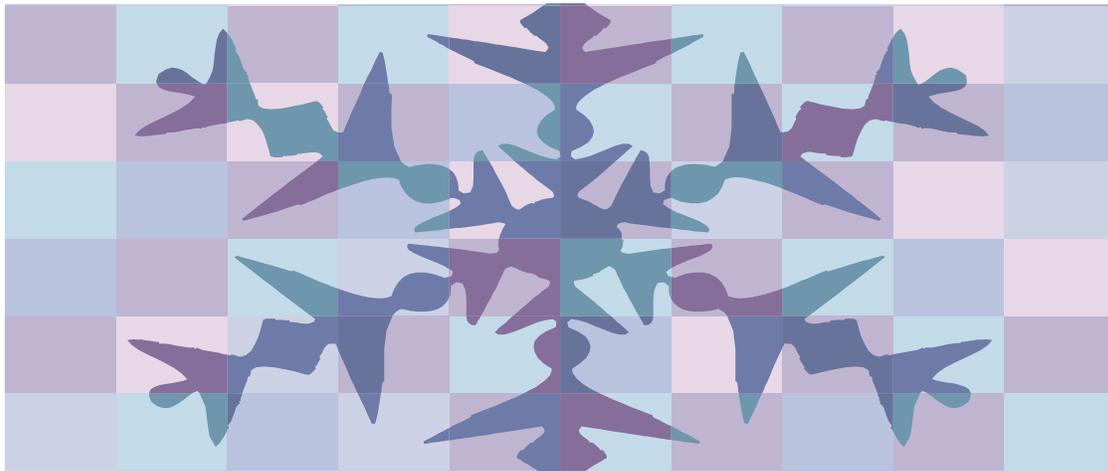


TRANSPLANT NEWS



ITNS - GATEWAY CHAPTER



Message from the President

Dear Fellow ITNS Members,

I am so excited about this upcoming year as your president. There are many exciting new changes ahead and I am hopeful that our chapter will continue to grow. I look forward to working with a great Board and together we will accomplish a lot. This year our symposium planning committee has grown and I am eager to work with our colleagues from St. Louis University and those from other disciplines as well. Our goal is to grow attendance at the symposium in 2015 and I know we will be a success. For a first we are advertising and reaching out to professionals to invite them to our symposium. We hope to have the "Yahoo" Midwest Chapter Group up and running by early December which will enhance communication among chapter members. As I have stated in meetings I want our chapter to be inclusive and to be able to provide a learning and networking opportunity for nurses, pharmacists, physician's assistants and other medical professionals as well. There are many ways for individuals to become involved in the chapter and be a part of a great organization! Lastly, we have an awesome dinner coming up for our holiday party and I look forward to seeing everyone there for "holiday cheer"



Oil wells, longhorn cattle and a bit of Texas swagger may be iconic images long associated with Houston, but in September it was the site of the ITNS Annual Symposium “One World of Caring.” Attendees from around the world converged to attend informative educational topics, participate in round table discussions, socialize with friends, and network with colleagues.

Topics included all organ groups and ranged from patient issues such as compliance and education to evidence-based practice topics describing certification initiatives and collaboration efforts.

The meeting had an international flair. I was fascinated to hear the lunch panel discuss organ transplant. Speakers were from England, Poland, and China, and all presented the unique challenges faced by their home country in the area of organ transplant.

Another favorite was the talk about the World Transplant Games. Pictures of post-transplant patients of all ages gathering to celebrate their new lives was a great reminder of the great work that we all do in transplant.

On Sunday night there was a paint night, Cakes and Canvasses. We all displayed our considerable (cough, cough) talent at putting paint brush to canvas to create masterpieces! All of this while munching cupcakes and sipping vino! There is a lot of talent in our organization!

This was my first time to attend a national ITNS conference. I am grateful that my local Gateway Chapter, through their scholarship, afforded me the opportunity to attend. I would recommend this to anyone wanting to enrich their career through continued learning.

Heather Wertin, RN, BSN

Kidney Transplant Coordinator

Barnes Jewish Hospital



My week at the ITNS Conference in Houston was long, but very educational and interesting. There were so many things that I did and so many different people that I met; it's hard to pick a favorite so I will just highlight some of them.

The conference itself was in a highly desirable location of Houston. We were located directly across from an incredibly huge mall that had too many stores to mention and many of them were a little too high end to even go into (but what do you expect in a mall that has a Tesla showroom in it?). I enjoyed spending some of my down-time there with fellow BJH co-workers, Beth Greco, Heather Wertin, and Velva Pryor. We even ate dinner there one night. There was an ice rink but the thought of skating did not even register with me! It hurts too much to fall! The hotel, a JW Marriott, was filled with very accommodating staff. They went above and beyond in helping make our stay great. One morning, we went to a local grocery store and stayed for an hour. It was a massive Whole Foods-like store but much cheaper. We made so many laps around the store that we started conversations with the staff and they told us that on the weekends they have live bands, BBQ and wine. Now THAT would make me grocery shop more often!

The conference was set up in two separate locations of the hotel. All of the sessions were held in the hotel itself and the meals along with the vendors were held in a location across the road, but still on the hotel campus. The breakout sessions were good and the length was great, 30 min-1 hour. I enjoyed that because sometimes you just cannot sit there that long and learn about new topics... overwhelming! I quickly learned that for some of the sessions, you needed to get there a.s.a.p. to even get a seat, but some others were the exact opposite; hardly anyone in attendance and you felt bad for the speakers who prepared for a riveting speech but there was only 10-15 there. One of my sessions only had about 7 people there. The speaker chose to not use the stage or podium and just walk around the room; asking questions of the attendees. There were speakers from different countries and they were interesting to listen to, although somewhat difficult to understand. In those instances, I was thankful for their slide presentations!

When we weren't learning or shopping, we were eating and talking to the various vendors. I was surprised at how good, and how plentiful the food was. I'm pretty sure they broke the bank on the meals and even the snacks. I don't think I've ever had such good food at a convention. They really out-did themselves. The vendors were in the same location so when we weren't eating we would be learning about other Transplant Centers and what they were doing and seeing as trends, or the drug companies and their usual freebies. But probably the most interesting booths I visited were the Stop Organ Harvesting (www.stoporganharvesting.org) booth where they were informing attendees of the killing of Chinese prisoners for use in illegal transplant operations. This was by far the most interesting thing I learned about and yet the most horrifying, too. So much so, that I just had to take their information and read up on it on my own. It was just too much to bear at any one sitting; you needed to hear it in bits and pieces so you could digest the information slowly. I also like the national pregnancy registry booth: www.ntpr.giftoflifeinstitute.org/. It was a good piece of information to know about; one that I could pass on to some of my coworkers who were new and even to some of my patients. All in all, I really enjoyed my stay in Houston. I learned a lot, met new people from all over the country and got to know my co-workers better as well. It was an awesome experience, one that I will definitely do again. I highly recommend going to the ITNS conference next year as it will be in Chicago and that makes it an easy drive, even for 1-2 days. Thank you so much for this opportunity, Gateway Chapter!

Lauris Torgerson RN

2015 Meeting Dates



January 29, 2015

February 19, 2015

May 21, 2015

September 17, 2015

October 22, 2015

Annual Christmas Party

Thursday, December 4, 2014 at 5:30pm.

Maggiano's Little Italy

Richmond Heights Mo 63107

All Transplant Professionals are welcome

Free for Gateway Chapter Members

\$20 for all non-members

RSVP to Heather Garcia at hgarcia@bjc.org by 12-1-14

Gateway Chapter Symposium April 4, 2015

- **ITNS symposium at Goldfarb Nursing Building at BJH.**

Saturday 4-5-15

Many good topics this year.

Good Food!!

CEUs.

Low cost.

More information to follow in the next months.

If any group or person in ITNS Gateway chapter has any ideas or thoughts for articles or topics for the newsletter please feel free to email us at:

Jean Bowe at bowe.jean@bjc.org or



The International Transplant Nurses Society was founded in 1992 as a non-profit organization, to promote the education and clinical practice excellence of nurses who are interested in and participate in the care of solid organ transplant patients.

ITNS is the first professional nursing organization to focus on the professional growth and development of the transplant clinician. ITNS offers nurses a forum for learning about the latest advances in transplantation and transplant patient care. Over the years, ITNS continues to provide nurses -- skilled in transplantation -- with many opportunities to share their expertise with national and international peers, and receive recognition for their knowledge and scholarly pursuits.



If you know if any new topics in Transplantation or would like to suggest a good speaker, please feel free to call or email me.

I would love to hear from you about interesting topics and good speakers from our transplant community. hgarcia@bjc.org.

Heather Garcia
Education Director