



# INTERNATIONAL GENETIC EPIDEMIOLOGY SOCIETY

## Newsletter – *May 2019 Pre-Conference Edition*

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<p><b>Letter from the President</b> <b>Celia Greenwood</b></p>
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Dear IGES Members,

After what was a long and particularly cold winter in Canada, our academic year has ended, and spring is finally arriving. For me, it is time to plan my upcoming conference travels. The IGES 2019 meeting will be in Houston just prior to the American Society of Human Genetics (October 12-14), and we have four excellent invited speakers. Dr. Genevera Allen, of Rice University and the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, works on statistical methods that help understand patterns in big data, notably in large genomic datasets and neuroimaging. Dr. Kari North (U. North Carolina) focuses on genetic epidemiology of cardiovascular disease. Dr. Hongyu Zhao (Ira V. Hiscock Professor at Yale University) has developed creative analytic approaches for many kinds of data and analytic questions in genetic epidemiology, and Dr. Toby Johnson is Scientific Director at GlaxoSmithKline, and uses genetics to help in selection and validation of drug targets. This year the Educational workshop will be a full day on Mendelian randomization complete with course materials, led by Dr. Kaitlin Wade, Dr. Carolina Borges, Dr. Jie Zheng, and Dr. Philip Haycock of Bristol, UK, with assistance from members of the IGES Education Committee. Thanks to our Program Committee (chaired by Dr. Ellie Wheeler) and our Education Committee (chaired by Dr. Stephanie Santorico and Dr. Todd Edwards) for their hard work assembling what will be a wonderful program. Please encourage



your colleagues to attend IGES 2019 by posting a link to [www.geneticepi.org/iges-2019](http://www.geneticepi.org/iges-2019) on your websites and on your twitter feeds (@genepisociety).

You may notice, when you register for IGES 2019, some questions about mentoring opportunities during the meeting. You will be asked if you are a first-time attendee, and also, if you have previously attended several IGES conferences, whether you would be willing to act as a mentor for first time attendees. Please consider stepping forward to welcome those new to the meeting. If you have trainees who will be attending for the first time, IGES is a small friendly meeting—please tell them to take advantage of the opportunity to get to know their more senior colleagues.

IGES 2020 in Hong Kong is now booked: July 1-3, 2020, at the Hyatt Shatin, right next door to the Chinese University of Hong Kong. **Please save the dates!** We would like to ask all IGES members to please reach out to colleagues and former trainees who are located in Hong Kong, or nearby in Asia, to tell them about this meeting in their region and to ask them to advertise the meeting locally. A “save-the-date” poster is available on the IGES website at <http://www.geneticepi.org/iges-2020/> and updates on the program will be added as they are available.

Our Society thrives through the commitment and investment of its members. Please consider nominating some of your colleagues for the IGES leadership award—nominations are now being accepted. Also, IGES is always looking for additional dedicated members to serve on our committees. Descriptions of the roles of each committee can be found later in the newsletter; please consider volunteering your time. If you are interested in volunteering, or want more information, please contact the relevant Committee Chair listed on the IGES website, or email us at [iges@geneticepi.org](mailto:iges@geneticepi.org). In particular, the IGES Board would like to institute a small group of advisors to assist the Treasurer of the Society. If this is a role that might interest you, please let us know. Furthermore, we will shortly be holding elections for the position of IGES Secretary (additional nominations can be accepted via the ballot sheet); see page 7 for more details.

Looking forward to seeing you in Houston in October.

*Celia Greenwood*

*2019 IGES President*

**Treasurer's Corner**  
**Mariza de Andrade**



I am pleased as Treasurer to share with IGES members that we remain 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 remind IGES members that the 2019 IGES membership is open – please go to <http://www.geneticepi.org/membership/> for details. Please encourage your colleagues and collaborators to join as well! Don't forget that IGES continues to offer additional categories of registration for members from low- or lower-middle- income countries.

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

*Mariza de Andrade*  
*Treasurer*

**Editor's Corner, Genetic Epidemiology**  
**Sanjay Shete**

**Dear IGES members**, as an official journal for our society, **with an improved impact factor of 2.544**, Genetic Epidemiology invites you to submit your work in the fields of statistical, epidemiological and population genetics. Genetic Epidemiology is interested in both the 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!

The April 2019 issue can be found here:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/10982272/2019/43/3>

**Benefits of Publishing in Genetic Epidemiology:** There is no publishing cost for authors (e.g. page charges, black-white figures). In addition, every year, journal selects few papers for "open access" (unrestricted online access) publishing at no cost to the authors. Please register on 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*

## IGES Fellow Members

A reminder that, as a new initiative since 2018, IGES confers the title of “Fellow Member of IGES” to long-term regular members of the society. Through this title, IGES rewards these consistent members and encourages others to maintain membership.

Fellow Members of IGES

- are listed on the IGES website
- are announced at the annual IGES meeting, and
- receive a certificate stating their special status

### **Eligibility**

To be eligible, the applicant must have continuous regular membership of IGES for 5 years or more. Breaks in membership due to, for example, maternity/paternity leave or illness, have to be justified in the application.

### **Application**

To apply, please fill in the Application Form available from the website:

<http://www.geneticepi.org/membership/iges-fellow-members/>

and email it to the IGES secretary at [iges@geneticepi.org](mailto:iges@geneticepi.org). Please include information on your years of IGES membership and, if applicable, justify any breaks in your continuous membership. Eligibility will be confirmed by the IGES Board of Directors.

## Call for nominations for IGES Leadership Award

Nominations are now solicited for the **2019 IGES Leadership Award**. Eligibility conditions are listed on the IGES web site:

<http://www.geneticepi.org/eligibility-for-iges-leadership-award/>

and are also included below. If you have any comments, questions or suggestions regarding the eligibility criteria, please contact us at [iges@geneticepi.org](mailto:iges@geneticepi.org).

A list of previous Leadership Award winners can be found at:

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

### **ELIGIBILITY FOR IGES LEADERSHIP AWARD (AWARDED ANNUALLY)**

#### **Eligibility and Nominations**

To be eligible, the nominee must have made significant contributions to the field of genetic epidemiology through teaching, research and/or service. In addition, the nominee must have provided demonstrated consistent leadership in the society by contributing to making IGES a vibrant research community who foster the career of young investigators. Members of the IGES Board or IGES Officers are not eligible in their years of service.

Nominations should be sent by June 30th to [iges@geneticepi.org](mailto:iges@geneticepi.org) (marked for attention of the IGES President), and should be accompanied with a paragraph describing the contributions of the nominees to IGES and the field of genetic epidemiology. We encourage nominations by all, including junior investigators.

#### **Selection Criteria**

Criteria for the award include, but are not limited to, excellence in the following areas:

- Sustained service to the International Genetic Epidemiology Society
- Genetic epidemiology research (Methodological and/or Applied)
- Genetic epidemiology education (teaching, course development, education sessions/workshop organization)
- Student and faculty mentoring

#### **Award Selection Committee**

The Award Selection Committee will consist of the IGES Officers and members of the IGES Board of Directors.

**Election of IGES Secretary July 2019 - June 2022**  
**Candidate: Heather Cordell**

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 2019 to June 2022, in accordance with the IGES Bylaws.

The ballot paper for these elections will be sent out by SurveyMonkey and the ballot will remain open for a period of 45 days. We anticipate opening the ballot on or before 17th May 2019. The results will be announced on the IGES website and published in the Post-Conference Newsletter in September 2019.

The candidate nominated by the IGES Board of Directors for this position is:

**Heather Cordell**

Heather has served as IGES Secretary from 2016-2019, and she has kindly agreed to stand for a further 3-year term. Please find Heather's biosketch overleaf.

*[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 sources such as MemberClicks, 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].*

## Election of IGES Secretary July 2019 - June 2022

Candidate: Heather Cordell



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 obtained 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; modelling effects at multiple disease loci (including interaction effects) simultaneously; and using approaches based on causal inference to elucidate the causal pathways between genotype and phenotype.

Heather was previously (2006-2012) a member of the Board of Directors of the International Genetic Epidemiology Society (IGES) and she acted as IGES President in 2010. For the past three years (2016-2019) she has held the post of IGES Secretary.

### Five selected publications:

Darlay R, Ayers KL, Mells GF, Hall LS, Liu JZ, Almarri MA, Alexander GJ, Jones DE, Sandford RN, Anderson CA, **Cordell HJ** (2018) Amino acid residues in five separate HLA genes can explain most of the known associations between the MHC and Primary Biliary Cholangitis. *PLOS Genetics* 14(12):e1007833. PMID: 30507971

Cherlin S, Plant D, Taylor JC, Colombo M, Spiliopoulou A, Tzani E, Morgan AW, Barnes MR, McKeigue P, Barrett JH, Pitzalis C, Barton A, MATURA Consortium, **Cordell HJ** (2018) Prediction of treatment response in rheumatoid arthritis patients using genome-wide SNP data. *Genetic Epidemiology* 42:754-771. doi: 10.1002/gepi.22159. PMID: 30311271

**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.

**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.



**IGES 2019 in Houston, USA**  
**Meeting information**

Registration for IGES 2019 in Houston is now open! Please see the IGES meeting pages for all the most up-to-date information:

<https://iges.memberclicks.net/annual-conference>



*The Scientific Program Committee* is delighted to have such a distinguished group of invited speakers for our upcoming meeting in Houston:

### *Invited Speaker Biographies*



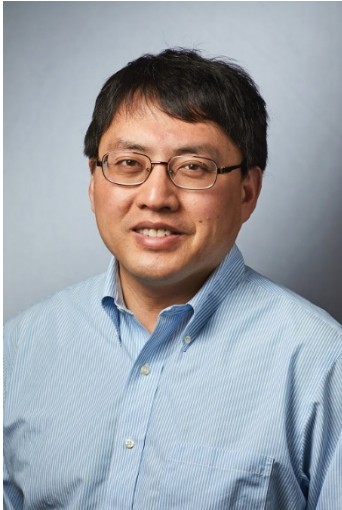
**Genevera Allen** is an Associate Professor of Statistics, Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Computer Science at Rice University as well as an investigator at the Neurological Research Institute at Baylor College of Medicine. Her research interests are in developing statistical tools to help scientists understand big data by using techniques from high-dimensional inference, machine learning and convex optimization. Her applied research interests include neuroimaging, neural recordings, and high-throughput genomics.



**Toby Johnson** is a Scientific Director at GlaxoSmithKline. His work involves developing and implementing statistical genetics tools for large scale selection and validation of drug targets, and developing requisite database infrastructure for GWAS complete summary statistics for thousands of diseases and traits. His general research interests include causal inference and Mendelian randomization, inference from summary statistics, and pharmacogenomics and biomarkers.



**Kari North** is a professor of epidemiology in the UNC Department of Epidemiology and has developed a strong multidisciplinary research program evaluating the genetic epidemiology of cardiovascular disease (CVD) and associated risk factors. Dr. North leads the UNC Department of Epidemiology's CVD Genetic Epidemiology Computational Laboratory, a collaborative assembly of faculty members, pre- and post-doctoral fellows, and staff members spanning UNC departments with collective expertise in both family- and population-based genetic epidemiological research. At the national level, Dr. North chairs the National Institutes of Health CHSA study section, is an editorial board member of multiple prominent journals and serves in several elected leadership roles in The Obesity Society and in the American Heart Association Epidemiology Council. At UNC, Dr. North has been engaged with several interdisciplinary centers that foster collaborative research in genetics.



**Hongyu Zhao** is the Ira V. Hiscock Professor and Chair of Biostatistics at Yale University. His research interests are the developments and applications of statistical methods in human genetics, molecular biology, drug developments, and precision medicine. Dr. Zhao is a Co-Editor of the Journal of the American Statistical Association – Theory and Methods, and was the recipient of several honors, including the Mortimer Spiegelman Award for a top statistician in health statistics by the American Public Health Association, and Pao-Lu Hsu Prize by the International Chinese Statistical Association.

We look forward seeing you in Houston, USA for an excellent slate of invited and contributed scientific sessions!

Eleanor Wheeler  
IGES 2019 Scientific Program Committee Chair

**IGES 2019 in Houston, USA**  
**Educational Workshop on Saturday 12 October: Introduction to Mendelian randomization**

International Genetic Epidemiology Society (IGES)  
Educational Workshop: Introduction to Mendelian randomization  
Day/time: Saturday October 12, 2019 10am-4pm  
Registration Fee: \$100  
Location: Hilton of Americas Hotel, Houston, Texas

Mendelian randomization is a study that uses genetic variants as instrumental variables to test the causal effect of a (non-genetic) risk factor on a disease or health-related outcome. Since its first proposal in 2003 it has been increasingly used to determine population causal effects using observational data. It is used in a large amount of the applied research in the MRC Integrative Epidemiology Unit (IEU) and throughout Population Health at the University of Bristol Medical School. Academics working in the MRC IEU and the University of Bristol (including those who are tutors on this course) have been at the forefront of developing methods for assessing and limiting potential biases with this approach.

This course aims to provide an introduction to the conduct, assumptions, strengths and limitations of Mendelian randomization, including the use of up-to-date methods for sensitivity analyses that explore likely violation of Mendelian randomization assumptions.

This is an introductory to intermediate level course. Students will learn about one-sample and two-sample Mendelian randomization, including their assumptions and gaining practical experience of how to apply these methods to real data. They will also learn about a range of sensitivity analyses that explore likely violation of the assumptions of Mendelian randomization. Prior experience of using Mendelian randomization is not required.

This is a hands-on workshop. Course materials will be provided for download by registrants prior to the course in September.

#### Tutors

Kaitlin Wade (course organiser)  
Carolina Borges  
Philip Haycock  
Jie Zheng

The course tutors are epidemiologists, statisticians, bioinformaticians and molecular geneticists who have a breadth of experience in the design, conduct and analysis using Mendelian randomization methodology.

**IGES 2020 in Hong Kong  
Please help publicise!**

**IGES 2020: Annual meeting of  
the INTERNATIONAL GENETIC  
EPIDEMIOLOGY SOCIETY**

**July 1-3, 2020, Hong Kong**



**SAVE  
THE  
DATE!**



**At the Hyatt Sha Tin  
Near the Chinese University of Hong Kong  
For more information, contact [iges@geneticepi.org](mailto:iges@geneticepi.org)**



**Combine your IGES conference trip with:**

- ▶ International Biometric Society meeting (Seoul, Korea, July 5-9) or
- ▶ 6th International Conference of Quantitative Genetics (Brisbane, Australia June 14-19)



We are excited to be holding the 2020 IGES meeting in Hong Kong. This will be the first time that an IGES meeting has been held in Asia (and only the second IGES meeting outside North America or Europe).

We need the help of **all IGES members** to actively publicise this meeting, especially to your networks across Asia (China, Singapore, Japan etc.), in order to make it a success.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Committee Reports</b> <b>Latest news from IGES Committees</b></p>
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This section contains current news and announcements from the IGES Committees. 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 us at [iges@geneticepi.org](mailto:iges@geneticepi.org).

### **Scientific Program Committee**

The Scientific Program Committee is delighted to have a distinguished group of invited speakers for our upcoming meeting in Houston. See the previous pages of this newsletter for details and speaker biographies. We look forward to scoring your abstracts for the contributed scientific sessions over the next month.

Eleanor Wheeler  
Scientific Program Committee Chair

### **Communications Committee**

Members of the Communications Committee have been active in managing the IGES website, Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter pages. We use these media to advertise not only IGES news and events, but also happenings in genetic epidemiology that may be of interest to IGES members. We also maintain a section on the IGES webpage on relevant job position openings.

This year we have continued our initiative of publicising monthly “highlighted” papers (in any journal) by IGES members, and an “Editor’s pick” paper from each issue of Genetic Epidemiology.

We are planning additional publicity centered around the upcoming IGES meetings in Houston and Hong Kong.

Heather J. Cordell  
Communications Committee Chair

## **ELSI Committee**

Spring Report 2019

The IGES ELSI Committee deals with Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues in genetic epidemiological research. The Committee addresses concerns and considerations of the Society and provides general policy guidance.

In conjunction with the Young Investigators Committee, the Committee posted on the Society's Publications webpage a link to a series of case studies for use as ELSI training materials.

The Committee responded to a Request for Information on proposed provisions of a draft Data Management and Sharing Policy for research funded or supported by the US NIH. The Committee will continue to follow the development of this policy, although at this time there is no timetable for release.

The Committee is performing a review of Plan S and Plan U. Plan S mandates open access for all publicly funded manuscripts immediately upon acceptance, with no embargo or paywall. Plan U achieves open access by requiring the posting of preprints to a preprint archive. The Committee is concerned about disincentivization to participate in Plan S, because the requirements do not apply to research funded by sources other than public funding and because, at least currently, "top tier" journals are not compliant. Regarding Plan U, the Committee is concerned about the possibility of harm resulting from unreviewed preprints, as well as the possibility that researchers may be incentivized to post large numbers of preprints, if the quantity of manuscripts becomes more important than quality of the research.

The Committee is planning to survey the Society's membership regarding the peer review process. Some journals are now releasing reviews as Supplementary Material upon publication. Some journals are allowing for reviewers to be revealed whereas other journals require reviewers to be named. On the one hand, anonymity is thought to protect reviewers. On the other hand, revealing names is thought to improve transparency and accountability.

Daniel Shriner

ELSI Committee Chair

## **Young Investigators' Committee**

We are busy planning several events and resources for the 2019 annual meeting in Houston.

### Student-Mentor Luncheon

The Student-Mentor Luncheon is scheduled for Sunday October 13<sup>th</sup>. Young Investigators, take this opportunity to meet with established IGES investigators for career advice during our annual student-mentor luncheon. Don't forget to sign up when you register for IGES2018! Could senior investigators who are interested in participating as a mentor please contact James Cook at [J.P.Cook2@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:J.P.Cook2@liverpool.ac.uk) to volunteer.

### Job Fair

The Job Fair is tentatively scheduled for October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Job seekers and those searching for job candidates are invited to attend. Make sure to bring paper copies of your advertisements and CVs to share! Applicant seekers are invited to send digital versions of their advertisements with Liz Blue ([em27@uw.edu](mailto:em27@uw.edu)) so she can post them on the Facebook page prior to the meeting.

### Young Investigator Meet-up

Hamzah Syed is organising an after-hours meet-up for young investigators, tentatively scheduled for October 14<sup>th</sup>. Full details will be announced closer to the time, if you would like to help organise this informal get-together, please email Hamzah at [h.syed@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:h.syed@ucl.ac.uk).

### Future Young Investigator Committee Members

Several members are due to stand down from the committee this year – any Young Investigators interested in joining the committee please contact James at [J.P.Cook2@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:J.P.Cook2@liverpool.ac.uk), we'd love to hear from you!

James Cook  
Young Investigators' Committee Chair

## **Publications Committee**

The Publications Committee reviewed all papers published in Genetic Epidemiology in 2018 and chose the Best Paper Award winner. The winning paper will be announced at the 2019 Annual Meeting. Thanks to members Andre Scherag, Marie-Helene Roy-Gagnon, Peter Kraft (Chair, Ex-officio), Nancy Cox, Joanna Biernacka, Sanjay Shete, Timothy Thornton, Rayjean Hung, and Celia Greenwood.

Peter Kraft  
Publications Committee Chair



## Education Committee

**Members:** Sarah Buxbaum, Todd Edwards (Co-Chair), Elizabeth Gillanders, Sandeep Grover, Nadezda Lipunov, Heather Ochs-Balcom, George Papanicolaou, Stephanie Santorico (Co-Chair), Mark Seielstad, Tae-Hwe (Linus) Schwantes-An, Yan Sun, Wei Xu, Silke Szymczak

**IGES 2019 Educational Workshop:** The IGES 2019 Educational Workshop will be an Introduction to Mendelian randomization. See earlier pages of this newsletter for full details.

**IGES 2020 Educational Workshop:** We are already in discussions for topics for the IGES 2020 Educational Workshop. Please feel free to provide feedback to any of the Education Committee members. Also please contact Stephanie Santorico ([stephanie.santorico@ucdenver.edu](mailto:stephanie.santorico@ucdenver.edu)) or Todd Edwards ([todd.l.edwards@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:todd.l.edwards@vanderbilt.edu)) with other items you would like the Education Committee to consider.

**Coursera:** We have also experienced some delays scheduling the final speaker for the Population Genetics portion of the Coursera MOOC in Genetic Epidemiology, due to a cancellation and difficulty scheduling. However, Bruce Weir has agreed to teach this section, and we are in the process of scheduling his trip to Nashville.

Our goal remains completion of all sections by the next IGES meeting.

Stephanie Santorico and Todd Edwards  
Education Committee Co-Chairs

## 2019 IGES Officials

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

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

Current **officers** are: President: Celia Greenwood; Past-President: Inke König; President-Elect: Peter Kraft; Treasurer: Mariza de Andrade; Secretary: Heather Cordell; Editor-in-Chief, Genetic Epidemiology: Sanjay Shete.

**Board members** comprise the officers and the following 6 people: David Balding, Jeanine Houwing-Duistermaat, Liz Gillanders, Pak Sham, Ele Zeggini and Jaya Satagopan.

The **Education Committee** is co-chaired by Stephanie Santorico and Todd Edwards.

The **ELSI Committee** is chaired by Daniel Shriner.

This year's **Publications Committee** is chaired by Peter Kraft (ex-officio).

The **Scientific Program Committee** for 2018 is chaired by Eleanor Wheeler.

The **Young Investigators' Committee** is chaired by James Cook.

The **Communications Committee** is chaired by Heather Cordell (ex-officio).

Please refer to the above website for the current respective committee 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, the **Twitter contact** is Priya Duggal and the **LinkedIn contact** is Han Chen.

**Membership and conference administration** 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/genepisociety>

**IGES LinkedIn page:** <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12061041/>

**IGES Facebook page exclusively for Young Investigators:**

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

The May 2019 Pre-Conference Newsletter was edited, proofread, and formatted by Heather Cordell