



INTERNATIONAL GENETIC EPIDEMIOLOGY SOCIETY

Newsletter – *January 2021 Post-Election Edition*

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<p>Letter from the President Heike Bickeböllner</p>



Dear IGES community,

I am deeply honoured to be your president this year, and will serve this international society to the best of my capabilities. Please welcome with me our president-elect David Balding, Australia, and our new board members Maggie Wang, Hong Kong, and Eleanor Wheeler, UK. During the last year I was extremely grateful to then-president Pete Kraft and most of all to then-past-president Celia Greenwood for her planning of the IGES 2020 meeting. Celia had to struggle with the meeting location, first due to the turmoil in Hong Kong moving it to South Korea, and finally changing it to online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As you have been notified, for IGES 2021 there is no decision yet whether to go online

or not. In any case we will use these online-experiences to improve future meetings. Last but not least I want to thank the departing members of the board, Pak Sham and Liz Gillanders, for their service to the society.

On a personal note, much of last year has been absorbed by the COVID-19 pandemic, as I am sure for many of you as well. In my view the pandemic will have a lasting impact on society as a whole as well as on our scientific society. It is time to start thinking about positive changes we would like to make with what we have learned from the crisis. We can learn on all levels, society

as a whole, IGES society, research, teaching. I encourage each one of you to invest in this. The possibilities are vast. In my country, Germany, there is a growing understanding in the population of epidemiology and genetics, which makes it much easier to motivate physicians, biologists, data scientists towards it. Understanding of the importance of better networking and day-to-day data sharing among hospitals has grown, e.g. exchange of ICU bed availability. Vaccination research has demonstrated how important research is to society, fundamental to ongoing societal support for research. The linking of health issues with societal disadvantages/mistreatments became so obviously displayed that it is hard to neglect this further, e.g. legislative changes for meat workers in Germany have been introduced. Even while we are still in the darkest days of the pandemic it is good for soul and mind to concentrate on these positive elements. I would encourage you, the IGES members, to get into an exchange on possible improvements resulting from lessons learned, and of course the many active members of all the IGES committees, including the board, also welcome suggestions and notes.

I wish to end with a personal thank you to each and every one of you who is helping out with his/her work, scientific or societal, during this pandemic crisis. I wish you and all your loved ones a healthy, happy new year 2021 which hopefully marks the end of the pandemic crisis!

Heike Bickeböller

2021 IGES President

Treasurer's Corner
Julia Bailey



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 2021 IGES membership is open – please go to <https://www.geneticepi.org/membership-fees-2021> for details. Please encourage your colleagues and collaborators to join as well. Membership allows us to plan things like annual meetings.

Don't forget that IGES continues to offer additional categories of registration for students and 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 for members from the USA. This can be done along with your membership renewal process.

Your continuous support of IGES is appreciated!

Julia Bailey
Treasurer

Editor's Corner, Genetic Epidemiology
Sanjay Shete

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!

- The last issue of 2020 can be found here:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/10982272/2020/44/8>

Editor's pick papers are:

- Alvaro N. Barbeira, Owen J. Melia, Yanyu Liang, Rodrigo Bonazzola, Gao Wang, Heather E. Wheeler, François Aguet, Kristin G. Ardlie, Xiaoquan Wen, Hae K. Im.
Fine-mapping and QTL tissue-sharing information improves the reliability of causal gene identification.
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/gepi.22346>
- Zhi Ming Xu, Stephen Burgess.
Polygenic modelling of treatment effect heterogeneity.
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/gepi.22347>
- Top-cited Genetic Epidemiology articles can be found here:

[https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1002/\(ISSN\)1098-2272.GEPI-top-cited](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1002/(ISSN)1098-2272.GEPI-top-cited)

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

IGES 2021 Membership Drive

Dear IGES members,

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2021! Registration/renewal is now open. The early-bird membership fee is available until January 31, 2021. Use the discount code **2020earlybird**.

Please observe the fact that membership registration and annual meeting registration have been separate since 2014. Therefore you are NOT automatically registered as an IGES member just with meeting attendance. A separate registration for IGES Society membership is necessary:

<https://www.geneticepi.org>

Rates for 2021 IGES membership:

- Regular member **US\$130**, if paid by January 31, 2021 (early-bird)
- Regular member **US\$155** if paid on or after February 1, 2021
- Student and Post-Doctoral* member with online access to Journal **US\$68**, rate continues all year but please aim to pay by January 31, 2021
- Student and Post-Doctoral* member **without** online access to Journal **US\$25**, rate continues all year but please aim to pay by January 31, 2021
- Low- or lower-middle- income country* member with online access to Journal **US\$68**; without online access to Journal **US\$25**.

* For eligibility see IGES website

Benefits of IGES membership:

- Receive complimentary on-line access to **Genetic Epidemiology** (the official IGES journal)
- Post announcements and job adverts on the IGES website at **no cost**
- Attend annual IGES scientific meetings at **reduced cost**
- Interact with **scientific peers** worldwide
- Learn about the **latest methodological developments, software, and research findings** in genetic epidemiology
- Help the society **promote** the field of **genetic epidemiology** internationally

- Continuous regular membership of IGES for 5 years or more makes you eligible for the title of "**Fellow Member of IGES**". See <https://www.geneticepi.org/iges-fellow-members>

Your IGES dues help to support...

- **Travel expenses** to the annual IGES meeting for worthy students in financial need
- **Continuing education** and outreach to the scientific community about the discipline, analytical methods, and software used in genetic epidemiology through workshops and classes
- Subsidies for **student subscriptions** to the journal *Genetic Epidemiology*

IGES 2020 Leadership Award

We are delighted to have presented the **IGES 2020 Leadership Award** to our former treasurer, Mariza de Andrade.



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

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.

<https://iges.memberclicks.net/eligibility-for-iges-leadership-award>

IGES 2020 Elections for 2022 President and 2021 Members of the Board of Directors Election Results

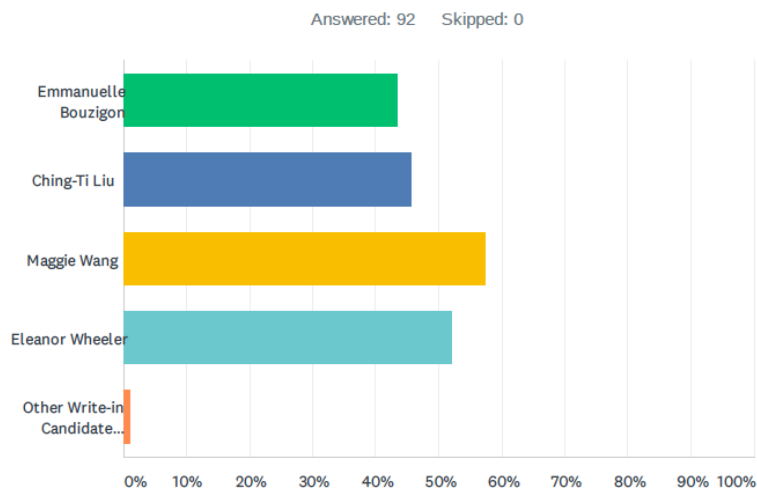
Thank you to all the members who cast their votes in the recent ballot. Here are the results of the 2019 Elections:



We congratulate **David Balding** on his election as IGES President in 2022. David will take on the role of President-Elect in 2021.

After an extremely close election, our congratulations also go to **Maggie Wang** and **Eleanor Wheeler** on their election as members of the IGES Board of Directors to serve from January 1st 2021 to December 31st 2023.

Q2 Please select only 2 candidates from the list below to serve on the Board of Directors



Congratulations to the successful candidates and thank you to everyone who stood for election for your candidacy and support of IGES.

[The ballot paper for these elections was sent out by SurveyMonkey. Note that all members may opt-out of emails from IGES sent via sources such as MemberClicks, Cvent and SurveyMonkey. However, please note that by opting out, you will no longer receive ANY mail at all from IGES, including important election announcements and ballot links, as well as the newsletters and our annual meeting announcements].

IGES 2021 in Canada
Save the dates and plan to attend!

IGES 2021: October 16-18, 2021



Venue: the Esterel Resort in the Laurentides (driving time to Esterel from Montreal is 1:45)

We currently still plan to hold the Annual Meeting in person at the Esterel resort outside of Montreal Oct 16-18 (or around these dates if online). However, we are aware that the American Society of Human Genetics will no longer hold its meeting in Montreal (it will be either in the United States or online-only), and we continue to monitor the progress of the coronavirus pandemic and the international travel situation. While it is the fervent wish of the Board and Program Committee to host a meeting that will allow IGES members and friends to see each other in person once again, our foremost concern is to protect the health of our members and friends and their communities. If necessary for health, logistical, or fiscal reasons, we will change to format to online-only. (Regardless, we are exploring the possibility of having some sessions online to facilitate broad participation). We will keep you posted!

IGES Statement on Racism and Genetic Epidemiology

The ELSI Committee and the IGES Board have been working to prepare the following statement, which can be found on the IGES website at:

<https://www.geneticepi.org/iges-statement-on-racism-genetic-epidemiology>

IGES Statement on Racism and Genetic Epidemiology

The disparate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on different communities and the protests against police brutality after the deaths of George Floyd and so many others worldwide have highlighted the pervasive and persistent effects of systemic racism. These include health inequities in well-being, disease incidence and treatment. On numerous occasions, science — and particularly genetics — has been used to inappropriately support systematic racism by offering arguments to justify social hierarchies and by poorly addressing or outright ignoring the health needs of marginalized communities.

As an international society of genetic epidemiologists concerned with the health and well-being of all people, IGES is committed to taking concrete steps to combat racism and promote equity. These include:

- Increasing the diversity of IGES membership and leadership
- Expanding the involvement and agency of underrepresented groups at all levels of research, including study participants and researchers
- Providing guidelines on appropriate language and best practices for the use of race, ethnicity and ancestry in genetic epidemiology
- Providing materials describing and critiquing the use of genetics to support racial and social hierarchies
- Providing guidance on how best to promote fair and representative inclusion of people in genetic epidemiology

2021 IGES Officials

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

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

Current **officers** are: President: Heike Bickeböllner; Past-President: Peter Kraft; President-Elect: David Balding; Treasurer: Julia Bailey; Secretary: Heather Cordell; Editor-in-Chief, Genetic Epidemiology: Sanjay Shete.

Board members comprise the officers and the following 6 people: Frank Dudbridge, Jinko Graham, Jaya Satagopan, Maggie Wang, Eleanor Wheeler and Ele Zeggini.

The **Education Committee** is co-chaired by Sarah Buxbaum and Wei Xu.

The **ELSI Committee** is chaired by Ronnie Sebro.

This year's **Publications Committee** is chaired by David Balding (ex-officio).

The **Scientific Program Committee** for 2021 is chaired by Corinne Engelman.

The **Young Investigators' Committee** is chaired by Ekaterina Yonova-Doing.

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, the **Twitter contact** is Priya Duggal and the **LinkedIn contact** is Han Chen.

Membership and conference administration is organized by Vanessa Olmo.

IGES Web Site: <https://www.geneticepi.org>

IGES Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/geneticepi?ref=hl>

IGES Twitter page: <https://twitter.com/genepisociety>

IGES LinkedIn page: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12061041/>

IGES Facebook page exclusively for Young Investigators:

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

This January 2021 Post-Election Newsletter was edited, proofread, and formatted by Heather Cordell