

# SGNA news

celebrating our community



Though Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month is March, SGNA encourages its members to educate themselves and their patients year-round.

## Fired Up for Endoscopy: 2014 Flame Award Winner



Beverly Levanti, RN CGRN

With emphasis on communication, consistency and, most importantly, teamwork, the endoscopy unit at SurgiCare of Central Jersey received this year's inaugural Flame Award for Unit Excellence. This newest SGNA award recognizes a GI/endoscopy unit with a flair for infection prevention, and kindling a supportive, educational work environment with positive patient outcomes.

This award-winning unit is comprised of three full-time RNs, including SGNA Infection Prevention Champion Beverly Levanti, RN CGRN, Karen Zervopoulos, RN CFER, and Theresa Vega, RN. Maria Jones, RN serves as the unit's per diem RN, and the three full-time technicians are Lindsay Knoll, AGTS CFER, Elsa Lluberés, CFER, and Yadira Colon, certified surgical tech. Even the Director of Nursing, Patti Taber, BSN RN CGRN, and Executive Director, Linda Kollar, RN, make guest appearances from time to time. Performing EGD, push enteroscopy and colonoscopy, the unit executes between 7,000 to 8,000 endoscopic procedures each year.



(Left to right) Infection Prevention Champion Beverly Levanti, RN CGRN, Executive Director, Linda Kollar, RN, and Director of Nursing, Patti Taber, BSN RN CGRN.

How does this unit keep the "spark" alive throughout all of these procedures? Infection Prevention Champion Beverly Levanti, RN CGRN, speaks about the tactics this unit embodies in order to continue running smoothly, even when under pressure. "We have a small staff that works very well as a team."

Beverly adds that the team members are flexible and willing to help, jumping in whenever they are needed. Running three procedure rooms—sometimes four—each day, Beverly also explains that strict organization is crucial, as it ensures that any person can enter any of the rooms and know where to find the necessary equipment.

"We also hold inservices on infection prevention and proper use of equipment," Beverly says. "We attend the Annual Course in our region, as well as regions within driving distance in neighboring states."

Certification is encouraged at all levels, and Beverly puts her training as Infection Prevention Champion to use, passing along SGNA educational materials to her unit. From



The endoscopy team at SurgiCare of Central Jersey.

## PENTAX MEDICAL

This special colorectal cancer awareness issue is generously supported by PENTAX.



SGNA Immediate Past President Betty McGinty, MS HSA RN CGRN, (center) congratulates members of the 2014 Outstanding Regional Society, Eastern North Carolina, Region 42, at the 41st Annual Course.

### You Save Lives Through Screening

We've come a long way, but we still have to do more to eradicate colorectal cancer. SGNA supports its members to empower their patients to get screened.

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competency evaluations by vendors to scholarships and regional and national courses, the unit doesn't let an educational opportunity pass by unattended.

However, Beverly reveals the other equally important factors of maintaining a well-oiled endoscopy unit. "Consistency and communication are keys to having a successful unit. We follow the exact same procedures for cleaning of the scopes and cleaning the procedure rooms. This is most important in preventing infections and keeping the unit running smoothly."

Executive Director, Linda Kollar, RN, expresses her pride for this "fired up" endoscopy unit, "At SurgiCare of Central Jersey, we strive to have all staff members reach their highest educational potential, thereby providing the best in patient care. Our endoscopy team works very hard to provide the best and safest patient care every day. We are proud that they have received the Flame Award!"



According to the American Cancer Society, deaths from colorectal cancer have been declining for more than two decades, mostly because of screenings.



The endoscopy unit at SurgiCare of Central Jersey celebrated GI Nurses and Associates Week 2014.