

# Golden Triangle Chapter, ITNS Newsletter

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*Spring/Summer 2008*

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## *President's Message:*

By Mitzi Barker

Greetings from the GTC! Welcome to all of you! We have kicked off the year with success! Our first dinner meeting had over 70 members in attendance and everyone had a wonderful time of camaraderie and education. That is what we are all about! We thank Dr. Zhang for sharing her expertise in transplant skin cancers. I am looking forward to the year great educational opportunities and a way for our members to meet, eat and celebrate our great profession in transplantation! See you on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the next dinner meeting. The BOD welcomes input from our members. We are stronger in numbers.

## *About the Golden Triangle Chapter:*

The Golden Triangle Chapter (GTC) currently has 187 members.

The GTC Board of Directors for the 2007-2008 Term is:

-*President: Mitzi Barker*

-*President-Elect: Nancy Stitt*

-*President-Emeritus: Kathy Henderson*

-*Treasurer: Mary Beth Lewis*

-*Secretary: Katie Lo Coco*

-*Membership Chairperson: Nancy Pepke*

-*Dinner Meeting Chair Persons: Chavonne Newman & Karen Emmett*

-*Journal Club Chairperson: Steve Fenner*

-*Website Director: Diane Jaynes*

-The Recruitment Committee members are: Nancy Pepke-Chairman, Nancy Stitt-Secretary, Tim Donovan, Steve Fenner, Stephanie Durant, Anne-Marie Byerly, Kim Haberman, Diane Fink, Chavonne Newman, and Colleen Carroll.

-The Newsletter Committee Members are: Diane Jaynes, Chairperson, and Chavonne Newman.

### *What's Happening With The GTC:*

The GTC holds 4 dinner meeting per year, these dinners include an educational speaker for which a CEU is given and a business meeting. At the February 2008 meeting our speaker was Dr Alexander Zhang who discussed skin cancer in the transplant population. The next dinner meeting will be held on April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2008. The dinner will be held at Amici. The speaker will be Kurt Shutterly from Core. The summer 2008 meeting will be held June 25th. The speaker will be Shelley Zomak. Further information and location will be sent to members via email. The GTC also holds journal club meetings during which transplant issues are discussed. The last journal club was held March 20<sup>th</sup> 2008 and Molly Howsare was the speaker. The information about the date and time of the next journal club meeting will be sent to members via email. The GTC holds an annual Transplant Symposium. This year the symposium will be held on May 14<sup>th</sup>. The symposium will host a variety of transplant speakers. The Keynote speaker will be Sandy Cupples. Sandy Cupples is co-author of the book "Transplant Nursing Secrets". She will be speaking about the avian flu. Registration information for the symposium has been sent to members via email.

## *Important Transplant Events:*

### *Donor Awareness Week:*

Donor awareness week is the week of April 14<sup>th</sup> 2008. Events during donor week include a parade of patients through the transplant units, a day for transplant recipients to honor their donors, and tables around campus offering transplant and organ donation educational materials.

### *Transplant Nurses' Day is April 16<sup>th</sup> 2008.*

Thank you to all the transplant nurses for your compassion and hard work!

*The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Three Rivers Liver Walk* will be held Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup> 2008. The Liver walk will begin at 0800 am and will be held at Southside Heritage Trail. This 5K walk raises money for those affected by liver disease. For more information on the liver walk go to [www.liverfoundation.org/chapters/westernpa](http://www.liverfoundation.org/chapters/westernpa).

*The Transplant Games* will be held in Pittsburgh this year. They will be held July 11<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed for the games. If you are interested you may contact Shelley Zomak for additional information.

## *Meet a GTC Member:*

### *Anne Marie Byerly, RN BSN CCTN*

Anne Marie graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania 18 years ago and has been a transplant nurse for her entire nursing career. She is currently a primary nurse care coordinator (PNCC) on the abdominal transplant unit in MUH. Anne Marie has been a member of the GTC of ITNS for 7 years. She has served on the GTC board of directors as the co-chair of the journal club meetings during the 2005-2006 term. Anne Marie co-authored the liver transplant chapter in “Core Curriculum for Transplant Nurses”. She is married and has 2 daughters, Brittany and Caitlyn.

### *Colleen Yost, RN BSN CCTC*

Colleen graduated from Duquesne school of nursing in 1985. She started her career as a GN on unit 9S at MUH. In 1989, she assisted with the opening of unit 10S as the open heart surgery unit in MUH. In 1991, she became the Patient Care Manager of MUH 10S. In 1995, Colleen transferred to PUH 7D as a staff member on the heart transplant unit. In May of 1997 she became a PNCC. Then in 1999 became a case manager for the heart transplant unit. In 2002, Colleen became the Unit Director of unit 7D, thoracic surgery. In May 2005, Colleen transferred to her current position as a post heart transplant coordinator at PUH. In 2006, she passed her CCTC exam and was promoted to clinical transplant coordinator II. Colleen has been a member of ITNS since 2005. She has been married to her husband, Tom, for 23 years. They have 3 children, Tricia (20), Tommy (19), and Michael (17). In her free time Colleen enjoys gardening, home decorating, gaming, and spoiling her 23 nieces/nephews and 3 great nieces/nephews.

## *Congratulations to Newly Certified GTC Members:*

Diane Connors, CCTC

Lynne Nichter, CCTC

Sheela Palocaren, CCTN

Mary Roberts, CCTC

Stacy Acevedo, CCTC

Karen DeBartolo, CCTC

Stephanie Durant, CCTC

Nancy Eger, CCTC

Diane Fink, CCTC

Kristin Shoemaker, CCTC

Timothy Donovan, CCTC

Roji Ninan, CCTN

Jia Chen, CCTN

## *Thank You:*

I would like to thank Chris Shay, President of the Buckeye Chapter, for her help in making this newsletter. I would also like to thank Bill Stein, our webmaster, for making this online newsletter possible and for all the work he does on the GTC website.

Newsletter Editor: Diane Jaynes