

**Communications Committee**
Sarah Gagliano has replaced Jessica Dennis as webmaster. Many thanks, Jessica, for your outstanding service as webmaster!
New member for 2017: Maggie Wang
Rotating off in 2017: Kristel Van Steen, Jessica Dennis. Many thanks, Kristel and Jessica, for your outstanding service to the Communications Committee!

**Young Investigators Committee**
New member: James Cook
Rotating off in 2017: Lara Sucheston-Campbell. Many thanks, Lara, for your outstanding service to the Young Investigators Committee!

**ELSI Committee**
New member for 2017: Jessica Dennis
Rotating off in 2017: Brandon Pierce, Cathy McCarty, Justo Lorenzo. Many thanks for your outstanding service to the ELSI committee!

**Publications Committee**
New members for 2017: Timothy Thornton and Rayjean Hung
Rotating off in 2017: Rasika Mathias, Shelley Bull. Many thanks for your outstanding service to the Publications committee!

**IGES Board of Directors**
Heather Cordell has replaced Heike Bickeböller as Secretary. Many thanks, Heike, for your outstanding service as IGES Secretary! Also many thanks to your able assistant, Andrew Entwistle.
Rotating off in 2017: France Gagnon (past-president), Jenny Barrett, Inke König. Many thanks for your years of outstanding service to IGES!
The IGES’s most prestigious award, the **leadership award**, for 2016 was presented to Dr. Alec Wilson:

Alexander Wilson, Ph.D.
Head, Genometrics Section
Co-Chief and Senior Investigator, Computational and Statistical Genomics Branch
National Human Genome Research Institute, NIH

For significant contributions to development of statistical and computational methods for genetic data; for development of Genometric Analysis Simulation Program; for outstanding mentorship; and for exemplary administrative leadership to the International Genetic Epidemiology Society.

The **James V. Neel Young Investigator Award** for the best IGES presentation by a **young scientist** was awarded to Christopher Foley.

The **Roger Williams Award** for the best IGES presentation by a **student** was awarded to Neneh Sallah.
The 1st, 2nd and 3rd CIHR STAGE best poster awards prize winners were James Staley, Stefan Konigorski and Anthony Francis Herzig, respectively.

IGES Newsletter – November 2016 Pre-Election Edition
The names of all the IGES officials are available on our website:

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

Current officers are: President: Josée Dupuis; Past President: France Gagnon; President-Elect: Andrew Morris; Treasurer: Mariza de Andrade; Secretary: Heather Cordell; Editor-in-Chief, Genetic Epidemiology: Sanjay Shete.

Board members comprise the officers and the following 6 people: Julia N. Bailey, Xihong Lin, Celia Greenwood, Andrew Paterson, Jenny Barrett and Inke König.

The Education Committee is chaired by Elizabeth Gillanders. The ELSI Committee is chaired by Daniel Shriner. Please refer to the above website for the current respective committee members.

This year’s Publications Committee is chaired by Andrew Morris (ex-officio). Standing member as Editor of Genetic Epidemiology is Sanjay Shete. Further members are Lei Sun, Xiaofeng Zhu, Denise Daly, Michael Nothnagel, Josée Dupuis, Shelley Bull, and Rasika Mathias.

The Scientific Program Committee for 2016 was chaired by Nathan Tintle. Further members are Jaya Satagopan, Guillaume Paré, Josée Dupuis, Emmanuelle Bouzigon, France Gagnon, Andrew Morris, and André Scherag.

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

The Communications Committee is chaired by Heather Cordell (ex-officio). See the above website for further members.

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

The IGES webmaster is Sarah Gagliano. The IGES Facebook contact is Elizabeth Blue and the Twitter contact is Priya Duggal.

The office is organized by Vanessa Olmo.

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:

The November 2016 Pre-Election Newsletter was edited, proofread, and formatted by Heather Cordell