



**INTERNATIONAL GENETIC  
EPIDEMIOLOGY SOCIETY**

## **Newsletter – *January 2022 Post-Election Edition***

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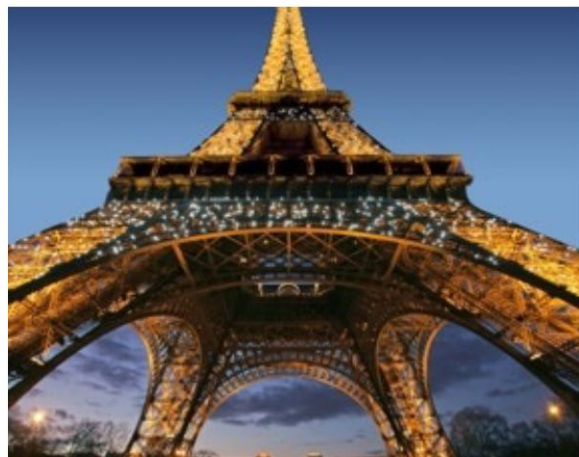
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**Plan to join us in Paris 7-9 Sept 2022 for IGES 2022! For more details see page 13.**



**INTERNATIONAL GENETIC  
EPIDEMIOLOGY SOCIETY**



**Letter from the President**  
**David Balding**



What is IGES for? The question must be asked from time to time. Our membership is only a fraction of the people who work in Genetic Epidemiology. After 30 years is IGES still relevant? At the current moment of multiple international crises, of the covid epidemic and the decline of co-operation and trust in public-benefit institutions, it's easier to answer this question than ever before. The importance of genetic data analysis in tracking and understanding the epidemic has become apparent to almost everyone, and in its small way IGES is a positive example of mutual benefit from international co-operation, and from faith in the integrity and goodwill of other humans. By coming together at our conferences, and through contributing to IGES committees, journal club and

the journal, we balance the competitive aspect of research work with benefits that only co-operation can bring: benefits for ourselves, for the field of Genetic Epidemiology and for the wider society.

We can only achieve these benefits if we maintain a sufficiently large and diverse membership, so as we enter the new year please make an effort to encourage your colleagues to join or renew. We strive to keep the fees low, particularly for students.

I thank all of you for renewing your membership, and I pay tribute to the good work of my predecessor as IGES President, Heike Bickeboeller, Past-President and Conference organiser Pete Kraft, retiring Board members Jaya Satagopan and Eleftheria Zeggini, all retiring committee members and those who worked to make IGES2021 a success. I welcome the new President-elect John Witte, who among other work will be leading the publications committee this year in reading every 2021 paper in our journal *Genetic Epidemiology*. Welcome also to new Board members Liz Blue and Stephanie Santorico and I'm grateful to new members of all IGES committees for volunteering their service.

Among the negative worldwide currents I've mentioned above is a resurgence of racist ideology, in some cases "supported" by a misuse of genetics research. This has been accompanied by a recognition that the worldwide scientific community, including us in IGES, can and should do more to promote a balanced understanding of human genetic variation and its contribution to variation in human traits. I'm happy to report that our ELSI committee, through a writing team led by Marie-Pierre Dubé, is putting the finishing touches to a manuscript entitled "Including

diverse and admixed populations in genetic epidemiology research” that we hope will be published in *Genetic Epidemiology* later this year - I encourage you to read it and to consider its recommendations for ways to conduct and discuss genetic epidemiology research that better promotes equality and fairness.

Despite the current surge in covid cases I’m confident that we can meet in person in Paris in early September - please consider submitting abstracts and attending the conference. Meanwhile I will be helping to organise IGES2023 in Nashville TN. I look forward to seeing many of you at one or both of those conferences and don’t forget that the ongoing journal club provides a great opportunity to engage with your IGES colleagues.

*David Balding*

*Melbourne, Australia*

*2022 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 2022 IGES membership is open – please go to <https://www.geneticepi.org/membership-fees-2022> 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. 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 latest issue, December 2021 can be found here:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/10982272/2021/45/8>

**Editor's pick paper:**

- **Authors:** Ye Eun Bae, Lang Wu, Chong Wu  
**Title:** InTACT: An adaptive and powerful framework for joint-tissue transcriptome-wide association studies  
**Link:** <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/gepi.22425>

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

## IGES 2022 Membership Drive

Dear IGES members,

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2022! Registration/renewal is now open. The early-bird membership fee is available until January 31, 2022. Use the discount code **2022earlybird**.

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 2022 IGES membership:

- Regular member **US\$130**, if paid by January 31, 2022 (early-bird)
- Regular member **US\$155** if paid on or after February 1, 2022
- Student and Post-Doctoral\* member with online access to Journal **US\$68**, rate continues all year but please aim to pay by January 31, 2022
- Student and Post-Doctoral\* member **without** online access to Journal **US\$25**, rate continues all year but please aim to pay by January 31, 2022
- 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 2022 Donations

At the same time as renewing your membership, you have the opportunity to give a (US tax deductible) donation to IGES. If you choose, you may make your donation in honor of a specific individual, and take the option to write a few words about why the recipient deserves to be honored, for inclusion in the IGES newsletter. (To be sent to [iges@geneticepi.org](mailto:iges@geneticepi.org) for approval by the IGES Board prior to publication).

IGES gratefully acknowledges a donation from **Alexa J. M. Sorant** in honor of **Alexander F. Wilson** and **Joan E. Bailey-Wilson**, not only for their good work, which is well known to the membership, but also for their bringing her and others into the society which has provided education and stimulation and also good fellowship.



## IGES 2021 Leadership Award

We are delighted to have presented the **IGES 2021 Leadership Award** to our former president, Andrew Morris.



Andrew was nominated for this award in recognition of (1) his strong research and publication record in the fields of statistical genetics and epidemiology; (2) his contributions to lecturing and teaching through his involvement in a number of international short courses and workshops; and (3) his service to IGES as President-Elect/President/Past-President in 2016-2018, including chairing the Organising Committee for IGES 2018 in San Diego.

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>



## In memoriam L. Adrienne Cupples

We were sorry to hear the announcement of the death of our valued colleague and longtime IGES member, L. Adrienne Cupples:

<https://www.bu.edu/sph/announcement/deeply-sad-news-2/?announcement-category=students>

Professor Cupples was an IGES Board member from 2013 to 2015. She acted as Local Organising Committee chair for IGES 2010 in Boston. In addition, Professor Cupples was the winner of the *IGES Leadership Award* for 2017:

<http://www.bu.edu/sph/2017/09/19/professor-honored-for-work-in-genetic-epidemiology/>

L. Adrienne Cupples, PhD  
Professor of Biostatistics  
and Epidemiology,  
Boston University School of  
Public Health, receiving the  
IGES Leadership Award  
from 2017 IGES past-  
president, Josée Dupuis.



We thank Professor Josée Dupuis for providing the following tribute to her long-time colleague:

*L. Adrienne Cupples, Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics and founding Chair of the Department of Biostatistics at Boston University School of Public Health (BUSPH), passed away peacefully in her home on January 13, 2022.*

*Adrienne has been on the faculty at the Boston University School of Public Health (BUSPH) since 1981. During her time at the BUSPH, she has been an inspirational leader, stepping into multiple leadership roles. She has used every opportunity to make a lasting impression whether it be on educational programs, students' and mentees' careers, and most importantly, on statistical science and its applications. She made make substantial contributions to the fields of biostatistics and epidemiology, particularly in the area of statistical genetics.*

*Early in her career, she became involved as a statistician working at the Framingham Heart Study. Adrienne made numerous methodological statistical contributions motivated by the Framingham Heart Study data, where she was a fully integrated collaborator, serving eventually as the Co-Principal Investigator of the landmark study for a number of years. Her earlier contributions were to the epidemiology of heart disease, unearthing risk factors for cardiovascular disease and its precursors. However, realizing the potential of genetic risk factors, she embarked on a one-year fellowship at Yale University, under the guidance of Neil Risch, to advance her knowledge of statistical genetics and genetic epidemiology at an unusual time in her career: she was already an Associate Professor! Upon completion of her Fellowship, she became the driving force behind the exploration of genetic risk factors in the Framingham Heart Study, aiming to elucidate genetic factors associated with a multitude of traits collected over 70 years of the Framingham Heart Study. Adrienne has published over 650 peer-reviewed articles, which have accumulated over 165,000 citations, attesting to the impact of her work.*

*Adrienne has brought her deep expertise in statistics to the classroom, where her real-world analytical experience has benefited countless students, trainees and junior colleagues. She is an award-winning teacher, and a wonderful mentor. All of her students recount the same experience: they felt honored and privileged to work with her. Adrienne always seem to have time to meet with students and colleagues. She will be sorely missed.*

See the full Boston University School of Public Health obituary at:

[https://www.bu.edu/sph/?post\\_type=bu-article&p=206138](https://www.bu.edu/sph/?post_type=bu-article&p=206138)

Adrienne's husband John has suggested that if you wish to contribute something in remembrance of Adrienne, you could consider donations to charities close to Adrienne's heart, including the following:

1. At **Boston University School of Public Health**, the **Colton-Cupples Visiting Scholars Fund**. The fund was established in the names of Ted Colton and Adrienne to bring leaders in the biostatistics field to BUSPH to interact with students and present key issues. To give online, go to:

<https://trusted.bu.edu/s/1759/2-bu/giving/interior.aspx?sid=1759&gid=2&pgid=497&cid=1170&dids=469&bledit=1&appealcode=WEBSPH>.

By mail send your gift to Boston University, Gift Processing, c/o JPMorgan Chase & Co., PO Box 22605, New York, NY 22605. Enter Colton-Cupples Visiting Scholars Fund in the memo line.

2. Adrienne served as a board member at **Ethos**. Ethos provides a variety of services for elders in the Boston area, including meals on wheels and in-home services. You can donate online at <https://www.ethocare.org/cause/donate-now/> In the comments section mention in honor of Adrienne Cupples.

3. If you have other favorite charities you would like to donate in Adrienne's honor, please feel free to do so.

4. Of course, you can also donate to Caring Bridge (<https://www.caringbridge.org/>) which provided the platform for recording Adrienne's journey.

## IGES 2021 Elections for 2023 President and 2022 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 2021 Elections:



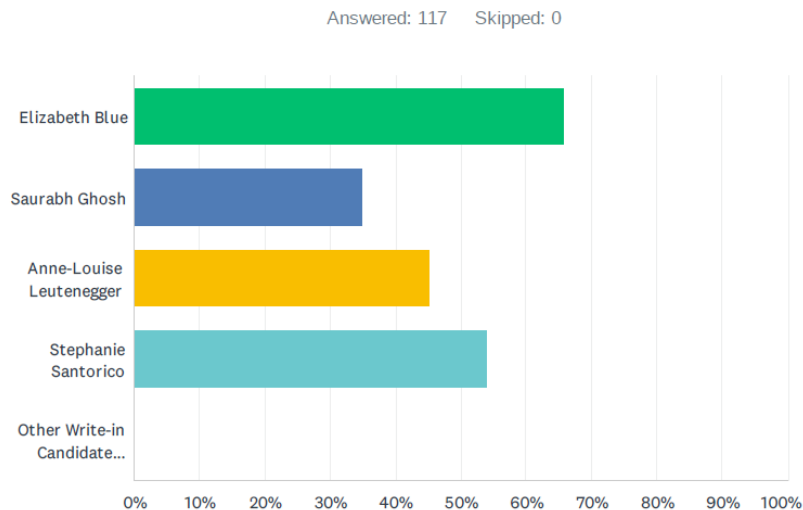
We congratulate **John Witte** (Stanford University) on his election as IGES President in 2023. John will take on the role of President-Elect in 2022.

We congratulate **Andrew Paterson** (University of Toronto) on his election as IGES Secretary, to start 1 July 2022.



After an extremely close election, our congratulations also go to **Elizabeth Blue** (University of Washington) and **Stephanie Santorico** (University of Colorado, Denver) on their election as members of the IGES Board of Directors to serve from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2024.

Q3 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 2022 in Paris Plan to attend!

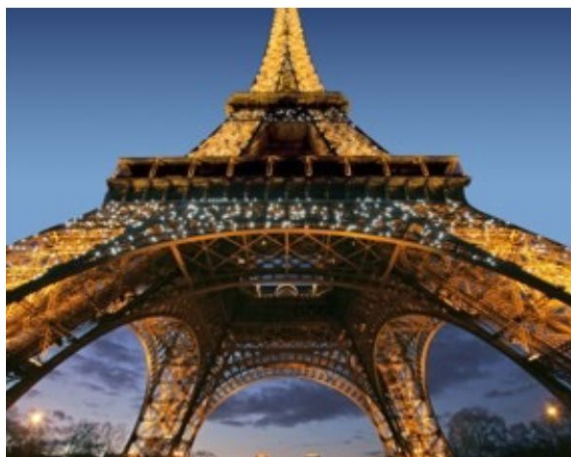
Full details will be posted on the IGES website in the coming weeks...

**IGES 2022**

**PARIS, France**



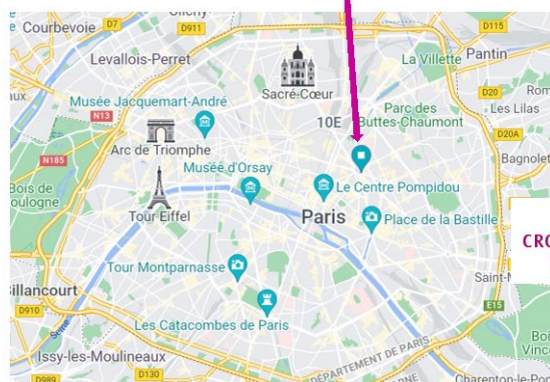
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## Proposed dates and location

Wed 7- Fri 9 September 2022

Crowne Plaza Paris-République



**CROWNE PLAZA**  
HOTELS & RESORTS  
UN HÔTEL IHG®



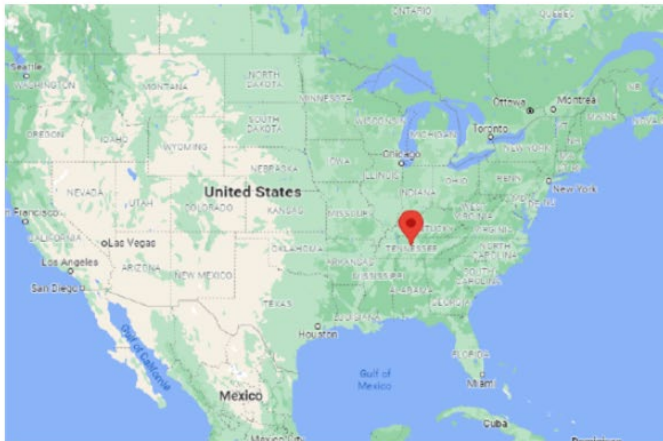
## IGES 2023 in Nashville Plan to attend!

We plan to hold IGES 2023 in Nashville, Tennessee just prior to the planned American Society of Human Genetics meeting in Washington DC (November 1-5, 2023).



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## Nashville, TN

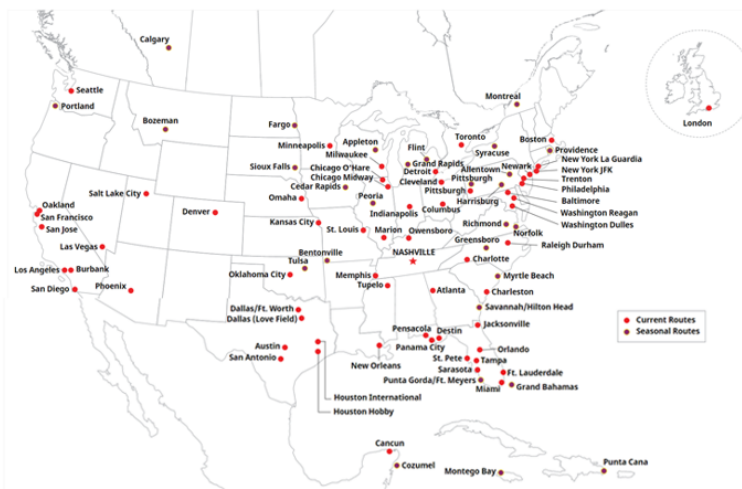


- Average Temperature in October H:74F/23C L:50F/10C
- ~23% probability of precipitation in Mid-October
- 11 hours, 14 minutes of sunlight in Mid-October (6:52AM-6:10PM)
- Waxing Crescent Moon 10/15/2023



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## Air travel (direct routes)



- 16 Airlines
- 95 Direct flight destinations
- Non-stop from England, Canada, Mexico, Caribbean
- Star Alliance, Oneworld, and SkyTeam all fly from Nashville



**IGES 2026 in Québec**  
**Make plans to attend in four years' time!**

**IGES 2026: October 17-19, 2026**



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

We were very sorry to have to cancel the planned 2021 Annual Meeting at the Estérel resort outside of Montreal on account of the coronavirus pandemic. However, we have transferred our booking to October 2026 (in four years' time!) just prior to the planned American Society of Human Genetics meeting in Montreal (October 20-24 2026).

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**

Members of the Scientific Programme Committee have discussed topics for the upcoming IGES conference that will include:

- Biobanks and large-scale populations
- Common disease genetics (incl. cancer genetics, heart disease genetics)
- Diversity and studies of multiple ancestries
- Immunogenetics (incl. COVID-19 and SARS-CoV-2)
- Machine learning and data science
- Mendelian randomization and causality
- OMICs: methods and applications
- Polygenic risk scores and prediction (and general polygenic trait genetics)
- Statistical modelling in genetic epidemiology (GxE, GxG, Multi-trait and summary-statistic methods)
- Whole genome and exome sequencing studies

We will continue to invite keynote speakers and are looking forward to reviewing many exciting abstracts.

The Scientific Programme committee would like to thank the previous chair Corinne Engelmann and previous member Maggie Wang, for their service in the committee. We welcome our new members Linda Kachuri and Hervé Perdry and are looking forward to our collaboration.

The current membership of the Scientific Programme committee comprises:

- Thomas Winkler (Chair, University of Regensburg, Germany)
- Denise Daley (University of British Columbia, Canada)
- Taesung Park (Seoul National University, South Korea)
- Herve Perdry (Universite Paris-Saclay, France)
- Linda Kachuri (University of California San Francisco, USA)

*Thomas Winkler*

*Scientific Programme Committee Chair*

## **Publications Committee**

The primary function of the Publications Committee is to select the winner of the “Robert C. Elston Best Paper” award, which involved reviewing all 64 research articles published in Genetic Epidemiology in 2020. Every paper was read by at least three committee members, and the eight shortlisted papers were read by all committee members. Congratulations again to the winner:

Lin D-Y, Zeng D, Couper D. A general framework for integrative analysis of incomplete multiomics data. Genetic Epidemiology. 2020; 44: 646– 664. <https://doi.org/10.1002/gepi.22328>

There were many excellent papers and we all understand that there can be no “best” paper in an objective sense, but it is important that we seek to encourage and reward scientific excellence, and the committee tried its best to do this, taking into account statistical soundness, clarity, originality, accessibility and impact (including real data application where relevant).

It’s a lot of work, but also interesting and important. Many thanks to the ongoing committee members: Alisa Manning (USA), Wei Pan (USA), Sita Vermeulen (Netherlands), Adam Naj (USA), and Sanjay Shete (USA). Special thanks to the two retiring committee members Andre Scherag (Germany) and Marie-Helene Roy-Gagnon (Canada) for completing three years of service. I will be replaced as chair of the committee by IGES President-elect John Witte, and a big welcome to two new committee members who have generously agreed to serve a three-year term:

Silke Szymczak (Germany)  
Hsin-Chou Yang (Taiwan)

*David Balding*  
*Outgoing Publications Committee Chair*

## **Communications Committee**

Members of the Communications Committee have been active in managing the IGES website, Facebook, LinkedIn 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 continued our initiative of publicising monthly “highlighted” papers (in any journal) by IGES members, and an additional highlighted paper from each issue of Genetic Epidemiology.

*Heather J. Cordell*

*Communications Committee Chair*

## **Education Committee**

Joining the committee:

Pingzhao Hu

Leaving the committee:

Stephanie Santorico

Silke Szymczak

*Sarah Buxbaum and We Xu*

*Education Committee Co-Chairs*

## **ELSI Committee**

We extend our thanks to Ronnie Sebro who is stepping down as chair of the ELSI committee and welcome Marie-Pierre Dubé on her new role as chair. We also thank Heike Bickeböllner for her role on the committee as link to the board, she will be replaced by David Balding. The committee has been working on a perspective manuscript presenting methods and analysis tools for inclusive genetic epidemiology research, which is expected to go public very soon.

*Marie-Pierre Dubé*

*ELSI Committee Chair*

## **Young Investigators' Committee (YIC) Past and Present Activities**

### **During the Year**

- encourage new investigators to be involved in the society and to network with each other and with more senior IGES members
- meet once per semester to identify needs, coordinate, and plan activities for the annual conference
- maintain presence on social media (twitter, facebook) to provide updates on the activities of the committee

### **During the annual conference**

- ensure good representation of the committee
- review and judge posters presented by IGES trainees
- organize social hours/events to promote networking
- schedule and coordinate mentoring sessions (mentees can interact with more senior IGES members & get feedback on important topics such as Research, Grant Writing, Teaching, Career, Transition from postdoc to PI, Work-Life balance in academia, Working in interdisciplinary teams...)
- host job fair

For a listing of YIC members, please see:

<https://iges.memberclicks.net/young-investigators-committee>

*Chloé Sarnowski, Young Investigators' Committee Chair*

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

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

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

**Board members** comprise the officers and the following 6 people: Elizabeth Blue, Frank Dudbridge, Jinko Graham, Stephanie Santorico, Maggie Wang, and Eleanor Wheeler.

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

The **ELSI Committee** is chaired by Marie-Pierre Dubé.

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

The **Scientific Program Committee** for 2022 is chaired by Thomas Winkler.

The **Young Investigators' Committee** is chaired by Chloé Sarnowski.

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>