



# INTERNATIONAL GENETIC EPIDEMIOLOGY SOCIETY

## Newsletter – *May 2018 Pre-Conference Edition*

### Contents

[Letter from the President](#)

[Treasurer's Corner](#)

[Editor's Corner](#)

[IGES Fellow Members](#)

[Call for nominations for Leadership Award](#)

[GDPR compliance statement and update to personal data policy](#)

[San Diego 2018: Meeting Information](#)

[San Diego 2018: Agenda/Important Dates](#)

[San Diego 2018: Invited Speakers](#)

[Committee Reports](#)

[Listing of IGES Officials](#)

### Letter from the President

Inke König

Dear IGES Community,

Well into a year that is hopefully successful and enjoyable for you, we are welcoming back our returning members and extend a warm welcome to all new members. Thank you for participating in a striving international community!

To especially acknowledge continuous membership in IGES, we now confer the title of "**Fellow Member of IGES**" to long-term regular members of the society. I invite you to have a look at [www.geneticepi.org/membership/iges-fellow-members/](http://www.geneticepi.org/membership/iges-fellow-members/) to check for the eligibility criteria and become one!



We are very much looking forward to our **27th annual meeting** to be held in San Diego October 14-16. Thanks to Guillaume Paré and the entire Scientific Program Committee, an exciting scientific program is emerging including four **invited speakers** with David Conti, Olufunmilayo I. Olopade, Michèle Ramsay, and Peter Visscher. In addition, the Education Committee under the leadership of Stephanie Santorico and Todd Edwards is organizing an **educational workshop on "Translational Research in Medicine"**, and we will conclude our meeting with a **joint symposium with the ASHG and ISCB on "Working with Big Data in the Cloud: Research and**

**Privacy**". Amongst other topics, this will give us the opportunity to learn more about the legal and ethical frameworks governing personal genome data; those of you who are currently implementing changes brought about by the new European General Data Protection Regulation will be especially sensitized for this. I would already like to thank Andrew Morris and the Local Organizing Committee who are working hard to make our meeting a success! Please remember that although abstract submission closes on June 1, registration for the meeting remains open with the **early bird registration closing July 1**.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to encourage all of you to **contribute actively to IGES**. We are constantly seeking members for our several committees, so just let me know in case you are interested!

I am very much looking forward to seeing you all in San Diego,  
Inke König  
*2018 IGES President*



*Canary Islands*

**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 2018 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 this year IGES is offering 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*

**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 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!

Editor's pick paper from recent issues:

Integrating eQTL data with GWAS summary statistics in pathway-based analysis with application to schizophrenia.

Authors: Chong Wu and Pan Wei

Genetic Epidemiology, 2018; 42:303-316.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/gepi.22110>

Kernel machine methods for integrative analysis of genome-wide methylation and genotyping studies.

Authors: N. Zhao, X Zhang, Y-T Huang, LM Almli, A Smith, MP Epstein, K Conneely, MC Wu

Genetic Epidemiology, 2018; 42:156-167

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/gepi.22100>

Most recent issues can be found here:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/10982272/42/3>

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/10982272/42/2>

**Special Issue:** We are also planning to have a special issue on **Cancer Genetic Epidemiology**. This will be applied issue with 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 **Sanjay Shete** at [sshete@mdanderson.org](mailto:sshete@mdanderson.org)

**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 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](mailto:sshete@mdanderson.org)

## IGES Fellow Members

As a new initiative for 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 mail 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 **2018 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.

## GDPR compliance statement and update to personal data policy

As many of you will be aware, the **EU General Data Protection Regulation (“GDPR”)** came into force across the European Union on 25th May 2018 and brings with it the most significant changes to data protection law in two decades.

The **International Genetic Epidemiology Society** is committed to ensuring the security and protection of the personal information that we process, and to provide a compliant and consistent approach to data protection. We have always had a robust and effective data protection program in place which complies with existing law and abides by the data protection principles. However, we recognise our obligations in updating and expanding this program to meet the demands of the GDPR.

We are currently taking steps to ensure that we are fully compliant with the GDPR. ***Our preparations include:*** -

- ***Information Audit*** - carrying out an audit to identify and assess what personal information we hold, where it comes from, how and why it is processed and if and to whom it is disclosed.
- ***Policies & Procedures*** - revising our data protection policies and procedures to ensure we meet the requirements and standards of the GDPR and any relevant data protection laws.
- ***Legal Basis for Processing*** - we are reviewing all processing activities to identify the legal basis for processing and ensuring that each basis is appropriate for the activity it relates to. Where applicable, we also maintain records of our processing activities, ensuring that our obligations under Article 30 of the GDPR and Schedule 1 of the Data Protection Bill are met.

A full GDPR compliance statement and revised versions of our personal data/ mailing list policies will be made available on the IGES web pages once our preparations have been completed.

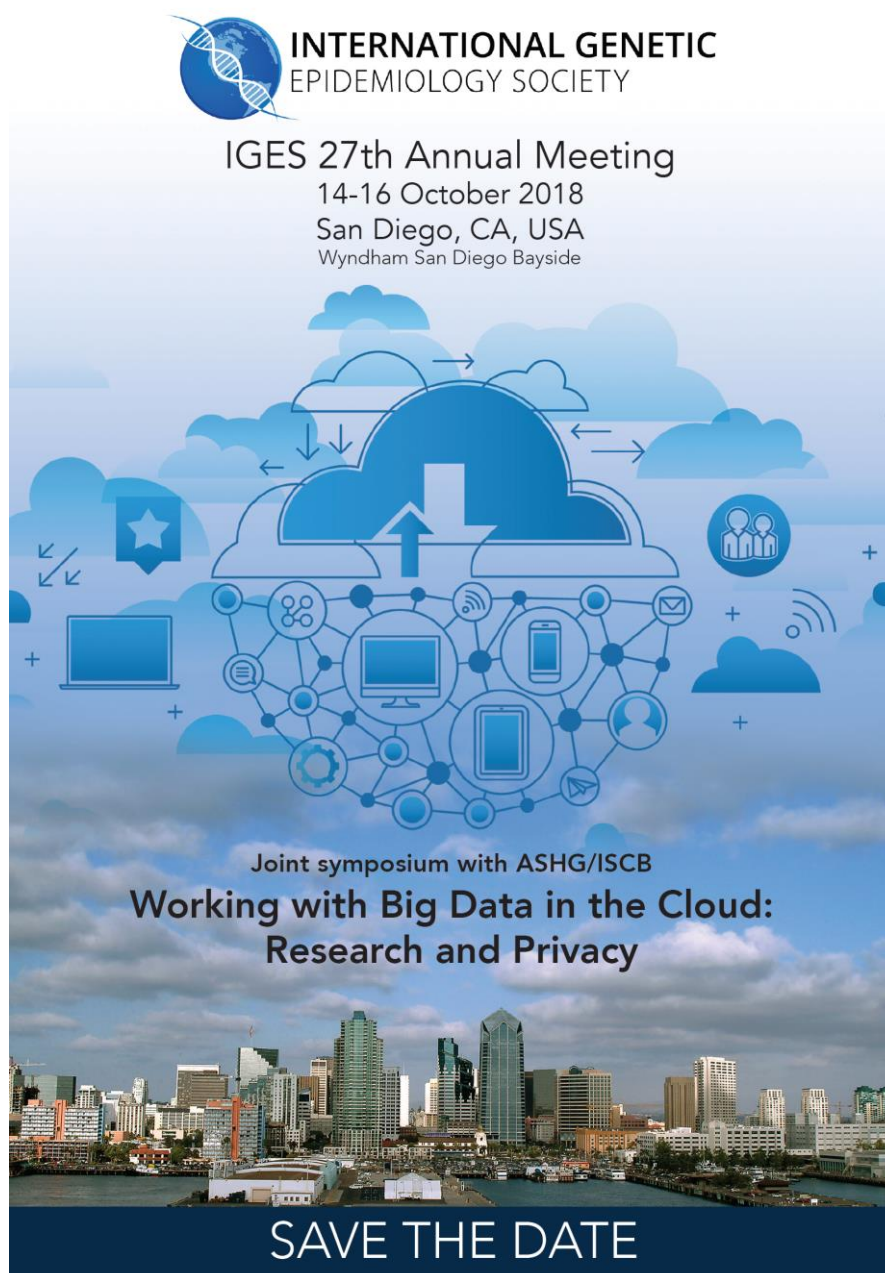
If you have any questions about our preparation for, and implementation of, the GDPR, please contact us by email at [iges@geneticepi.org](mailto:iges@geneticepi.org)



**IGES 2018 in San Diego, USA**  
**Meeting information**

Registration for IGES 2018 in San Diego is now open. Please see the IGES meeting pages for all the most up-to-date information:

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



The poster features the IGES logo (a blue globe with a white DNA double helix) at the top left. To its right, the text reads "INTERNATIONAL GENETIC EPIDEMIOLOGY SOCIETY". Below this, the event details are listed: "IGES 27th Annual Meeting", "14-16 October 2018", "San Diego, CA, USA", and "Wyndham San Diego Bayside". The central graphic is a blue-toned illustration of a cloud computing network, with a large central cloud icon, arrows indicating data flow, and various icons representing technology (laptop, smartphone, tablet, Wi-Fi, mail, people) and biology (DNA, microscope, star). At the bottom of the graphic, it says "Joint symposium with ASHG/ISCB" and "Working with Big Data in the Cloud: Research and Privacy". The background of the lower half of the poster is a photograph of the San Diego skyline. At the very bottom, a dark blue banner contains the text "SAVE THE DATE" in white capital letters.

<b>IGES 2018 in San Diego, USA</b> <b>Important Dates and Agenda</b>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------

Here are the current deadlines valid for the 2018 meeting. Please visit the IGES meeting pages for up-to-date and new information: <https://iges.memberclicks.net/annual-conference>

<b>June 1, 2018</b>	General abstract submission deadline (extended from May 28!)
<b>June 27, 2018</b>	Notification of decision for all abstracts
<b>June 30, 2018</b>	Deadline for early-bird pricing on registration
<b>September 15, 2018</b>	Deadline for standard pricing (without incurring late fee) on registration
<b>October 13, 2018</b>	Welcome Reception
<b>October 14, 2018</b>	Meeting opens!

## Agenda at-a-glance

### Saturday, October 13

IGES Board of Directors Meeting  
Welcome Reception

### Sunday, October 14

Welcome and Presidential Address  
General Sessions  
Poster Sessions  
Young Investigators Luncheon (separate registration required)  
IGES Banquet in honour of Newton Morton

### Monday, October 15

General Sessions  
Poster Sessions  
Business Meeting and Awards

### Tuesday, October 16

Educational Session (morning): "Genetic Epidemiology in Translational Medicine" (separate registration required)  
ASHG-ISCB-IGES Joint Symposium (afternoon):  
"Working with Big Data in the Cloud: Research and Privacy" (separate registration required).  
For more details see: <https://iges.memberclicks.net/joint-symposium>

**IGES 2018 in San Diego, California USA**  
**The Scientific Program Committee presents the invited speakers**

**The Scientific Program Committee** is delighted to have such a distinguished group of invited speakers for our upcoming meeting in San Diego. Topics covered by the invited speakers will include:

- Advances in fine-mapping methodologies
- Use of genomics in the clinic and breast cancer genetics
- Understanding the genetic contribution to complex traits in Africans
- The polygenic architecture of complex traits

***Invited Speaker Biographies***



**Dr. David Conti** is Professor in the Division of Biostatistics in the Department of Preventive Medicine and the Norris Cancer Center at USC. He was trained in Genetic Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Case Western Reserve University and was awarded the 2001 Roger Williams award from the International Genetic Epidemiology Society (IGES). More recently he was a Visiting Fellow at Churchill College, University of Cambridge, performing research in collaboration with Dr. Sylvia Richardson and Dr. Paul Newcombe at the MRC Biostatistics Unit. His methodological research focuses on the application of hierarchical models and Bayes model averaging to genetic association studies with a specific interest in multilocus analysis and the integration of biological knowledge in statistical modeling.



**Dr. Olufunmilayo I. Olopade** is the Walter L. Palmer Distinguished Service Professor of Medicine and Human Genetics, Dean for Global Health, and Director of the Center for Innovation in Global Health at the University of Chicago. Professor Olopade develops innovative strategies for comprehensive cancer risk assessment and prevention based on evolving understanding of genetic and non-genetic factors in individual patients, with a focus on women of African ancestry across the Diaspora. She has received numerous honors and awards, including honorary degrees from North Central, Dominican, Bowdoin, and Princeton Universities; MacArthur Foundation Fellowship; Doris Duke Distinguished Clinical Scientist and Exceptional Mentor Award; American Cancer Society Clinical Research Professorship; Officer of the Order of the Niger Award; Franklin D. Roosevelt Freedom from Want Award; and the Villanova Mendel Metal Award. She is an elected member of the Association of American Physicians, National Academy of Medicine, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Philosophical Society, and currently serves on the board of directors for Susan G. Komen, Cancer IQ, Lyric Opera of Chicago, and MacArthur Foundation.

**Dr. Michèle Ramsay (PhD)** is the director of the Sydney Benner Institute for Molecular Bioscience at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, professor in human genetics and South African Research Chair holder in Genomics and Bioinformatics of African Populations. As a member of the Human Heredity and Health in Africa Consortium (H3Africa) she leads the AWI-Gen study on the genetic and environmental contributions to obesity and cardiometabolic disease risk in six centres across four African countries. Her research aims to shed light on the role of African population genomic variation in susceptibility to diseases, given the ethnolinguistic and environmental diversity across the continent.



**Dr. Peter Visscher's** undergraduate studies were in the Netherlands. He moved to Edinburgh (UK) in 1987 for an MSc and subsequent PhD in animal breeding and genetics, working on the estimation of genetic parameters in large livestock pedigrees. A postdoctoral period in Melbourne (Australia) was followed by a return to Edinburgh, where he developed methods to map genetic loci underlying complex traits. In 1995 he moved to a faculty position at the Institute of Evolutionary Biology of the University of Edinburgh, developing gene mapping methods and software tools, with practical applications in livestock and human populations. Visscher joined the Queensland Institute of Medical Research in Brisbane (Australia) in 2005 and in 2011 moved to the University of Queensland where he is Professor of Quantitative Genetics and Director of the Program in Complex Trait Genomics. Visscher is a Senior Principal Research Fellow of the Australian National Health and Medical Research

Council and was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science in 2010. Visscher's research interests are focused on a better understanding of genetic variation for complex traits, including quantitative traits and disease, and on systems genomics.

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

Guillaume Pare  
Scientific Program Committee Chair

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Committee Reports</b> <b>Latest news from IGES Committees</b></p>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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 San Diego. 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.

Guillaume Paré  
Scientific Program Committee Chair

### **Communications Committee**

Members of the Communications Committee have been active in managing the IGES website, Facebook, 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 started a new 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 meeting in San Diego and in particular the joint session with ASHG and ISCB: <https://iges.memberclicks.net/joint-symposium>

Heather J. Cordell  
Communications Committee Chair

## **ELSI Committee**

Spring Report 2018

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.

As described in the May 2016 and 2017 Pre-conference newsletters, a Genome Editing Working Group was established by The American Society of Human Genetics during their 2015 Annual Meeting. The Committee was asked by Past President France Gagnon to participate in the Working Group for the purpose of investigating the impact of genome editing on genetic epidemiology research. The Committee is pleased to report that, following approval by the IGES Officials, a paper entitled “Human Germline Genome Editing” has been published in August 2017 issue of The American Journal of Human Genetics (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajhg.2017.06.012>).

At the request of Past President Andrew Morris, the Committee is investigating potential ethical/consent issues that may result from the use of cloud computing facilities to perform genetic analyses. At this year’s annual meeting in San Diego, there will be a joint symposium held by The American Society of Human Genetics, the International Society of Computational Biology, and IGES entitled “Working with Big Data in the Cloud: Research and Privacy”. The symposium is scheduled for the afternoon of Tuesday, October 16, 2018.

The Committee is following a legal case in California. The case involves a paper published in 2013 in The Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research. Researchers at The Ohio State University in Columbus reported that 16% of participants dropped out (due to injury) of a training regimen developed by CrossFit Inc. CrossFit claimed that the injury statistic is false, and that the journal’s publisher, the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA), intentionally falsified the data. NSCA has countersued, claiming defamation. The journal has published an Erratum and eventually retracted the paper. In 2015, United States Magistrate Judge Karen S. Crawford of the United States District Court for the Southern District of California denied without prejudice a request for an order compelling disclosure of the identities of the peer reviewers. This request was based on claims by CrossFit that the journal’s editors were biased and selected peer reviewers who were predisposed to be critical of CrossFit. In December 2017, Retired Judge William McCurine, Jr. ruled in favor of CrossFit and ordered NSCA to disclose the names of the reviewers. NSCA filed a challenge based on confidentiality of the peer review process and anonymity of peer reviewers. On January 18, 2018, San Diego Superior Court Judge Joel Wohlfeil decided that NSCA must disclose the names of the peer reviewers. The names will be revealed under a protective order, meaning that the plaintiff and defendants will see them but cannot disclose them to others. Academic publishers cannot claim protection based on confidentiality as can journalists and their sources; however, judges have generally denied requests for identities of peer reviewers. Judge Wohlfeil’s ruling will not necessarily set a legal precedent, because courts must balance peer reviewer confidentiality and the needs of the case, and that balancing test has not changed.

Daniel Shriner  
ELSI Committee Chair

## **Young Investigators' Committee**

We are busy planning several events and resources for the 2018 annual meeting in San Diego.

### Student-Mentor Luncheon

The Student-Mentor Luncheon is scheduled for October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018. 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 15<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 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018. 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 IGES Publications Committee's members include Lei Sun and Xiaofeng Zhu (in the last year of their mandate), Timothy Thornton and Rayjean Hung (year 2 of their mandate), Nancy Cox and Joanna Biernacka (in their first year), as well as Inke König (president of IGES), and Sanjay Shete (standing member as Editor of Genetic Epidemiology). In the first stage of evaluation of the 68 excellent papers published in Genetic Epidemiology in 2017, three members of the committee read and scored each paper. Currently, all committee members are reading a shortlist of papers that scored highest after the first round of evaluations. We are looking forward to announcing the winner of the "Best Paper" award at the upcoming meeting in San Diego; this award is sponsored by Wiley.

Celia Greenwood

Publications Committee Chair

## Education Committee

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

The 2018 IGES Educational Symposium will be held between the IGES and the ASHG meetings on Tuesday October 16, 2018, 8:30am-11:45am at the Wyndham Bayside Hotel. This year's topic is on Translating Genetic Discoveries into Clinical and Public Health Practice. The symposium will include 5 speakers on topics of discovery, pharmacogenomics, use of WGS/WES in clinical applications, a genetic counselor's perspective, and potential and limitations in medicine and public health. Each talk will be 30 minutes in total, followed by a 20 minute speaker panel discussion. The goal of the session is educational, focusing on highlighting concepts and issues through research applications.

For the Coursera Genetic Epidemiology course, we have shot video for 2 speakers (Celia Greenwood and Goncalo Abecasis) at Vanderbilt and the remaining are being scheduled. Carlos Bustamante will shoot his video at Stanford. We have concluded a long process of establishing copy rights for the NHGRI speaker, Joan Bailey-Wilson, and are ready to schedule a shoot. Additionally, Nancy Cox and Todd Edwards will shoot videos at Vanderbilt.

We are in discussions with Nathan Tintle on a potential joint workshop to be held during 2019 focused on improving data literacy and statistical thinking among students. If you have feedback and interest on such a 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.

Stephanie Santorico and Todd Edwards  
Education Committee Co-Chairs



## 2018 IGES Officials

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

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

Current **officers** are: President: Inke König; Past President: Andrew Morris; President-Elect: Celia Greenwood; 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 Bailey, Xihong Lin, David Balding, Jeanine Houwing-Duistermaat, Liz Gillanders and Pak Sham.

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 Celia Greenwood (ex-officio).

The **Scientific Program Committee** for 2018 is chaired by Guillaume Paré.

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 and the **Twitter contact** is Priya Duggal.

**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 Facebook page exclusively for Young Investigators:**

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

The May 2018 Pre-Conference Newsletter was edited, proofread, and formatted by Heather Cordell