



INTERNATIONAL GENETIC EPIDEMIOLOGY SOCIETY

Newsletter – July 2024

Letter from the President Liz Gillanders

Dear IGES Members,



I hope this letter finds you well. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to IGES.

Based on feedback from last year's annual meeting, we began the year with a journal club highlighting the National Institutes of Health's *All of Us* Research Program, which is [now taking applications](#) from international academic, not-for-profit, and health care organizations to access data through its Researcher Workbench. You can find a recording of the presentation: "The All of Us Research Program: Data Resources and Access" by Dr. Anji Musick [here](#).

Following a global pandemic, three weddings and a funeral, I am very much looking forward to being in person for the 33rd Annual IGES Meeting, November 3-5, 2024 in the beautiful city of Denver, Colorado - the state capitol aptly nicknamed "The Mile High City". This year's meeting immediately precedes the American Society of Human Genetic Annual Meeting. If you have not yet registered, you can do that [here](#). Also, don't forget to encourage your colleagues to attend IGES 2024 by posting a link to the [registration page](#) on your websites and on your X feeds (@genepisociety).

Our host hotel is the Embassy Suites by Hilton in Downtown Denver ([click here to reserve your suite](#)), located adjacent to the Colorado Convention Center, lead venue for the American Society of Human Genetics Annual Meeting. You can reserve your room now for IGES, and extend through the ASHG meeting* without the need to change rooms! (**Separate bookings are required for IGES and ASHG.*) IGES has negotiated a special group rate of **\$199 plus tax for a 2-room suite (one king bed) or a 2-room suite with 2 queen beds**. Book your room now, and remember (this is very important!)- the society is committed to a minimum number of rooms, so when you book through the IGES link, you are supporting IGES! Annually, the society really depends on this support.

As you know the society is largely organized and run by us, so many thanks to all the IGES members who are committed to its success! In particular, the 2024 [program committee](#), chaired by Linda Kachuri, has worked hard to plan 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:

Also, the IGES [Education Committee](#) (chaired by Chunyu Liu and Sarah Buxbaum) has worked hard to organized a meeting workshop focused on the *Development and Validation of Polygenic Risk Scores for Application in Diverse Populations*. Led by Drs. Chris Gignoux and Leslie Lange (University of Colorado Anschutz), the workshop will take place the morning of Tuesday, November 5 at the Aspen Room at The Embassy Suites Hotel. This workshop provides an opportunity for researchers at all career stages to deepen their understanding of this cutting-edge topic. The agenda will also include a special ELSI session.

A special thank you to Elizabeth Blue, who has championed our efforts this year to identify sponsors for the conference (details here: <https://iges.memberclicks.net/sponsorships>). Thank you Liz! Again, the society really depends on this support.

Liz has also led the development of our inaugural IGES merchandise initiative. You can find more information here: <https://www.geneticepi.org/merchandise>

You can now order IGES T-shirts to help support our organization! Place your order for the customized IGES shirt before the meeting at this link:

<https://www.bonfire.com/international-genetic-epidemiology-society>

We have various styles (unisex and women's cut), colors and sizes to choose from!

Finally, your active feedback/engagement is what makes IGES such a great society to be a part of. 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.

Hope to see you soon in Denver,

Liz Gillanders
IGES President

2024 IGES Election Results

Hae Kyung Im was elected President-elect



2024 IGES Board of Directors

Three directors were elected:



Dr. Chloé Sarnowski

David Conti, Ph.D.



Dr. Lisa Strug



IGES 2024 in downtown Denver

Regular registration for IGES 2024 ends September 30

Make plans to attend the 33rd Annual IGES Meeting, November 3-4, and the Education Workshop on November 5, 2024, in the beautiful city of Denver, Colorado - the state capital aptly nicknamed "The Mile High City."

This year's meeting immediately precedes the American Society of Human Genetics Annual Meeting

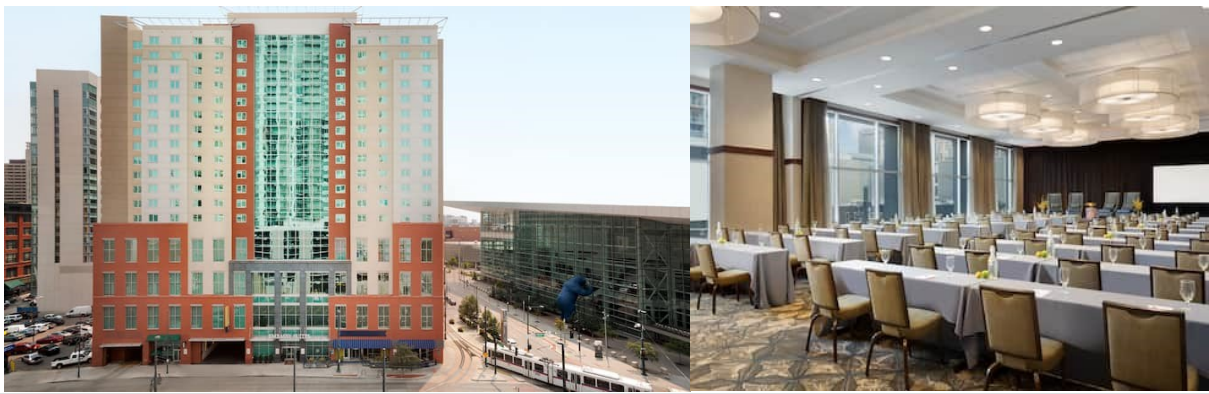


Schedule:

- Saturday, November 2: evening welcome reception
 - Sunday and Monday, November 3-4: scientific talks, poster sessions, and banquet
 - Tuesday, November 5 morning: Educational Workshop on "Development and Validation of Polygenic Risk Scores for Application in Diverse Populations"
- This year's workshop is a half-day, interactive workshop between the IGES and ASHG annual meetings led by Drs. Chris Gignoux and Leslie Lange from the University of Colorado Anschutz. The Workshop is open to everyone. The cost to attend is \$75 US.

Program features:

- Invited speakers
 - Eimear Kenny, Mount Sinai, New York
 - Andrea Ganna, Helsinki Institute of Life Science, Finland
 - Neil Hanchard, National Human Genome Research Institute, Bethesda
 - Hongtu Zhu, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- 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, to register and book your hotel room at

<https://iges.memberclicks.net/register2024#!/>

Sponsorship opportunities are still available at multiple levels. For more information see

<https://iges.memberclicks.net/sponsorships>

**IGES Education Workshop
Application in Diverse Populations**

This year's workshop is a half-day, interactive workshop between the IGES and ASHG annual meetings. Led by Drs. Chris Gignoux and Leslie Lange (University of Colorado Anschutz), the workshop will take place the morning of Tuesday, November 5 at the Embassy Suites Hotel.

The Workshop is open to everyone. The cost to attend is \$75 US.

Provision agenda:

Topic	Duration	Speaker(s)
<u>Introduction</u> Introduce IGES, objectives for the PRS workshop, cover any housekeeping items	5 min	Chunyu Liu (IGES)
<u>Overview of PRS</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an overview of PRS and the application of PRS in genetic epidemiology, including challenges and successes • Summary of ethical implications, led by the IGES ELSI committee 	45 min	Chris Gignoux (CU Anschutz) Marie-Pierre Dube (IGES ELSI)
<u>Talks 1 & 2: Development and calculation of a PRS pipeline for the application in admixed populations</u>	40 min	Lead: Meng Lin (CU Anschutz)
Break	10 min	N/A
<u>Hands-on sessions 1 & 2: Validation of PRS for clinical decision-making in diverse populations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute code + toy dataset(s) and executed markdown files prior to workshop 	80 min	Leads: Leslie Lange & Iain (CU Anschutz/PRIMED)
Wrap-up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarize key takeaways • Mention/collect feedback survey & 2025 meeting topic survey (e.g., QR code) 	10 min	Chris Gignoux, Meng Lin, Leslie Lange, Chunyu Liu,

Fundraiser 2024



Premium Unisex Tee \$27.99



Pullover Hoodie \$37.99



Allmade Organic Cotton Unisex Tee \$32.99



Allmade Eco Triblend Unisex Tee \$34.99



Allmade Organic French Terry Pullover Hoodie \$62.99



Allmade Eco Triblend Women's V-Neck Tee \$32.99



Allmade Eco Triblend Women's Scoop Neck Tee \$35.99

Dear IGES members,

We've designed a custom T-shirt fundraiser that also allows for direct donations to IGES:

<https://www.bonfire.com/international-genetic-epidemiology-society/>

When you order, you will see how much of your purchase will go directly to IGES and you have the option to make a direct donation as well.

These shirts will be custom printed in rolling 2-week batches and should arrive within 7-14 business days after printing.

The platform allows for shipping worldwide. Your confirmation email will include tracking information and allows for limited changes to your order.

Please let me know if you have any questions, and thanks for all you do to support IGES,

Liz Blue (em27@uw.edu)

Title: Inclusion of multiracial individuals in genetics and genomics is imperative for equitable research

Date: Monday September 16th 2024: (9am (PDT), 12pm (EDT) and 6pm (CEST))

Presenters: Daphne Oluwaseun Martschenko and Genevieve Wojcik

based on manuscript "Including multiracial individuals is crucial for race, ethnicity and ancestry frameworks in genetics and genomics" (Nat Genet 55, 895–900, 2023)

PMID: **37202500**

Bios:

Dr. Daphne Oluwaseun Martschenko, PhD (she/hers) is an Assistant Professor at the Stanford Center for Biomedical Ethics . Her scholarship identifies novel ways to examine and enhance the ethical and socially responsible conduct, translation, and interpretation of human genetic research. Dr. Martschenko is passionate about fostering public and community engagement with controversial scientific research. She has appeared in the New York Times and on numerous podcasts including Freakonomics Radio. Dr. Martschenko's work is published in publicly accessible media outlets such as Scientific American and The Conversation. In 2023, she was named one of 10 Scientists to Watch by ScienceNews. Currently, Dr. Martschenko is writing a book with her friend and colleague Sam Trejo, a quantitative social scientist interested in how social and biological factors jointly shape human development across the life-course. In it, they unpack various social, ethical, and policy issues related to the DNA revolution.

Dr. Genevieve Wojcik is a genetic epidemiologist and Assistant Professor of Epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She holds a BA in Biology from Cornell University, an MHS in Human Genetics/Genetic Epidemiology and a PhD in Epidemiology from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and conducted her postdoctoral training at Stanford University. Her research program focuses on understanding the role of ancestry and environment in genetic risk and developing solutions to address health inequities for diverse and admixed groups. Dr. Wojcik's work also considers the appropriate framing of genetics with racial and ethnic identity in biomedical research, including as a contributing member of the 2023 NASEM report on the Use of Race, Ethnicity, and Ancestry as Population Descriptors in Genomics Research.

Look for details about how to sign up coming soon the the IGES website

**2024 July IGES
Treasurer Report**



Greeting from the Treasurer.

Inflation is causing prices to rise and unfortunately membership is falling.

If you haven't become an IGES member yet, please consider doing so. IGES membership is based on the calendar year, January through December.

Membership also entitles you to reduced fees for meeting registration and eligibility to participate as a member on one of the various IGES committees or as a board member.

Note that IGES is a charitable and educational organization, and any contribution provided by its members is tax-deductible as allowable by law. This can be done along with your membership renewal process – your continuous support of IGES is appreciated!

We are having other fundraisers like our new T-shirts, and reaching out to industry and institutional sponsors that align with our purposes. This allows us to 1) keep annual membership and meeting fees affordable, 2) bring in cutting edge scientists to present at our meetings, and 3) resume providing monetary awards to outstanding junior scientists in our field.

Registration for the October 2024 meeting in Denver is now open. I hope to see you there!

I am also in need of a successor to take over in 2026. If you have any interest in the position, please let me know via email (jbailey@mednet.ucla.edu) or in person in Denver.

Best,

Julia Bailey

IGES Treasurer

2024 IGES Officials

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

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

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

Board members comprise the officers and the following 6 people: Stephanie Santorico and Elizabeth Blue (until end 2024); Lisa Strug and Denise Daley (until end 2025); David Conti & Chloé Sarnowski (until end 2026)

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

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

The **Publications Committee** is chaired by President-Elect (Haky Im in 2024).

The **Scientific Program Committee** for 2024 is chaired by Linda Kachuri.

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

The **Communications Committee** is chaired by Andrew Paterson

The **Journal Club** is run by Silke Szymczak