



INTERNATIONAL GENETIC EPIDEMIOLOGY SOCIETY

Newsletter – *May 2016 Pre-Conference Edition*

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<p>Letter from the President Josée Dupuis</p>

Welcome to our new and continuing members. What an exciting time to be part of the international genetic epidemiology community! As IGES celebrates its 25th meeting anniversary, we have witnessed tremendous changes in the past 25 years catalyzed by technological advances allowing the measurements of big genetics and genomics data that were not possible in 1991, or even a few years ago. Because our field is moving so fast, it is crucial to stay connected with our peers in order to keep up with the latest developments, from next-generation sequencing, new omics measures and electronic medical record availability; the flood of these emerging “big data” requires new skills and interdisciplinary collaborations like never before.

In the first newsletter of 2016, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the officers, board members, and committee members who completed their terms on January 1, 2016. I particularly want to thank Alec Wilson for his tireless work for IGES in the past three years as president-elect, president, and then past-president. Alec was instrumental in leading the Society to better financial footing. I also want to thank France Gagnon, our out-going President, for her leadership and her tireless efforts to engage new organizations and individuals from complementary fields in our Society, and for her hard work to ensure the success of the 25th IGES meeting in Toronto this October. In June, we will also be transitioning to a new Secretary. I will miss the deluge of emails from our current secretary, Heike Bickeböller, reminding me of my upcoming presidential deadlines and of other items I should be attending to. Heike's dedication, attention to details and foresight are greatly appreciated and has helped to ensure

that the IGES officers and Society runs smoothly. We owe this beautiful IGES Newsletter to Heike and her team, who resurrected the newsletter a few months after taking office three years ago. Heike leaves big shoes to fill! We welcome Heather Cordell in her new role as Secretary. Heather's long history with IGES, having served as President in 2010, makes her an ideal candidate for this position and I could not think of a better choice to replace Heike. We thank our departing Board members, L. Adrienne Cupples and Kristel Van Steen, for three years of dedicated service, and we welcome Julia Bailey and Xihong Lin as your new Board members. I also wish to thank our new committee members, too numerous to list all, for their willingness to serve the Society. I would also like to encourage IGES members to volunteer their services to the Society. There are many advantages to serving on an IGES committee, from contributing to a good cause to making new connections and promoting our field. Please [contact me](#) if you are interested in being more involved.

The multi-disciplinary aspect of our work is one of the great strengths of our Society. Where else do you find clinicians, epidemiologists, statisticians/biostatisticians, bioinformaticians, geneticists, biologists and many other types of scientist working together to achieve the goals of their research agenda? Let's continue to work together to increase the involvement of our collaborators with a lesser representation in our Society, including trainees from wider research fields, so that they can join us in our quest to have more of our research findings eventually make a real difference to public health.

This year's meeting promises to be exciting, starting with a big data workshop followed by two days of scientific sessions, with 7 invited speakers covering a broad spectrum of topics important to genetic epidemiology. I strongly encourage you to submit an abstract and to plan attending IGES 2016 in Toronto.

Looking forward to seeing many of you in Toronto!

Josée Dupuis
2016 IGES President



Treasurer's Corner
Mariza de Andrade

Reaching out to industry and institutional sponsors that align with our purposes, along with concentrated efforts to negotiate best pricing with our vendors and venues, has paid off in stabilizing our financial base. This allows us to 1) keep annual membership and meeting fees affordable, 2) bring in cutting edge scientists to present at our meetings, and 3) resume providing monetary awards to outstanding junior scientists in our field. This is not an insignificant accomplishment, and we have the many contributions and tenacious efforts of several individuals and committee members to be grateful to.

IGES membership is based on the calendar year, January through December, and enables free online access to the journal *Genetic Epidemiology*. Membership also entitles you to reduced fees for meeting registration and eligibility to participate as a member on one of the various IGES committees or as a board member. Note that 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!

Registration for the October 2016 meeting in Toronto is now open, with early-bird pricing good through July 22nd. I hope to see you there!

Mariza de Andrade

Treasurer

Editor's Corner
Genetic Epidemiology

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!

We are also planning to have a special issue on **cancer genetic epidemiology**. This will be an applied issue with its 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 publication cost to authors (e.g. page charges, black-white figures). In addition, the journal selects a few papers every year to be published as "open access" (unrestricted online access) at no cost to the authors. Please register on the 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 on which 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

**2016 Election for IGES Secretary, 2016 – 2019
Results**

Thank you to the 105 members who cast their votes in the recent ballot. We would like to congratulate Heather Cordell on her election as IGES Secretary for the period of office from July 2016 – June 2019, after gaining just over 98% of the votes cast. May we take this opportunity in wishing Heather all the best when she takes up office in July this year.



Toronto 2016
Meeting information from the Local Organizing Committee



Dear IGES Community,

Happy spring and IGES 2016 warm up!

This year, the [IGES annual meeting](#) is a very special event: It is the **25th anniversary** of the first meeting!

The 25th meeting will be held in beautiful [Toronto](#), Canada, from October 24 to 26 this year. For the occasion, the [local organizing](#) and [scientific program](#) committees, in close collaboration with the [Young Investigators Committee](#), have been working creatively to offer you stimulating scientific and educational programs, along with additional celebratory perks. All this in a superb downtown venue!

The scientific program will feature seven inspiring sessions, framed by keynote presentations on timely and exciting topics relevant to modern genetic epidemiological research. These include methodological and applied talks on genetic epidemiology findings and drug development, NGS in the clinic, the UK10 project and rare variants, exposomics, complex trait architecture and disease mechanisms. The invited [speakers](#) are leaders in the field and known to be excellent communicators!

In addition, there will be a stimulating [educational workshop](#) on “Big data phenotyping: opportunities, analytic challenges, and solutions”, with keynote talk by Professor Rob Tibshirani of Stanford University. A joint workshop participants-IGES delegates mixer will end the day. This full-day workshop and mixer on October 24 are jointly organized and generously sponsored by the [Dalla Lana School of Public Health](#) and [partners](#).

Among the innovations this year, there is a [Young Investigators' corner](#), in which IGES delegates (all of us, not just the young ones!) will find several young-investigator-led activities and resources. These include facilitation of room sharing, childcare information and, of course, several networking activities! Among the young investigator-led networking activities on offer are: a reception gratefully sponsored by SAS for trainees, young investigators, and “young at heart” investigators. The [Young Investigators](#) are also preparing tips on how to give amazing poster presentations. To inspire you, [CIHR STAGE](#) will be offering awards for best poster presentations by a trainee.

Also new this year, we are happy to announce the [Illumina Geographic Diversity Travel Awards](#), and travel awards from several [partner institutions](#) to support trainees attending IGES 2016. The IGES 2016 local organizing committee is actively seeking other potential partners to offer additional travel awards. Please check the [IGES 2016 Travel Awards](#) webpage regularly for details and new awards.

The 25th IGES Meeting anniversary will be celebrated with a banquet at the Sheraton Centre Toronto on Tuesday, October 25. We are preparing a montage of our past 25 years of IGES meetings: it should be lots of fun... Trainees, get ready to see your mentors in their younger years! Seasoned IGES delegates, we would love you to share pictures of your best IGES meeting memories to france.gagnon@utoronto.ca. The IGES banquet is supported by the generous contribution of [Regeneron](#).

To further enrich your IGES 2016 meeting experience, local tours and the SAS young-investigator-led reception on the evening of October 26 are being planned for additional networking opportunities. Visit the IGES 2016 website regularly for updates!

Finally, we have negotiated exceptional guestroom rates at the elegant [Sheraton Centre](#) located right in the heart of Toronto downtown Yonge retail and entertaining district, and steps from the University of Toronto and Discovery district.

[Registration](#) is now open: hurry up to benefit from the early bird registration rates... **Take note that rates for all active IGES members have been reduced from last year.**

We are also ready to receive your abstracts in big numbers! The [Abstract submission](#) deadline is June 15, so do not miss it!

We look forward to welcoming you in Toronto, Canada, for the 25th IGES annual meeting.

Sincerely,

IGES 2016 [local organizing committee](#):

France Gagnon, co-chair, CIHR STAGE, University of Toronto

Celia Greenwood, co-chair, Lady Davis Institute, McGill University

Patricia Nguyen, program coordinator CIHR STAGE, University of Toronto

Vanessa Olmo, Meeting planner, Business Endeavors

Nora Zwingerman, IGES trainee representative, CIHR STAGE, University of Toronto

2016 meeting sponsors



**Toronto 2016
Current Dates for Your Diaries**

Here is a short list of the current deadlines valid for the Toronto 2016 meeting. Please visit the IGES meeting pages for up-to-date and new information.

<http://www.geneticepi.org/iges-2016/>

June 15, 2016	General abstract submission deadline (no extensions)
July 15, 2016	Notification of acceptance and type of presentation
July 22, 2016	Deadline for early-bird pricing on registration
October 24, 2016	Meeting opens!

**Toronto 2016
The Scientific Program Committee presents the invited speakers**

The Scientific Program Committee is excited to have such an excellent group of invited speakers. Topics covered by the invited speakers will include:

- Genetic epidemiology findings and drug development
- Next generation sequencing in the clinic
- UK10K project and rare variants
- Exposomics
- Complex trait architecture and disease mechanisms
- Big data phenotyping (keynote of the educational workshop)

Invited Speaker Biographies



Michael Boehnke is the Richard G. Cornell Distinguished University Professor of Biostatistics and Director of the Center for Statistical Genetics and Genome Science Training Program at the University of Michigan. His research focuses on development and application of statistical designs and analysis methods for human genetics, with emphasis on identification of genetic variants that predispose to human diseases and traits. He is a principal investigator (PI) of the FUSION study of the genetics of type 2 diabetes (T2D), steering committee chair of the T2D-GENES multiethnic genome sequencing consortium, and a PI of the Accelerating Medicines Partnership T2D Knowledge Portal project, the

BRIDGES bipolar disorder sequencing project, and the InPSYght schizophrenia and bipolar sequencing project. He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and a fellow of the American Statistical Association and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.



Dr. Lon Cardon joined GlaxoSmithKline in 2008, initially as SVP of Genetics and shortly thereafter combining Genetics with the departments of Statistics, Epidemiology, Computational Biology and Clinical Pharmacokinetics to form the Quantitative Sciences division. In 2015 he created and continues to lead GSK's Target Sciences, a new division aimed at harnessing the latest discoveries and technologies in genomics and other forms of 'big data' to advance the next generation of drug targets. Prior to joining GSK, Lon was a senior academic in the UK and USA, as Professor of Bioinformatics at the University of Oxford until 2006 and then as Professor of Biostatistics at the University of Washington and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle. He has received a number

of scientific awards, including election to the UK's Academy of Medical Sciences and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and has authored more than 200 scientific publications and 15 books and chapters.



Professor **Gail Jarvik** M.D., Ph.D. is an internist and medical geneticist who holds the Arno G. Motulsky Endowed Chair in Medicine and heads the Division of Medical Genetics and the Northwest Institute of Genetic Medicine at the University of Washington in Seattle. She cares for adult medical genetics patients. Her research focuses on the statistical genetic analysis of common diseases and the implementation of genomic medicine. Additionally, she has active research in biomedical ethics, including returning genomic research results to subjects. She is a PI in both the Electronic Medical Records and Genomics (eMERGE) and clinical sequencing exploratory research (CSER) consortia.



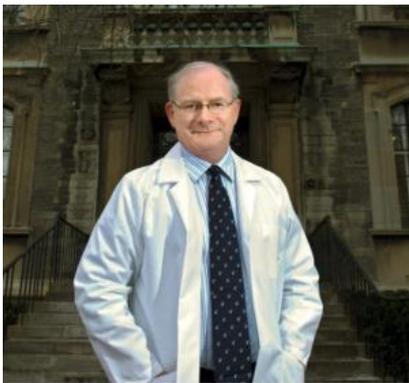
Prof. Nicole Soranzo is a human geneticist working in the field of human complex trait genetics. Her research focuses on the application of large-scale genomic analysis to unravel the spectrum of human genetic variation associated with cardiometabolic and immune diseases, and its interaction with non-genetic and environmental cues. Prof. Soranzo graduated in biological sciences at the University of Milano, Italy, with a dissertation on population and evolutionary genetics. She later obtained a PhD in genetics from the University of Dundee, and undertook post-doctoral training in human population and statistical genetics at University College London, conducting applied and methodological work in evolutionary genetics and association studies. In 2005 Prof. Soranzo

joined the Pharmacogenomics Department at Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research and Development (Raritan, USA). In 2007 she joined the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, and since 2009 she has led her own team. In 2015 she was additionally appointed as Professor of Human Genetics at the School of Clinical Medicine of the University of Cambridge. Furthermore, Prof. Soranzo is a member of the Cambridge University Platelet Biology and Cardiovascular groups, the NIHR Blood and Transplant Research Unit in Donor Health and Genomics and the EU BLUEPRINT and EpiGeneSys projects. She serves in several steering committees and scientific advisory boards, and is on the editorial board for the European Journal of Human Genetics, Genome Medicine, Trends in Genetics, and Molecular Biology and Evolution.



Joel Schwartz, Ph.D., is a Professor in the departments of Environmental Health and Epidemiology at the Harvard School of Public Health, on the steering committee of the Harvard University Center for the Environment, and Director of the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis. His major research interests include health effects of air pollution, of heavy metals, of weather, and of drinking water. He has examined these questions using a variety of methods including time series, case-crossover, and case-only analyses of administrative data, survival and repeated measures analyses of cohorts, panel studies, etc. He has recently focused on environmental epigenetics, as well as gene-environment interaction studies. In addition, he has been involved in exposure modeling,

including both land use regression approaches as well as use of remote sensing data. His research has also involved how to integrate multiple exposures in intelligent ways. He received the John Goldsmith Career Achievement Award from the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology, the International Union of Environmental Protection Agencies World Congress Award, the Nichols Teaching Award, and a John D and Catherine T MacArthur Fellowship. He has been a member of two previous National Academy of Sciences committees (Environmental Epidemiology and Lead Exposure in Critical Populations), and is currently a member of the standing committee on Emerging Science for Environmental Health Decisions.



Dr. Peter St George-Hyslop's research has been primarily directed toward elucidating the mechanisms causing human neurodegenerative disease, with research into the molecular basis of Alzheimer's disease (AD) constituting the main focus of this work. His laboratory discovered that Alzheimer's disease is etiologically heterogeneous; an observation that subsequently had a profound effect on the design of both clinical and basic research paradigms on this disease. His laboratory led the discovery of multiple genes associated with AD, including presenilin 1, presenilin 2, nicastrin, and SORL1. He collaborated on the discovery of three other AD

genes: APP with J. Gusella, APOE with A. Roses and TREM2 with J. Hardy. More recently, as a member of the Alzheimer's Disease Genetics Consortium, International Genomics of Alzheimer's Program (IGAP), he used genomewide association study (GWAS) methods to identify at least 20 new genes associated with late onset AD.

We look forward to receiving your [abstract](#) by June 15 and seeing you in Toronto for an excellent slate of invited and contributed scientific sessions!

Nathan Tintle
Scientific Program Committee chair

Toronto 2016
The Education Committee

The IGES Education Committee works on a variety of educational and training initiatives each year. These activities can be 1) internally focused, targeting the IGES membership or 2) externally focused, targeting the membership or education committees of other societies or groups. Ideally we would coordinate one of each type of activity per year.

This year, at the IGES 2016 meeting to be held in beautiful Toronto, Canada, October 24-26, there will be a stimulating educational workshop on "[Big data phenotyping: opportunities, analytic challenges, and solutions](#)", with the keynote talk by professor Rob Tibshirani, from Stanford University:



Robert Tibshirani is a Professor in the Departments of Statistics and Health Research and Policy at Stanford University. He received a B. Math. from the University of Waterloo, an M.Sc. from the University of Toronto, and a Ph.D. from Stanford University. He was a Professor at the University of Toronto from 1985 to 1998. Professor Tibshirani is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association, the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, and the Royal Society of Canada. He won the prestigious COPSS Presidents' Award in 1996, the NSERC Steacie Award in 1997, the CRM-SSC Prize in Statistics in 2000, and the University of Waterloo Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award in 2006. He was elected to the U.S National Academy of Sciences in 2012. In his work he has made important contributions to the analysis of complex datasets, most recently in genomics and proteomics. Some of his most well-known contributions are the lasso, which uses L1 penalization in regression and related problems, generalized additive models and Significance Analysis of Microarrays (SAM). He also co-authored five widely used books: "Generalized Additive Models", "An Introduction to the Bootstrap", "The Elements of Statistical Learning", "Introduction to Statistical Learning, and "Sparsity in Statistics". Professor Tibshirani also co-authored the first study that linked cell phone usage with car accidents, a widely cited article that has played a role in the introduction of legislation that restricts the use of phones while driving.

The IGES 2016 educational workshop is a joint initiative between IGES, the Dalla Lana School of Public Health (DLSPH), and the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES).

In the upcoming year we plan to continue our activities related to education sessions as well as 1) investigate the use of the new IGES intranet for education resource sharing and 2) investigate into developing a "genetic epidemiology 101" course, which could help develop the IGES brand.

Specifically, the IGES education committee plans to meet in Toronto to continue development of a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) that would target medical, health, public health professional and trainee learners with an interest in developing foundational knowledge and skills in the theories and practice of genetic epidemiology. The IGES education committee is joined by Priya Duggal, Dani Fallin and John Witte in this work. If others are interested in joining please contact Elizabeth Gillanders (lgilland@mail.nih.gov).

Toronto 2016
Young Investigators' Committee

The Young Investigators welcome a new member, James Cook from the University of Liverpool. We are busy planning several events and resources for the 2016 annual meeting in Toronto. See below for more details.

Student-Mentor Lunch

Take the opportunity to informally ask established IGES investigators for career advice during our annual student-mentor luncheon. Don't forget to sign-up when you register for IGES 2016! Are you interested in mentoring? Email Liz Blue, em27@uw.edu, to sign up as an advisor.

Young Investigator Meet-up

SAS is sponsoring the Young Investigator Mixer! The mixer will be the evening of Wednesday, October 26th, 2016. The event will be about 15 minutes away by foot, and can accommodate up to 100 participants. This is an opportunity to mingle over food and refreshments. Sign up that you would like to attend during your registration for the IGES conference. Details are coming soon, with updates posted to the IGES website.

New! Poster Award Competition

A team of Young Investigators and Scientific Program committee members will review posters presented by trainees at IGES, using these evaluation criteria:

- a) Visual presentation of information. Is the poster readily understandable? Is the information presented in a clear and compelling way?
- b) Scientific merit. Are the ideas presented in the poster relevant to IGES? Do these results have potential to impact the field in specific or general ways?
- c) Oral communication. The presenter would be evaluated for their knowledge of the material presented in the poster, as well as their ability to communicate those ideas to the committee.

Prizes for the top three posters by a trainee will be provided by CIHR STAGE, selected by vote of this committee. The winners will be announced at the final business session of the meeting.

To help trainees prepare their posters, guidelines for visual presentation and oral communication will be posted on the IGES website.

Job Fair

Job and applicant seekers are invited to attend our annual event during the IGES meeting. The date/time/location will be included in the meeting program. Make sure to bring paper copies of your advertisements and CVs to share! Applicant seekers are invited to send digital versions of their job advertisements to Liz Blue, em27@uw.edu. Liz will share these details on the Young Investigators' Facebook page prior to the meeting.

New! Child care

Child care can be arranged through Improv Care (416.249.2786 or www.improvcare.ca). If you need child care, you are responsible for coordinating and paying Improv Care directly; IGES will not financially, legally, or otherwise be involved in the arrangement.

New! Room Sharing

Are you thinking about attending IGES 2016 and want to share your hotel expense? A room sharing survey will be available here: <http://www.geneticepi.org/iges-2016/young-investigator-corner/>. Simply fill out the survey and you will be able to contact other people to share a hotel room!

Publications Committee

The role of the IGES Publications Committee in 2016 is to select the best paper published in Genetic Epidemiology in 2015. The Committee is composed of nine senior IGES members with expertise covering the scope of the journal, which this year includes: Sanjay Shete (standing member as Editor of Genetic Epidemiology); Josée Dupuis (IGES President); returning members Shelley Bull, Denise Daly, Rasika Mathia and Michael Nothnagel; and new members Lei Sun and Xiaofeng Zhu. The process of reviewing the 61 original research articles is underway. Each paper will first be reviewed by three members of the Committee, and those scored most highly will subsequently be assessed by all members. Our final decision for the "Best Paper" award will be announced in October during the Annual Meeting in Toronto.

Andrew Morris
Publications Committee Chair

ELSI Committee
Spring Report 2016

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.

At the request of Past President France Gagnon, the ELSI Committee is investigating the impact of genome editing on genetic epidemiology research with the intent of releasing an IGES position statement on human somatic and germline genome editing. A Genome Editing Working Group was established at the 2015 American Society of Human Genetics annual meeting in Baltimore, MD. The Working Group is co-chaired by Kelly E. Ormond (Stanford University) and Douglas P. Mortlock (Vanderbilt University), with participation by IGES, the Canadian Association of Genetic Counsellors, the National Society of Genetic Counselors, the Association of Genetic Nurses and Counsellors (UK and the Republic of Ireland), and possibly other organizations such as the European Society of Human Genetics. The Working Group is currently drafting both an executive statement and an accompanying white paper.

At the end of 2015, Claire Simpson (NIH, Chair) and Courtney Montgomery (Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation) rotated off. We thank them for their service. At the beginning of 2016, the Committee welcomed Emily Holzinger (NIH) and Ronnie Sebro (University of Pennsylvania). The other members of the Committee are Rob Igo, Justo Lorenzo, Diptasri Mandal, Deborah Mascalzoni, Cathy McCarty, Brandon Pierce, and Ben Rybicki.

We anticipate that two or three Committee members will rotate off at the end of 2016. We are seeking applicants with expertise in patient representation or experience on IRBs.

Applications should be addressed to the ELSI Committee Chair and sent to:

shrinerda@mail.nih.gov

Daniel Shriner
Committee Chair

Communications Committee
Secretary's Goodbye

Dear fellow IGES Members,

It is with great passion that I have served the Society over the last 3 years as Secretary and soon my term will end. I am certain that Heather Cordell will share this passion as our new Secretary. At the Chicago meeting in 2013, the IGES Officers and Board realized the Society's situation: it needed serious shaping up financially as well as work on its appearance. It was decided that the Society needs a communications committee and that the Secretary should always chair this committee. The first 3-year period for this committee will end in December 2016.

I resurrected the newsletter, bringing contributions from the President, Treasurer, GE Editor, as well as news from all the committees. An obvious focus is the annual meeting. Of course this is always open to suggestions, contributions, as well as wishes from all of the members. Andrew Entwistle in my group in Göttingen has been editing the newsletter for the last three years. As IGES Secretary, I would like to extend my warmest thanks for this and lots of other intensive support from him.

Jessica Dennis has been our enthusiastic webmaster for 2.5 years now. She has been restructuring the website using the existing main structure based on wordpress. She has been in discussion with presidents, the Secretary and the communications committee with respect to the layout and a lot of the content of the website as it appears now. Especially the presentation of the meeting is now much more to current standards than before. Jessica is dedicated, has good ideas and good technical skills. Thank you so much for all this work.

The communications committee has also set up facebook and twitter accounts. Liz Blue and Priya Duggal are currently taking care of those. Liz also administers the special facebook account for young investigators.

The communications committee together with the other committee chairs developed a wish list for an IGES intranet. This had to be delayed by the IGES Board due to issues not related to this committee. In Baltimore, the IGES Board decided that we could now start investigating the establishment of an IGES intranet. Haky Kyung Im, Todd Edwards, and Sahir Rai Bhatnagar are working on it intensively. After a longer discussion among the members of the communications committee, it was decided that "google for non-profit" seems to fit our purpose. IGES applied to "google-for-non-profit" and was accepted. Haky is starting to install first items to test the platform. IGES committee chairs should watch out for emails from Haky or our committee in the near future.

The IGES Board also decided that there is no need for an autonomous membership committee anymore and that outreach to new members should be integrated into the communications committee. David Fardo is currently setting up a list with possible crosslinks to other related societies, as we want to add this to our website. If you have a particular group in mind, you are welcome to send this to me or, starting July, to Heather Cordell. You are also encouraged to download the flyer and poster for the annual meeting from our website in order to advertise the IGES meeting in Toronto in your home institutions or at suitable meetings you are attending.

It was my great pleasure to serve the Society the last 3 years. Thank you all and see you in Toronto!

Heike Bickeböller

2016 IGES Officials

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: Heike Bickeböllner; Editor-in-Chief, Genetic Epidemiology: Sanjay Shete.

Board members are 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 Mathia.

The **Scientific Program Committee** for 2016 is 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 Heike Bickeböllner (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 Jessica Dennis. 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:

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