



**INTERNATIONAL GENETIC  
EPIDEMIOLOGY SOCIETY**

## **Newsletter – *May 2023 Pre-Conference Edition***

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**Letter from the President**  
**John Witte**



Dear IGES Members,

I hope this letter finds you well. With your ongoing support and participation, IGES has continued to serve as a conduit for the genetic epidemiology community. During the current year we have held IGES journal clubs, published an important paper on inclusive genetic epidemiologic research (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35842778/>), expanded IGES committee membership to include young investigators, and are planning an exciting 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee November 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> (immediately

following ASHG). Abstract submissions and meeting registration are both open:

(<https://site.pheedloop.com/event/IGES2023/home>).

The Annual Meeting is the flagship event of IGES, providing an opportunity to share and discuss our research, connect with colleagues, establish new collaborations, foster lasting professional relationships, and shape the future of the field. We encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities, as they are important for both personal and professional growth. Please encourage your colleagues to attend IGES 2023 by posting a link to the registration page (above) on your websites and on your twitter feeds (@genepisociety). And please let us know if you have any ideas about potential sponsor for the conference (details here:

<https://site.pheedloop.com/event/IGES2023/sponsors>).

Thanks to the IGES Program Committee (chaired by Denise Daley, <https://www.geneticepi.org/program-committee>) for planning what looks to be an outstanding meeting of keynote lectures, plenary sessions, and poster presentations. There are four keynote speakers giving talks on important and innovative topics:

- Jian Yang (topic: MeDuSA: mixed model-based deconvolution of cell-state abundances)
- Shai Carmi (Preimplantation genetic testing with polygenic risk scores: epidemiological and clinical considerations)
- Yun Li (Spatial transcriptomics and its application to breast cancer for tumor microenvironment inference)
- Jonathan Mosley (Clinical consequences of common genetic variation unrelated to disease risk)

The IGES Education Committee (chaired by Chunyu Liu and Sarah Buxbaum, <https://www.geneticepi.org/education-committee>) has also organized a meeting workshop on Single Cell RNAseq and Multiomics Analysis. This workshop provides an opportunity for researchers at all career stages to enhance their skills and deepen their understanding of these cutting-edge approaches.

Thank you again for your continued support, enthusiasm, and dedication to IGES. Your active participation and contributions are what make IGES vibrant and impactful. If you are interested in becoming more involved with the society, or want more information, please contact the relevant Committee Chair listed on the IGES website or email us at [iges@geneticepi.org](mailto:iges@geneticepi.org).

See you in Nashville!

John Witte  
Stanford, CA, US  
2023 President of the International Genetic Epidemiology Society

## Meet the New IGES Board

Each Director serves for a 3 year team, with two directors being elected every year, in addition a President-Elect is also chosen.

After the Jan 2023 vote, the following new members were elected to the Board:

### **Elizabeth Gillanders, President Elect**



Currently Dr Gillanders works in extramural funding at the National Institutes of Health. She is Chief of the Genomic Epidemiology Branch, within the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences, at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). The branch supports a sizeable portfolio of cancer genetic epidemiology grants and as branch chief, Dr. Gillanders has overseen various activities aimed at identifying and addressing challenges in the genetic epidemiology of cancer and in particular the development of innovative approaches for studying the genetic architecture of cancer and applying next-generation sequencing to cancer epidemiology studies. For example, Dr. Gillanders helped design and coordinate a project to encourage innovation in breast cancer epidemiology through the prize competition, Up For A Challenge (U4C). Most recently, Dr. Gillanders has been involved with the trans-NCI Implementation Team for the Cancer Moonshot, Blue Ribbon Panel Recommendation A, “Establish a Network for Direct Patient Engagement.” As part of this work, she is supporting innovative approaches to fill research gaps in the genomic characterization of cancer through the Participant Engagement and Cancer Genome Sequencing (PE-CGS) Network.

### **Dr. Denise Daley, Board Member**



I have been a long standing and devoted member of IGES, having attended every meeting since 2000, with exception of 2004. I am proud to be an IGES fellow and I have served on numerous committees that support the society and its work, including the Ethical, Legal and Social Issues (ELSI) (2 terms), Publications, and Programming committees. During my time on the ELSI committee we surveyed the membership, wrote letters on behalf of the society to NIH regarding ethical challenges surrounding the sharing of genetic data and published a paper in Genetic Epidemiology. I greatly enjoyed my time on the publication committee, which requires that you read a large number of the papers published in Genetic Epidemiology the previous year. It is a lot of work but very rewarding both personally and professionally. These have been great experiences and I would highly recommend and encourage you to get involved and serve on the committees.

## **Dr Hae Kyung Im, Board Member**



As a faculty member in the Section of Genetic Medicine at the University of Chicago, Hae Kyung Im develops methods to make sense of the massive amounts of genomic and other high-dimensional data that are being generated in biomedical research. With a focus on integrating genome-wide association and functional genomics studies, Dr. Im is using her expertise in statistical methods to unlock the secrets of complex diseases and traits, and to translate her findings into real-world improvements in human health. A pioneer in the field of TWAS analysis, Dr. Im has developed a widely used framework for testing the mediating effects of gene expression traits on phenotypes. With a background in physics, manufacturing, information security, and finance, Dr. Im brings a unique perspective to her work at the intersection of statistics, genomics, medicine, and big data analytics. Dr. Im has been a member of the International Genetic Epidemiology Society (IGES) since 2012 and has served on the communications committee since 2015. She led the effort to set up the IGES intranet using the Google Suite for non-profits, which has helped the society save on operation costs. In addition to her work with IGES, Dr. Im is an associate editor of the American Journal of Human Genetics, and she has received numerous awards for her research, including the IGES Robert Elston award in 2014 and the University of Chicago's Distinguished Faculty award in 2020.

**Dr Julia Bailey** was re-elected to serve as the Treasurer for another 3 years.

## Treasurer's Corner

Julia Bailey



Greetings from the Treasurer.

Our financial accounts are in good standing and we currently have in the bank US\$161,017 as of April 30, 2023.

A summary of our income and expenses for 2022, where there was a deficit of just over \$11K:

### Summary of Income and Expenses for IGES 2022

#### Expenses

32,400	Business Endeavors, (Vanessa Olmo). BE maintains our website and membership and plans our conferences
7,474	Subscription access to Genetic Epidemiology.
5,785	Awards (including fees to mail and make the leadership award)
5,477	Online database (memberclicks), website fees, Survey monkey fees (\$372)
2,791	Includes costs for admin assistant bookkeeper DeLaine and the company we pay in New Orleans to prepare and file our non-profit paperwork and finances.
1,590	Banking fees, mostly credit card processing fees for memberships
143,967	Meeting in Paris
84,065	F&B includes the reception and dinner, coffee breaks
30,050	Room rental fees (meeting room, poster rooms, etc)
10,080	Poster Boards
8,782	AV services including White Cloud (2100) for live stream and recording
8,700	Travel fees for BE (2 people) and White Cloud (2 people)
975	Typesetting (Abstracts for publication) and copying
679	Speaker fees
636	Misc (badges, lanyards, onsite printing )
14,279	Educational Workshop Specific Expenses
6,212	Speaker expenses, flights, hotels
2,864	Rooms rental
4,141	AV and live streaming services
905	Daily delegate rate
158	Staff hotel

**\$213,763 Total Expenses 2022**

#### Income

137,672	Conference
36,675	Membership Dues
14,020	Sponsorships
14,130	<b>Educational Workshop Specific Income</b>
4,303	Educational Workshop Fees
855	Virtual Conference Fee
8,068	Canadian Institutes of Health Research Dissemination Grant to Celia Greenwood
905	Grant to Emmanuelle Génin for coffee break

**\$202,497 Total Income 2022**

Best,

Julia Bailey, Ph.D.

**Nominations are sought for the IGES Leadership Award (awarded annually)**

A list of previous Leadership Award winners can be found at:

<https://iges.memberclicks.net/past-scientific-meetings>

**Eligibility and Nominations**

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. Members of the IGES Board or IGES Officers are not eligible in their years of service.

Nominations should be sent by June 30th to [iges@geneticepi.org](mailto:iges@geneticepi.org) (marked for attention of the IGES President), and should be accompanied with a paragraph describing the contributions of the nominees to IGES and the field of genetic epidemiology. We encourage nominations by all, including junior investigators.

**Selection Criteria**

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

**Award Selection Committee**

The Award Selection Committee will consist of the IGES Officers and members of the IGES Board of Directors.

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

Recent recipients of the IGES Leadership award include Celia Greenwood, Andrew Morris, Mariza de Andrade and Josée Dupuis.

## IGES 2023 in Nashville – abstracts close Friday June 9

IGES 2023 immediately follows ASHG (the Halloween holiday precedes ASHG). We have the opportunity to meet with colleagues from Vanderbilt University and around the world, and to explore the music city of Nashville.



### Schedule:

- Sunday Nov 5: evening welcome reception
- Monday and Tuesday Nov 6-7: scientific talks, poster sessions and banquet
- Wednesday Nov 8: morning Educational Workshop (optional) “Single cell RNAseq and Multiomics Analysis” (sponsored by Illumina)

### Program features:

- Invited speakers
  - **Jian Yang**, Westlake University, Hangzhou (attending in person)
  - **Yun Li**, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (attending in person)
  - **Jonathan Mosley**, Vanderbilt University Medical Center (attending in person)
  - **Shai Carmi**, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (remote presentation with live Q&A)
- Platform presentations selected from submitted abstracts
- Poster sessions allowing intensive 1 on 1 discussions with presenters
- Finalist presentations for Williams Award (students) and Neel Award (postdocs)
- President’s address on big issues in genetic epidemiology
- Social and mentoring events for young investigators
- A jobs fair: potential hirers can meet in person with potential hires
- IGES Business Meeting – awards presentations, planning the future of IGES



Find out more, submit your abstract, register and book hotel room at

<https://site.phedloop.com/event/IGES2023/home>

*Sponsorship opportunities are still available – see website.*

**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!

## Special Issue in Cancer Epidemiology

Drs. Chris Amos, Elizabeth Gillanders, Alisa Goldstein, Jaya Satagopan, Dan Schaid, Sanjay Shete, and John Witte are serving as Guest Editors for a special issue devoted to "cancer epidemiology." We would be most appreciative if you would agree to submit one of the invited manuscripts for this issue, which we anticipate will be published in January 2024.

The editors would like you to consider contributing on any of the following topics:

- The meta-analyses/mega-analyses for cancer GWAS studies
- Genetic Analyses of Secondary/intermediate phenotypes
- Applied cancer epidemiology utilizing TCGA data
- Genetic epidemiology of cancer
- Identification of cancer subtypes using novel algorithms
- Identification of mutations associated with cancer treatment resistance
- Updates on cancer risk prediction models.

The manuscript should follow the guidelines for submission for Genetic Epidemiology at this website: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/10982272/homepage/forauthors.html>. The deadline for submission of manuscripts for this issue will be July 30, 2023.

All manuscripts will be peer-reviewed according to the policy of the journal and published online when accepted.

We will set the special issue to be freely available online for a limited time (~3-4 months) and would have it promoted through our social media channels – for Wiley Genetics, Facebook, and Twitter alone, that would reach over 15,000 followers. Other promotions are possible.

Thanks for considering our invitation to publish your manuscript in Genetic Epidemiology as part of the special issue on Cancer Epidemiology. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

- **Get content alerts by signing in:**  
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/action/doUpdateAlertSettings?action=addJournal&journalCode=10982272>

**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.



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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*

**THE IGES JOURNAL CLUB IS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS!**

Do you like discussing new and classic genetic epidemiology papers? Meeting colleagues from around the world? Then consider joining the IGES Journal Club Committee. We identify topics of interest, spot papers to read, find discussants, and organize virtual meetings. Interested? Questions? Please contact Silke Szymczak ([silke.szymczak@uni-luebeck.de](mailto:silke.szymczak@uni-luebeck.de)) or Duncan Palmer ([duncan.stuart.palmer@gmail.com](mailto:duncan.stuart.palmer@gmail.com))

Previous 2023 Journal Club offerings included:

Weds May 3rd 2023

"The Genetics of participation"

Stefania Benonisdottir:

Big Data Institute, Li Ka Shing Centre for Health Information Discovery, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

<https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2022.02.11.480067v1>

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Weds March 16th 2023

"IGES ELSI paper: Including diverse and admixed populations in genetic epidemiology research"

Amke Caliebe (1) and Fasil Tekola-Ayele (2)

1. Institute of Medical Informatics and Statistics, Kiel University and University Hospital Schleswig-Holstein, Kiel, Germany
2. Epidemiology Branch, Division of Population Health Research, Division of Intramural Research, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, USA

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/gepi.22492>

## 2023 IGES Officials

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

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

Current **officers** are: President: John Witte; Past-President: David Balding; President-Elect: Liz Gillanders; Treasurer: Julia Bailey; Secretary: Andrew Paterson; Editor-in-Chief, Genetic Epidemiology: Sanjay Shete.

**Board members** comprise the officers and the following 6 people: Elizabeth Blue, Denise Daley, Haky Im, Stephanie Santorico, Maggie Wang, and Eleanor Wheeler.

The **Education Committee** is co-chaired by Sarah Buxbaum and Chunyu Liu.

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

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

The **Scientific Program Committee** for 2023 is chaired by Denise Daley.

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

The **Communications Committee** is chaired by Andrew Paterson (ex-officio).

Please refer to the above website for the current respective committee members.

The **IGES webmaster** is Sarah Gagliano. The **IGES Facebook contact** is Marc-André Legault, 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 May 2023 Post-Election Newsletter was edited, proofread, and formatted by Andrew Paterson