



INTERNATIONAL GENETIC EPIDEMIOLOGY SOCIETY

Newsletter – June 2021 Pre-Conference Edition

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



Dear IGES Community,

We are well into 2021, and the pandemic still has a grip on many areas of the world, but I am hopeful that everyone of you will be able to find enjoyable times this summer while keeping hygiene measures as necessary. In the future we are also looking forward to in-person gatherings with fellow scientists and our thriving international community. For this year online sessions are still warranted – and IGES members can enjoy our **IGES journal club** (last discussion led by John Witte, see <https://www.geneticepi.org/journal-club>).

This year's **annual meeting** will yet again be online. The **dates are October 13-16**. The abstract deadline has just passed, and many of you have contributed. The format will be very similar to the online 2020 meeting (information when finalized at <https://www.geneticepi.org/iges-2021>). Thanks to Corinne Engelmann and the entire Programme Committee, outstanding **keynote speakers** have accepted the invitation, they are Cecilia Lindgren, Zoltan Kutalik, Ambroise Wonkam, Hae Kyung Im. We will also have a dedicated **discussion panel session to diversity and**

equity with the keynote speaker Ambroise Wonkam and several panelists. Thanks to Wei Xu, Sarah Buxbaum and the entire Educational Committee, an **educational workshop on Polygenic Risk Score Modeling and Analysis** will be held prior to the annual meeting (date and time not yet finalized) will be held.

The IGES ELSI committee (chair Ronnie Sebro) is working hard on different aspects of diversity and equity. Two documents have been published (see <https://iges.memberclicks.net/iges-elsi-statements>). The first document declares our society's ambition for improvements. The second document is a guideline written under the leadership of Marie-Pierre Dube. We encourage you to read both documents and incorporate those aspects (to consider or to avoid) in your daily work. Please note that a commented list of references is attached to the guideline:

Short guideline on the use and reporting of race/ethnicity/ancestry in IGES abstracts and papers to promote inclusion diversity and equity

(<https://iges.memberclicks.net/reporting-race-ethnicity-ancestry>)

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to encourage all of you to contribute actively to IGES. We are constantly seeking members for our several committees, two members are usually rotating off at the end of each year. Also feel free to give suggestions for committees. In light of our efforts to raise participation from underrepresented communities, taking this into account for qualified suggestions is especially welcome. You might think of different people than the current board members. So, just let me know in case you are interested or have particular suggestions for us to follow-up.

Heike Bickeböllner

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 latest issue, June 2021 can be found here:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/10982272/2021/45/4>

Editor's pick papers are:

- **Authors:** Matthew J. Tudball, Jack Bowden, Rachael A. Hughes, Amanda Ly, Marcus R. Munafò, Kate Tilling, Qingyuan Zhao, George Davey Smith
Title: Mendelian randomization with coarsened exposures
Link: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/gepi.22376>
- **Authors:** Sharon M. Lutz, Ann Chen Wu, John E. Hokanson, Stijn Vansteelandt, Christoph Lange
Title: Caution against examining the role of reverse causality in Mendelian Randomization
Link: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/gepi.22385>

- 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 was available until January 31, 2021.

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

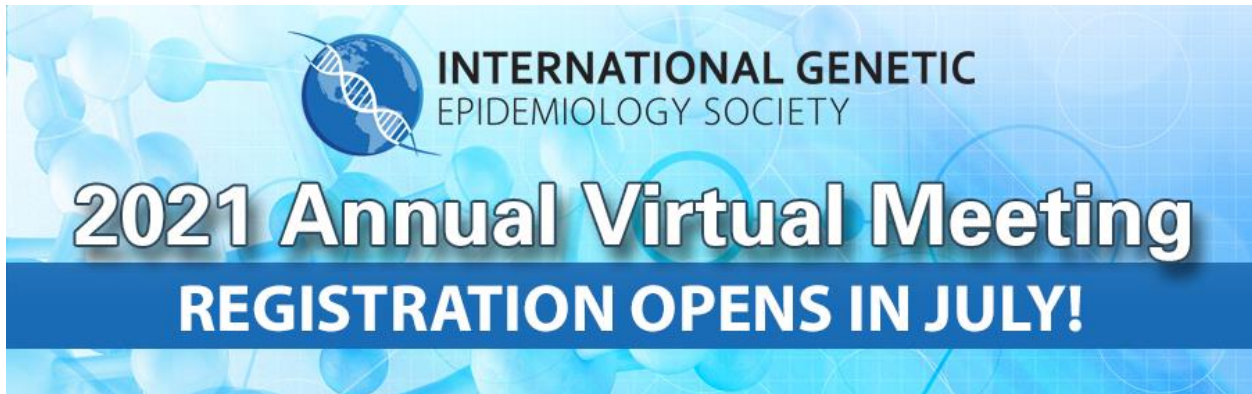
- Continuous regular membership of IGES for 5 years or more makes you eligible for the title of "**Fellow Member of IGES**". See <https://www.geneticepi.org/iges-fellow-members>

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 2021 online
Registration will open soon!

IGES 2021: October 13-16, 2021



We are happy to announce that registration for the 2021 Annual Meeting of the International Genetic Epidemiology Society will open soon! IGES 2021 will take place virtually from Thursday, 13 October 2021 to Saturday, 16 October 2021.

Highlights:

- Presidential Address from Heike Bickeböllner and keynote talks from [Cecilia Lindgren](#), [Zoltan Kutalik](#), [Ambroise Wonkam](#), and [Hae Kyung Im](#)
- A round table discussion on diversity, equity and inclusion in genetic epidemiology featuring Ambroise Wonkam, [Krystal Tsosie](#) (co-founder of the [Native BioData Consortium](#)) and [Akinyemi Oni-Orisan](#)
- Live sessions including the Neel and Williams award finalists and Genetic Epidemiology best paper from 2020
- Live contributed abstracts sessions
- Poster “lightning talks” available on demand and scheduled poster discussion sessions
- Recordings of plenary talks and discussions available on demand
- Accepted abstracts will be published in Genetic Epidemiology in early fall
- Scheduled small group mentoring sessions with early stage and senior researchers
- Networking opportunities including scheduled social sessions
- Be sure to use **#iges2021** in your social media posts!

The registration portal will be available this summer. Look for email updates and watch the [IGES 2021 tab](#) on the [IGES homepage](#).

Stay tuned for all the latest details at:

<https://www.geneticepi.org/iges-2021>

**IGES 2026 in Canada
Plan to attend in five 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 sorry to have to cancel the planned 2021 Annual Meeting at the Estérel resort outside of Montreal on account of the continued coronavirus pandemic. However, you will be pleased to know that we have transferred our booking to October 2026 (in five years' time!) just prior to the planned American Society of Human Genetics meeting in Montreal (October 20-24 2026).

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 June 2021 Pre-Conference Newsletter was edited, proofread, and formatted by Heather Cordell