Welcome Message

I hope you are all keeping warm as we head into winter – it seems only yesterday we were celebrating the new year, and here we are over half way through it!

It has certainly been a busy start to the year, with the 2018 GENCA National Conference in Canberra as well as education meetings and fundamentals workshops occurring around the country.

We have also been busy with the Nurses program for AGW2018, being held at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre from September 8-10. The program for this has been compiled by our Education Committee, led by Lea Wiggins, and covers a wide range of topics. The full AGW program is available on the AGW2018 website – [www.agw2018.org.au](http://www.agw2018.org.au). Full details of the Nurses program will be on the GENCA website very soon.

The annual Nurses Night social function, held during AGW will again be the combined GESA/GENCA AGW2018 Dinner – being held on Sunday 9 September. Registration for this dinner is at the special price of $32 for GENCA members who register via the GENCA website. Full cost is $132.00 – a saving of $100! Dress code the evening is Tropical!

The GENCA Board and Regional Managers met for a full Saturday recently to undertake a strategic planning session, led by representatives from Associations Forum. These sessions are always a reminder of what we have achieved, and where our future efforts should be focused.

Following the strategic planning day, the Board held a full day meeting. At this meeting the budget was set for the coming financial year, which included a review of fees for the 2018/19 financial year. The Board have agreed on a 10% increase, as there has not been an increase in fees for over 5 years. This will mean that the annual membership fee for a Registered Nurse is $143 including GST from 1 July 2018. We are also investigating a number of additional member benefits, and hope to be able to share details of these to members in the near future. You will see from this newsletter there is lots happening, as always, we welcome your feedback and encourage you to make the most of your GENCA membership.

Cathy Conway
President
GENCA National Conference

What a fantastic event our National Conference was! The program kept attendees engaged for the full two days, and as always, there was plenty of opportunity for networking with fellow delegates and trade exhibitors as well as a great 70’s themed social function on the Saturday evening. Almost all attendees embraced the dressup theme for the social event, with plenty of flares, wedges, paisley prints and big hair! The DJ didn’t disappoint either, with most songs played from the era. Photos from the social event are on the GENCA Facebook page – if you haven’t yet liked our page, please do, and check out the fashions from the night whilst you are there!

Many of the conference speakers will be submitting papers which will be included in upcoming editions of the GENCA Journal – if you weren’t able to attend the conference, be sure to keep an eye out for these.

Planning is now underway for the 2019 GENCA Conference, with Melbourne confirmed as the location. We are currently working to finalise the venue and dates – and will advise members as soon as this is known.

GENCA Nurse of the Year Award

We were excited to launch this award earlier this year, and had hoped to announce the recipients of the award at our Conference in April, however we have extend the closing date to 31 July, in order to give people more time to submit their nominations.

The Award is open to all GENCA members – you may self-nominate, or be nominated by others. Nominations for the Award can be submitted by the GENCA website, and must include a 200 word document outlining the reasons the nominee should be awarded the inaugural GENCA Nurse of the Year Award. Finalists will be decided in each State/Territory (where nominations have been received from) and will be announced at AGW in Brisbane, 8-10 September, 2018.

Read more, and nominate now! Nominations close COB Tuesday 31 July 2018.

http://www.genca.org/about-genca/genca-nurse-of-the-year-award/

Research Grant

Those members who attended the National Conference in Canberra will know we are now offering an annual Research Grant. The Research Grant provides financial assistance to members to enable them to undertake research in the area of gastroenterological nursing. Up to $10,000 is available for the grant – and applications are now open! Further information including terms and conditions of the grant are available on the GENCA website - http://www.genca.org/about-genca/scholarships-grants-awards/genca-research-grant/

Applications for the 2018 Research Grant close 15 August 2018

For all enquiries, please contact the GENCA National Office on 1300 788 155 or admin@genca.org
**Education Grants**

GENCA Education Grants provide financial assistance to members to attend educational conferences, undertake a relevant training course, sit the credentialing exam and other relevant education events. Applications are now open for the July round of Education Grants, applications are scored based on the applicants’ level of involvement with GENCA and the amount of each grant is based on this score. The application form is available here - http://www.genca.org/about-genca/scholarships-grants-awards/education-grants/ and should be sent to education@genca.org by COB 31 July.

**IBD Patient Experience Survey**

Do you have IBD (Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis or indeterminate colitis) or know someone with IBD? We are seeking people who could tell us about their experience of health care over the last year. We know that there is variation in the quality of care from hospital and medical data. To improve the quality of care it is important that we have good evidence from the point of view of those living with the condition. Participating in this survey will give us data to improve the safety and quality of health care for people living with IBD.

If you have IBD (Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis or indeterminate colitis), are 16 years of age or older, and receive your healthcare in Australia you are eligible to participate. Your participation is voluntary and you may stop at any time. It is expected that the survey will take approximately 15 minutes of your time. The survey is available on the following link: www.crohnsandcolitis.com.au/ibdqoc/patient-experience-survey/

Thank you for your interest, Dr Antonina Mikocka-Walus, Wayne Massuger, Dr Simon Knowles, Dr Greg Moore, Ms Stephanie Buckton, Dr William Connell, Prof. Paul Pavli, and Prof. Jane M. Andrews

If you have any further questions about this research, please contact chief investigator Dr Antonina Mikocka-Walus via email mikocka@deakin.edu.au

For all enquiries, please contact the GENCA National Office on 1300 788 155 or admin@genca.org

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**What’s on!**

State meetings and Fundamentals workshops scheduled in the coming weeks:

**New South Wales**
28 July | Full day education meeting | Wyong Hospital

**Northern Territory**
18 August | Full day education meeting | Darwin
25 August | Fundamentals workshop | Alice Springs

**Queensland**
10 August | Fundamentals workshop | Mackay
13 August | Fundamentals workshop | Miles

**South Australia**
11 August | Fundamentals workshop | Adelaide

**Victoria**
25 August | Fundamentals workshop | Melbourne

**Western Australia**
28 July | Annual Study Day | Scarborough

**New Zealand**
10 August | Fundamentals workshop | Wellington

Registration for all meetings and workshops can be made via the GENCA website – www.genca.org