

**GOLDEN TRIANGLE CHAPTER
THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPLANT NURSES SOCIETY
UPDATE**

**By Mimi Funovits, RN, BS, CCTC
President 2004-2005**

The Golden Triangle Chapter of Pittsburgh had a very exciting and productive 2004-2005 term. **We now have over 150 members** who continue to enjoy many educational offerings, events and social activities. Yes, we are still the largest ITNS chapter in the world!

Thanks to the hard work of our Dinner Meeting directors, Angela Barber and Mark Paynter, we held 5 dinner **Educational/Business Meetings** from October 2004 through October 2005. Here is a brief synopsis:

November 11, 2004

Educational Presentation: *An Overview of Transplantation Nursing Secrets*

Speaker: Sandy Cupples, DNSC, RN

Co-Editor of "Transplantation Nursing Secrets"

Washington Hospital Center

Washington, D.C.

Sponsor: Dan Foust, RN and Roche Pharmaceuticals

Location: Poli's Restaurant

January 12, 2005

Educational Presentation: *Steroid Avoidance in Pancreas Transplantation*

Speaker: Ngoc Thai, MD, Ph.D.

Director of Pancreas and Islet Cell Transplantation

Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

Pittsburgh, PA.

Sponsor: John A. Wotus and Amgen

Location: Wyndham Garden Hotel

March 30, 2005

Educational Presentation: *Updates in Lung Transplantation*

Speaker: Sean Studer, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine

School of Medicine

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

Pittsburgh, PA.

Sponsor: Melissa Fezer, RN, BSC and Chiron

Location: Pittsburgh Athletic Association

June 22, 2005

Educational Presentation: *Surgical Approaches to Liver Transplantation*

Speaker: Thomas V. Cacciarrelli, MD

Director of Liver Transplantation

Veterans Administration Medical Center

Pittsburgh, PA.

Sponsor: Douglas Doehring and Roche Laboratories

Location: The Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium

October 12, 2005

Educational Presentation: *Dental Issues in Transplant Patients*

Speaker: James Guggenheimer, D.D.S.

Professor, Department of Oral Medicine and Pathology

University of Pittsburgh medical Center

Pittsburgh, PA

Sponsor: Jan Seng, RN, MSN and Astellas

Location: Pittsburgh Rare at Sheraton Station Square

We also continue to provide excellent quarterly **Journal Club Meetings** for our members. Lois Keyes, our Journal Club director did a wonderful job organizing those meetings. The following are the meetings we offered our members during the 2004-2005 term:

December 15, 2004

Topic: *Aerosolized Cyclosporin in Lung Transplantation*

Facilitator: Timothy Corocran, MD

Host: Lung Transplant Coordinators, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

Sponsor: Schering

Location: UPMC Montefiore Hospital

March 9, 2005

Topic: *Fungal Infections in the Transplant Population*

Facilitator: Nina Singh, MD

Host: Liver Transplant Coordinators at the Veterans Administration Hospital of
Pittsburgh

Sponsor: Merck

Location: Bio-Medical Science Center, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

June 15, 2005

Topic: *Growth Hormone and GLP-2 Maybe Alternative for TPN Dependent Patients with
Short Bowel*

Facilitator: Intestine Transplant Coordinators, Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute

Host: Same

Sponsor: Fujisawa

Location: UPMC Presbyterian Hospital Conference Center

September 14, 2005

Topic: *Pharmacological Drug Therapy for Pulmonary Hypertension*

Facilitator: Cardiac Transplant Coordinators, UPMC HealthSystem

Host: Same

Sponsor: Roche

Location: Bio-Medical Science Center, UPMC HealthSystem

Kathy Henderson, our director of Chapter ***Membership and Recruitment*** developed a committee this year. We are thrilled to report that Kathy and her 6 member team did a marvelous job and helped our chapter to win the International Transplant Nurses Society Membership Drive! Because our chapter recruited more members this year than any other chapter in the world, we won a free registration to the September ITNS Annual Symposium held in Orlando. We raffled the prize to members and June Stamos attended the conference.

New membership and recruitment strategies were developed this year which included ITNS pins, personal welcome letters and ITNS packets to all new members, birthday card raffles for attending meetings, and centerpiece give-aways to GTC members who signed up a new member. Kathy and her team also developed ITNS bulletin boards strategically located throughout our transplant centers and we now offer a 3 year optional membership renewal plan.

Our chapter strongly believes in **giving back to the transplant community**. The GTC donated more than \$2,500 to worthy causes this year. We donated \$150.00 to our local Organ Procurement Organization (CORE) in memory of Brian Brosnick, \$1,000 to the Transplant Recipient's International Organization (TRIO) on behalf of John Fung, MD, \$500 to the National Kidney Foundation for the 2005 Transplant Olympics and \$500 to the Louisiana ITNS Chapter to assist them in hurricane relief efforts. Some of our members also volunteer their time at local transplant family house accommodations.

I am also proud to say that we participated in ***raising organ donor awareness***. Our chapter members joined in a local "Three Rivers Liver Walk" this year and also staffed donor information tables and led donor families and transplant recipients throughout our transplant centers to honor *A Celebration of Life* during organ donor awareness week.

We also tried to **raise awareness of the International Transplant Nurses Society**. We exhibited at a local Hepatology and Liver Transplantation conference and staffed the ITNS Exhibit at the Association of Death Education and Counseling.

Our Board of Directors worked very hard this year to provide a one-day symposium for our chapter members. **The 4th Annual Collaborative Approach to Transplantation** was held at the Bio-Medical Science Center at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center on May 12th, 2005. This conference was held in conjunction with the North American Transplant Coordinators Organization (NATCO) and offered state of the art information and practical team approach management strategies for all those involved in solid organ transplantation. More than 100 participants enjoyed excellent presentations along with the opportunity to discuss transplant nursing related issues with their colleagues. If chapter members attended the annual conference and all dinner

educational meetings offered by our chapter this year, they would have earned 12.9 category I CEPTCs

Thanks to our Website Director, Shelley Zomak and the volunteer efforts of Web Master, Bill Stein, our **chapter website** continues to grow. Please check out our website at **www.itns-gtc.org**. I am sure you will agree that it is state of the art! Shelley formed a website committee this year that will assist future website directors with collection of articles and newsletters for our site.

We continue to provide our members with **\$2,500 in educational grants** each year. Grant funds are raised at each dinner meeting by holding a raffle for donated items and gift certificates from local businesses. Ten chapter members were recipients of educational grants this year which included a registration to the Annual ITNS Symposium in Orlando.

The 2004-2005 GTC board of directors developed a speaker registry, detailed board of director job descriptions, an action plan and reviewed and revised our bylaws this year. We organized and hosted a farewell and tribute to John Fung, MD (Chief of Transplant Surgery, UPMC) who left our Institute for Cleveland Clinic earlier this year. We also continue to offer our Social Worker members with their continuing education credits for our dinner meetings. Pittsburgh has been awarded the next CCTN Review Course to be held May 5-6, 2006. We look forward to working with the International Board in providing speakers for this course. Our date is set for our next annual symposium. It will be held Wednesday, May 24, 2006 at the Bio-Medical Science Tower at UPMC.

In closing, I would like to thank the Board of Directors of the Golden Triangle Chapter and our chapter members for helping to make this a rewarding and exciting year. Without our *team effort*, we could not have accomplished what we did!

Many thanks to the following members of the **GTC 2004-2005 Board of Directors** for their hard work and dedication to ITNS and our chapter:

President Elect: Shelley Zomak
President Emeritus: Chris Shay
Secretary: Beth Kallenborn
Treasurer: Carolyn Hartner
Directors of Dinner Educational and Business Meetings: Angela Barber
Mark Paynter
Director of Journal Clubs: Lois Keyes
Director of Membership and Recruitment: Kathy Henderson
Website Director: Shelly Zomak
Newsletter Editor: Chris Shay