

**ISONG**  
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY  
OF NURSES IN GENETICS

2021

Annual Report

[www.isong.org](http://www.isong.org)

# President's Report

Rebecca Kronk, ISONG President 2020-2021



To my ISONG Colleagues,

It was a blessing to serve as the 2020-2021 President of ISONG. As we continued to navigate through unprecedented times due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, our members have been leading the way in their communities. I want to thank each of you for your courageous and persistent dedication to the profession of nursing.

ISONG continued to be a collectively strong example in the world of precision health. Congress was exceptionally successful in addressing topics of diversity, inclusion and health equity in genomic nursing. I am grateful to Theresa Koleck, McKenzie Wallace, Mandy Schmella, and the entire Congress Planning Committee. And of course ISONG could not flourish without Beth and Amy from Kassalen Meetings & Events! Here are highlighted activities and initiatives accomplished during the 2020-2021 year:

- ◆ **Adopted new ISONG logo.**
- ◆ **Formally addressed the need to integrate omics nursing and multi-dimensional health determinants into the final version of the 2022-2026 NINR Strategic Plan.**
- ◆ **Renewed contract with Kassalen Meetings & Events.**
- ◆ **Hosted successful 2021 ISONG Congress.**
- ◆ **Formally addressed lack of genetic and genomic information in new AACN Essentials through letter from ISONG to the Chief Academic Officer, American Association of College Nursing.**
- ◆ **Established new diversified investment policy with PNC Bank.**
- ◆ **ISONG representatives participated in Healthcare Provider Genomic Education Week sponsored by the National Human Genome Research Institute.**
- ◆ **Updated Memorandum of Understanding between ISONG and Nurse Portfolio Credentialing Commission (NPCC).**
- ◆ **Allocated funds to provide Education and Clinical Practice grants for 2021.**
- ◆ **Wrote letter of support for the #Myhealthcare National Transition Center.**
- ◆ **Approved position statements.**
- ◆ **Provided a Welcome and Congratulatory Presentation at the Japanese Society for Genetic Nursing, 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

I will continue to serve on the Board as the Past-President of ISONG. I look forward to supporting Dr. Wesmiller in her role as President. I am so proud to be a member of this international work and I am committed to bringing ISONG to the forefront of my work and all outreach endeavors.

Most Sincerely,

*Rebecca Kronk*

Rebecca Kronk  
ISONG President 2020-2021

## Who Is ISONG?

ISONG is an inclusive professional group serving the genetics nursing profession and the public. Internationally, nurses are engaged in genetic and genomic healthcare at all levels of policy, education, research, and clinical practice. We welcome new perspectives and look forward to the opportunity to have new members join us in shaping the future!

Our **334 members** live and work in **20 countries** across the globe:

# 20!

*Australia*

*Brazil*

*Canada*

*Colombia*

*Finland*

*Hong Kong*

*Indonesia*

*Ireland*

*Israel*

*Italy*

*Japan*

*Korea, Republic of*

*Malta*

*Mexico*

*New Zealand*

*Philippines*

*Saudi Arabia*

*United Kingdom*

*United States*

*Zimbabwe*



## Mission

To serve both the nursing profession and the public. ISONG fosters and advocates for the scientific and professional development of its members and the nursing community, in the discovery, interpretation, application, and management of genomic information, for the promotion of the public's health and wellbeing. ISONG advocates for public understanding of genomic health and use of genomic information.

## Vision

Caring for people's genetic and genomic health throughout the lifespan and across the continuum of health and disease.



## Awards Committee

*Dennis Cheek*, Committee Chair

Followed procedure to select recipients of Research, Education and Practice awards. Committee selected award recipients by majority vote:

- ◆ **Research Award:** *Veronica Barcelona*
- ◆ **Education Award:** *Suzanne Mahon*
- ◆ **Practice:** *Delwin Jacoby*



## Communications Committee

*Stacy Hines-Dowell* and *Carolyn Allen*, Committee Co-Chairs

Success was realized in most of the Communication Committee's goals! Way to go, Stacy and Carolyn.

- ◆ Realized **12-49%** increase of engagement across all 4 ISONG platforms!
- ◆ Increased member engagement and expanded ISONG presence on social media.
- ◆ Maintained continuity across ISONG website and social media pages.
- ◆ Engaged **2** Student Correspondents who covered communications during Congress. Thank you to Anndra Dumo and Martha Curtin.



**1,175** Page Likes

↑ **13%**



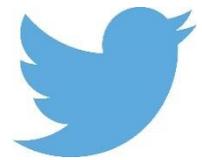
**188** Followers

↑ **28%**



**81** Followers

↑ **49%**



**511** Followers

↑ **12%**



## Congress Planning Committee

*Theresa Koleck, Mandy Schmella and McKenzie Wallace*

Committee Co-Chairs

The 2021 ISONG Congress ***Promoting Diversity, Inclusion, and Health Equity in Genomic Nursing*** was a resounding success! Despite it being held virtually for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Congress met and exceeded the needs of our ISONG colleagues. The biggest hurdle was meeting the needs of a global audience that spanned 19 time zones. The flexibility and perseverance of the Congress Planning Committee, the Headquarters staff and the Congress speakers cannot be understated. The willingness of the group to try new things, exercise patience and sustain their good humor resulted in an outstanding Congress.

We realized an increase of attendees with over 181 joining us virtually, as well as 6 sponsors! We relied heavily on our numerous sub-committees and want to thank them. They were essential to our success!

- ◆ **Abstracts** – Reviewed and scored abstracts, mapped the schedule for the Congress sessions.
- ◆ **Moderators** – Selected and trained session moderators, who are essential for keeping the sessions running on schedule. Although our virtual format required fewer moderators, a few were still needed for the live sessions. We are thankful to the ISONG members who volunteered for this important role.
- ◆ **Hospitality** – Engaged with social media presence and the Student Correspondents.
- ◆ **Continuing Education Units** – Gathered data required for CEU submissions, submitted the applications, and prepared and sent certificates (with bountiful assistance from Headquarters office).
- ◆ **Global Panel** – Decided the format of the session, invited panelists, decided upon the content of the session, and moderated the session at Congress.
- ◆ **Pre-Congress** – Decided upon the focus of the sessions, drafted the call for proposals and reviewed and approved the content for the Pre-Congress.
- ◆ **Sponsorship and Grants** – Sourced and contacted potential sponsors and educational grant providers. Applications for grants and negotiations with sponsors were then managed by the Committee and the Headquarters office.





## Development Committee

*Theresa Wadas* and *Susan Appel*, Committee Co-Chairs

Our committee performs outreach activities with community organizations, educational institutions, associations, and businesses to support our mission. This includes building relationships to foster new sponsorships with genetic/genomic professional and public education.

- ◆ *DNA Day Competition* was implemented and 7 ISONG members participated. First, second, and third place winners were announced at 2021 Congress. Prizes totaled \$250.
- ◆ Conducted *DNA Day trivia questions* during the 2021 Congress and raised \$127 to put towards an ISONG Congress scholarship.
- ◆ Received 1 medical educational grant from Sanofi.



## Education Committee

*Ruth Lucas* and *Mary Hanson-Zalot*, Committee Co-Chairs

The Education Committee oversees the genetic/genomic continuing education and advancements for all professional nurses.

- ◆ Created and established:
  - Education Strategy Subcommittee
  - Crosswalk Subcommittee
  - Repository of curated genetic/genomic resources on the ISONG education webpage, which was shared with AACN
  - Guidelines, application and project scoring rubric for an Educational Project Award which was awarded to the CGNE Committee
- ◆ Position description for a Genomics Education Resources Repository
- ◆ Shared the opportunity for a Graduate Certificate in Genomic Counselling and Variant Interpretation at the University of British Columbia. <https://medgen.med.ubc.ca/genomic-certificate/>
- ◆ Partnered with the Professional Practice Committee to showcase education resources for practitioner education.



## Ethics & Public Policy Committee (EPP)

*Lisa Blair, Maggie Hornung, and Leslie Darmofal,*  
Committee Co-Chairs

The Ethics & Public Policy Committee is dedicated to the evaluation of scientific and political changes as they relate to genomics and public health. In 2021, the Committee developed a Position Statement algorithm to facilitate position statement revisions.

The Committee is proud to have updated the following position papers:

- ◆ *Newborn Screening*
- ◆ *Provision of Quality Genetic Services and Care: Building a Multidisciplinary, Collaborative Approach among Genetic Nurses and Genetic Counselors and Other Health Professionals*
- ◆ *Genetic Counseling for Vulnerable Populations: The Role of Nursing*
- ◆ *Genomic Access – Role of the Nurse*



## Global Membership Committee

*Bobbi Laing and Monica Wagner,* Committee Co-Chairs

Our committee has worked on several initiatives this year to promote member recruitment, retention, and engagement.

- ◆ **Oncology Special Interest Group (OSIG):** Over the past two years, the OSIG has grown and now includes 49 members (a 31% increase in membership over the last year). The meetings are member directed and serve as a platform to share interests, research, or clinical practice, as well as funding opportunities, papers, clinical topics, and research topics.
- ◆ **Member Spotlight:** The ISONG Member Spotlight is featured quarterly and highlights the outstanding work of the ISONG community which helps to connect us. This initiative appears in the ISONG E-update and is also highlighted on ISONG social media platforms.
- ◆ **Regional Ambassadors:** Regional ambassadors connect nurses to ISONG and address country and regional needs. In 2021, Oceania (Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands) joined Brazil and Japan as our third region. The three pilot teams will continue to work together and build relationships with both potential and existing ISONG members in neighboring countries.
- ◆ **Education Matrix (joint effort with Education Committee):** An education matrix was developed to provide members with educational and clinical resources in genomic and other omics.
- ◆ **ISONG Website Updates:** The committee continues to update the ISONG Global Membership webpage.
- ◆ **Increase membership:** ISONG membership grew to 334 members (September 2021).



## Nominations Committee

*Dennis Cheek*, Committee Chair

**Nominations:** Followed procedure to elect President-Elect, Secretary, Member-At-Large, and Student Representative.

Board members elected for 2021-2022:

- ◆ **President-Elect:** *Laurie M Conners*
- ◆ **Secretary:** *Ansley Stanfill*
- ◆ **Member-at-Large:** *Tingting Liu*
- ◆ **Student Member:** *Carolyn Harris*



## Professional Practice Committee (PPC)

*Tina Mladenka* and *Andrea Hartgraves*, Committee Co-Chairs

We are proud of our committee's work to support efforts, develop and evaluate scope and standards of practice, credentialing, and ongoing genetics nursing practice issues.

- ◆ The Professional Clinical Practice grant award of \$750 was awarded to Dr Trina Walker. Her clinical project was *Pharmacogenomics in Clinical Practice: A Webinar Series*.
- ◆ Developed best practice models for a successful CGC/RN partnership by presenting 2 abstracts at the 2021 Congress.
- ◆ Provided mentor opportunities for clinical ISONG members to write an abstract for 2021 ISONG Congress.
- ◆ Created a presentation for coding/billing/ reimbursement made available on ISONG website.



## Research Committee

*Maura McCall* and *Tara Albrecht*, Committee Co-Chairs

The Research Committee fosters awareness of research activities in nursing, genetics, and related areas to enhance professional and personal development of members. We also oversee the Research Grant application, review, and award processes. In 2021, we:

- ◆ Awarded 4 research grants.
- ◆ Submitted a response to NINR Strategic Plan to the ISONG Board.
- ◆ Created 5 podcasts that highlight the research of members and posted on the ISONG website (4 abstracts and 1 paper).
- ◆ Continued ongoing collaboration with the oncology SIG and ONSEN.

# Thank You for Supporting the 2021 ISONG Congress

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*Thank You for the Medical Education Grant received from*





## Secretary Report

*Ansley Stanfill*

The ISONG Secretary works with headquarters to draft meeting minutes, develop bullet points for the newsletter, and serves as the board liaison for the Research Committee.



## Treasurer Report

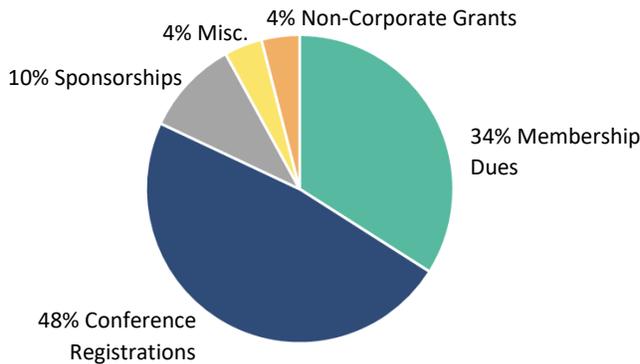
*Lisa Aiello*

The ISONG Treasurer works closely with Kassalen Meetings & Events, ISONG’s association management company. The Treasurer reviews the monthly financial statements and provides the report to the ISONG Board of Directors.

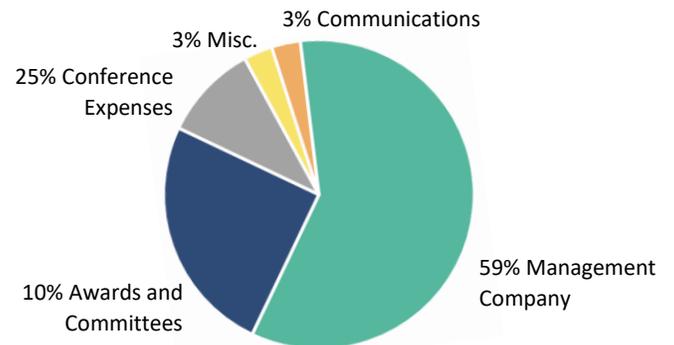
ISONG is proud to report a net profit of **\$13,772** for the 2021 fiscal year, despite the many challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. ISONG finances are strong going into 2022.

ISONG 2021 Balance Sheet	
January 1, 2021	\$ 131,824
December 31, 2021	\$ 145,596
<b>Net Profit 2021</b>	<b>\$ 13,772</b>

## Income 2021



## Expenses 2021





## Student Ambassador Report

*Dhaneesha Bahadur*

Continuing as the Student Representative on ISONG's Board of Directors in 2021 was an exciting and fulfilling journey. Building upon the skills developed in 2020, being virtual did not stop ISONG members from uniting. We continued to persevere. As the student representative, I continued to advocate for ISONG's presence in nursing and helped promote ISONG's visibility. In 2021 I continued to build upon my 2020 platform of fostering mentorship by creating and sustaining connections between members.

As potential members reached out to me as the Student Representative, I happily discussed the impact ISONG has had in my life as student. With many levels of experience within our group, we are all exposed to its ubiquitous repository of educational resources. In March of 2021 I had the opportunity to represent ISONG again at the NSNA (National Student Nurse's Association) virtual conference. During this presentation I focused on promoting diversity, inclusion, and health equity, the pillars of ISONG's 2021 World Congress. Using the NSNA's virtual platform, we successfully spread the importance of omics to our new nurses. Aligning with other nursing organizations helps our growth and ability to represent ISONG for two consecutive years at NSNA shows our peers we appreciate our alliances. In November of 2021 at ISONG's World Congress I was happy to carry the torch of my predecessor, Mallory Perry, and continued her Congress Correspondents Program. We successfully navigated our presence on ISONG's three social media platforms and collaborated with our Communications Committee. In addition to the two Student Correspondents who applied to cover Congress, I had the opportunity to work with my successor, Carolyn Harris. The experience reminded all of us we can accomplish wonderful things, once we work together and share our knowledge.

I started this position knowing I needed mentors in navigating the world of omics and am now humbled by the great minds I have crossed paths with. At the end of my term, I am thrilled to have served as a mentor to those following in my footsteps. I look forward to contributing to the new journeys and achievements ISONG has in its future.



**334** Members

**20** Countries

**1** Organization



## Executive Director Report

*Beth Kassalen*, Kassalen Meetings & Events

### ISONG Focuses on Diversity, Inclusion, and Health Equity in Genomics Nursing

Still working through the implications of the coronavirus pandemic, COVID-19 and its variants, the ISONG Board of Directors and our engaged committees kept ISONG relevant, community-focused, and financially stable. Dr. Rebecca (Becky) Kronk, worked hard and steadfast to keep the ISONG ship moving forward. In 2021, ISONG ...

- ◆ **Adopted a new logo!** This is the pride of ISONG 2021 activities. Members provided ideas for the logo and a professional designer honed the final graphic image.
- ◆ **Continued using the 2020-2022 strategic plan** as a road map for organizational activities.
  - Expand Educational Offerings
  - Increase Membership
  - Increase the visibility of ISONG and Nurses
  - Create Formal Partnerships
- ◆ **Found success through the Airmeeet® virtual platform**, which offered a networking lounge, small group tables, exhibit booths, and speed networking.
- ◆ **Invested excess financial reserves into a mutual fund portfolio** with moderate risk and social responsibility. Financially, ISONG managed to end the fiscal year 2021 is the black again realizing a profit.
- ◆ **Maintained a steady membership** through 2021 with new members making up for those who were unable to renew.
- ◆ **Created ad hoc committee** to work on the next edition for the ANA/ISONG-jointed published Scope and Standards of Genomics Nursing.
- ◆ **Supported and promoted credentialing by genetics and genomics nursing** through our interest in the Nurse Portfolio Credentialing Commission.



All committees have outlined their projects and initiatives and are working diligently to achieve them over the next two years. If you feel the call to service, one or more of the ISONG committees will gladly welcome you with open arms.

ISONG will be holding Congress 2022 in person at the Washington Duke Inn on the Duke University Campus. I am looking forward to seeing ISONG members networking and collaborate again face to face. See you in North Carolina!

# 2020-2021 ISONG Board of Directors

Thank you to the **2020-2021 ISONG Board of Directors** for sharing their passion, intellect, insight, experience and resources with ISONG!



**President**

*Rebecca Kronk, PhD, MSN, CRNP,  
FAAN, CNE*



**President-Elect**

*Susan W. Wesmiller, PhD, RN*



**Past-President**

*Dennis Cheek, RN, PhD, FAHA*



**Treasurer**

*Lisa Aiello, PhD, RN, AOCNS*



**Secretary**

*Ansley Stanfill, PhD, RN*



**Member-at-Large**

*Linda D. Ward, PhD, FNP-C*



**Student Representative**

*Dhaneesha Bahadur, MSN, RN,  
LNCC*



**Member-at-Large**

*Hudson Santos, PhD, RN*



**Executive Director**

*Beth Kassalen, MBA*