

# e-WGN

## WORLD GASTROENTEROLOGY NEWS

Official e-newsletter of the World Gastroenterology Organisation

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28 September – 2 October



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Greger Lindberg, MD  
Anton LeMair, MD



There is still time to register for  
Gastro 2015

Don't delay - register online at [www.gastro2015.com/pages/registration!](http://www.gastro2015.com/pages/registration!)

## Message from the Editors of e-WGN



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### Christina M. Surawicz, MD, MACG

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Department of Medicine  
University of Washington School of Medicine  
Seattle, Washington, USA

We have something a little different in this issue; it is an opinion piece by one of us (Christina M. Surawicz) presenting some of the reasons that there are relatively few women in leadership positions in GI (and medicine in general), and suggesting some solutions. The WGO Global Guidelines have been invaluable in providing high quality information on important clinical topics in GI. In this issue, Drs. Greger Lindberg and Anton LeMair highlight three guidelines that will be presented at Gastro 2015 in Brisbane this fall. They address gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), esophageal varices, and endoscope disinfection. All guidelines are available in six languages (English, French, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish) and are published in the *Journal of Clinical Gastroenterology*.

In this issue we also have updates from successful meetings around the world, several associated with World Digestive

Health Day which highlighted heartburn and GERD this year. Read about these successful meetings in Brazil, Chile, Hong Kong, Iraq, Pakistan, Somalia, and United Arab Emirates. The Spanish Society of Digestive Diseases (SEPD) is developing a lead in guidelines on several topics, including safety of PPI therapy; they are also developing a formal collaboration with the Mexican Association of Gastroenterology (AMG).

There are also updates from two of the recently inaugurated WGO Training Centers in Yangon, Myanmar and Xi'an, China. The launch of these and five other centers so far this year brings the total number of WGO Training Centers up to 23. Finally, there are also two articles about the successful Train the Trainers (TTT) program in Taipei this spring.

As always, we hope you enjoy this issue, and feedback is always welcome.

Chris and Enrique



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## More Women Leaders: Patching the Leaky Pipeline



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In the US, women represent 50% or more of medical school class students and are represented in growing numbers in all fields of medicine, though more in some than others (Pediatrics compared to General Surgery for example). Yet the numbers of women in leadership roles in all areas has not kept pace with this trend. While we have many more women in all fields of gastroenterology we still have relatively few women leaders in private practice or in academic medicine or in industry. Why is this? Two explanations are often given. One is that there is a “glass ceiling”; that is that women can advance to a certain level but are not able to go higher because they cannot break through an invisible barrier called the “glass ceiling.” The other explanation is that there is a “leaky pipeline”; that is that we are losing women leaders along the way as they drop out on paths to leadership. Whatever the reason, there are definite barriers and challenges for women that must be addressed. I will focus on three barriers: biology, conscious bias, and unconscious bias.

### 1. Biology

I use the term biology broadly to encompass the role of women and family. The prime years for child bearing and child rearing coincide with advanced training and early career and thus conflicts inevitably arise.

We must find ways to minimize that conflict; this will help everyone, not just those with families. Some solutions include part-time work options and flexible work schedules, generous parental leave programs, hiring locums, and high-quality, affordable, available, convenient day-care for those with children. In Sweden many of these programs are available; Sweden ranks 4th of all nations in gender equity according to the Global Gender Gap Report of 2014, a report of the World Economic Forum that measures equality in areas of economics, politics, education and health. Equitable pay, equitable resources (such as staff and secretarial support) and flexible promotion policies for those in academic medicine are also important. I must also mention the importance and power of mentoring, including peer-mentoring.

### 2. Bias

Both conscious and unconscious may hamper progress for women. One example of conscious bias is the stereotypical view is that men “take charge” and women “take care.” Moreover, there can be a bias that some perceived “traditional” male traits are seen as a better fit for leadership: dominance, confidence, and self-reliance. However, some traits traditionally associated with women make good leadership skills as well:

empathy, interpersonal skills, flexibility, and inclusiveness and often lead to excellent team building. Moreover, there are many different leadership styles, such as authoritarian, delegative, democratic, transactional, and transformational. Different styles are often needed in different situations and a good leader will adapt accordingly. We need to recognize that these biases exist, to make sure that women candidates are included in all job searches, and to think beyond “traditional” models of leadership. Women have asked me if they should alter their styles: my advice is to be true to your own values and strengths. A woman does not need “to be more like a man” as Henry Higgins sings in the musical “My Fair Lady.”

### 3. Unconscious Bias

The biases we have but of which we are not aware constitute an additional barrier. One example of unconscious bias was demonstrated in a recent study in which 127 men and women science professors (biology, chemistry, and physics) were asked to evaluate a fictional résumé of an undergraduate student applying for a job. The résumés were identical except one was a man and one was a woman. The results were very surprising to me—and disheartening. The woman student was viewed as less competent and less hireable than the male student, and was offered a lower salary and less career mentorship. This was true for both men and women professors. The only bright spot was that they liked the woman applicant more.<sup>1</sup> Research shows that we all have implicit unconscious biases, and that we cannot get rid of our unconscious biases. Thus we must recognize these facts; we must

educate ourselves and others and put in place programs to limit bias, such as in search committees. For more information on unconscious bias, I highly recommend the book, “Blind Spot: Hidden Biases of Good People” by Banaji and Greenwald<sup>2</sup>.

The good news is that traditional gender roles are changing, bias against women leaders is decreasing and everyone wants more women leaders. Let’s continue to support one another in our professional lives, and mentor junior women and students in the pipeline. Let’s look to our professional societies for ongoing support and

opportunities. Finally let’s remember that we are so lucky to be in our professions; with all its challenges; it is and will always be a privilege.

#### References

1. Moss-Racusin CA, Dovidio JF, Brescoll VL, Graham MJ, Handelsman J. Science faculty’s subtle gender biases favor male students. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2012;109(41):16474-16479.
2. Banaji MR, Greenwald AG. *Blindspot: Hidden Biases of Good People*. Delacorte Press 2013.



## Gastro 2015: Unmissable

**BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA:  
MONDAY 28 SEPTEMBER TO FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER.**

If you haven't yet registered for Gastro 2015, don't delay! Brisbane will be a popular choice for both local and international visitors, with school holidays and the promise of ideal temperatures and sunshine.

In planning this world congress, the Gastroenterological Society of Australia (GESA) and the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) have ticked all the boxes. A diverse scientific program, painstakingly crafted by senior members of the gastroenterology community, will be delivered by a truly international mix of speakers in a casual, relaxed environment.

### Spotlight on the Presidents' Plenary

The Presidents' Plenary sessions on Day 1 of the official congress program begin with the traditional Bushell Lecture and WGO Distinguished Lecture, followed by the "Presidents' Picks" - visionary talks paired with the highest ranked submitted abstracts selected by the Scientific Program Committee.

This year's prestigious Bushell Lecture will be delivered by Professor Guadalupe Garcia-Tsao renowned for her expertise in liver disease. Professor Garcia-Tsao is the Past President of the American Association for the Study of Liver Disease and currently serves, amongst other duties, as the Director of Clinical and Translational Core at the Yale Liver Center in New Haven, Connecticut, USA. Her clinical research focuses on cirrhosis and its complications, describing the natural history of cirrhosis and

its complications and the predictors of death at different stages. Another major interest is the pathophysiology and treatment of portal hypertension, including the prevention and treatment of gastroesophageal varices and variceal hemorrhage, bacterial infections in cirrhosis, and the treatment of ascites and hepatorenal syndrome.

The choice for the WGO Distinguished Lecturer was clear to Professor James Toouli, President of WGO.

"Australia's own Professor Barry Marshall, the gastroenterological world's only Nobel Laureate, was the obvious choice," said Professor Toouli. "We are hoping to get some insights into his latest research, including establishing a *Helicobacter* type culture collection or bio bank."

Concluding the Presidents' Plenary is a fast-paced session featuring Australian and international speakers, each delivering a "punchy 12 minutes of hard science, clinical relevance, futurism, wisdom, and whimsy."



Image courtesy of Brisbane Marketing.

**gastro**  
GESA-AGW & WGO  
International Congress **2015**





Image courtesy of Brisbane Marketing.



Image courtesy of Brisbane Marketing.

### Things to do in Brisbane in the Spring

1. *Unique Animal Encounters* – cuddle a koala at the world's first and largest koala sanctuary – Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary. See the Humpback and Southern Right Whales as they tend their young in the calm waters of Moreton Bay.
2. *Queensland Cultural Precinct* – watch theater, visit the art gallery, state library or museum, listen to live music, or catch a comedy show in South Bank.
3. *Story Bridge* – climb or abseil off it. This is one of the only bridges in the world to offer both.
4. *Eat Street Markets* - enjoy delicious international foods created by the 'best of the best' local chefs at Hamilton Wharf on Friday or Saturday nights.
5. *Southbank Parklands* - take a walk, cycle, or have a dip at a beautiful inner city beach.

Add a few days to experience the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef - dive with turtles and manta rays and explore the world's largest coral in this world heritage site.

To register or learn more, visit: [www.gastro2015.com](http://www.gastro2015.com).

### Important Dates to Remember for Gastro 2015

#### Now Available!

Online Registration (Advanced)

#### Open Now!

Booking for Accommodations

#### 28 August 2015

Online Registration Deadline

#### 27 September 2015

On-site Registration Open



## World Digestive Health Day 2015 Heartburn: A Global Perspective



WDHD 2015 events have so far been celebrated in over 20 countries, with many events still scheduled to take place this year! We are at the half way point and look forward to continuing the celebration in the second half of 2015. WGO thanks each member society, organization, healthcare professional, and participant for helping spread the word about the management of heartburn.

There is still time to plan your 2015 event around Heartburn: A Global Perspective! While the official date of WDHD is May 29th, many events take place throughout the year. Past

events include public campaigns, courses and lectures on treatments of the current theme, marathons, walkathons, national meetings, press conferences, television and radio interviews, creating a country's own WDHD Day, publications, and much more.

For questions regarding WDHD or to officially submit your event for placement on the calendar, please email [info@worldgastroenterology.org](mailto:info@worldgastroenterology.org). Please also visit the [WDHD 2015 website](#) to request a copy of the 2015 WDHD logo for use in promoting this year's WDHD campaign.

With events continuing to take place through the end of 2015, we are pleased to feature summaries from a few WDHD 2015 events that have recently taken place!

For a full list of events taking place in celebration of WDHD 2015, visit <http://www.wgofoundation.org/WDHD-2015-Events>. Have you held a 2015 WDHD event that you would like to share on the website or in e-WGN? Please submit your event [here!](#)

## World Digestive Health Day in Brazil



### Joaquim Prado Pinto de Moraes-Filho, MD, FACP, FACC

Associate Professor, Faculty of Medicine  
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Heartburn, the burning sensation in the chest, related to food, is considered one of the cardinal symptoms of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD). The prevalence of GERD is increasing throughout the world, ranging from 2.5% to 6.6% in Asia up to 13.8 to 25.8% in North America. In Brazil, a prevalence study together with DataFolha indicated that 12% of the surveyed individuals had heartburn at least twice weekly, suggesting a diagnosis of GERD; taking into account other disorders, said atypical, such as cough, cough, sore throat, the prevalence of disease in our country can reach about 20% of the population.

The reason for the increased prevalence of GERD is not fully understood, but seems to be correlated

with the increase in obesity and eating habits. This disease is associated with a significant impact on quality of life and reduction of personal and vocational productivity, and be associated with an increased risk of Barrett's esophagus, a pre-malignant condition that can progress to esophageal adenocarcinoma. Fortunately, GERD can usually be treated safely and effectively with drugs, while still having the option for anti-reflux surgery in some cases.

The World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) seeks to raise awareness about the importance of heartburn for both the lay public and for health professionals, through a global campaign known as World Digestive Health Day. This goal will be achieved through the development of educational materi-

als and training around the world, in collaboration with all WGO Member Societies and their regional associations.

The Brazilian Federation of Gastroenterology (FBG) joins this important action, warning people to pay more attention when the presence of this symptom, and, if necessary, consult a doctor for further information.

On May 31 in Villa Lobos Park in São Paulo, from 08:00 to 17:00, the FBG distributed informative materials to the public about digestive diseases.

**FBG in the News** (World Digestive Health Day campaign - TV Globo of Alagoas)

Dr. James Ramalho, Vice President of the FBG, spoke about Heartburn in an interview with Good Morning Alagoas. [Click here to view.](#)

## Heartburn on the Rise in Pakistan



### Zaigham Abbas, MBBS, FCPS, FRCP, FRCPI, FACP, FCG, AGAF

Head, Department of Hepatogastroenterology  
Sindh Institute of Medical Sciences at SIUT  
Karachi, Pakistan



Attendees at the World Digestive Health Day Seminar in Pakistan.

This seminar was organized to commemorate World Digestive Health Day with the theme of day “Heartburn: A Global Perspective.” Speakers were organized by the Department of Hepatogastroenterology, Sindh Institute of Medical Sciences at SIUT on Friday, 29 May 2015.

The audience of this seminar included doctors, medical and para-medical staff, and lay public. They were informed that heartburn was a burning sensation in the chest, just behind the sternum, and occurred due to the reflux of acidic contents from the stomach into the food pipe. It is a

common medical disorder that affects about 25 percent of our population. Experts at the seminar stressed the need to create awareness about the causes and complications of heartburn and noted the growing complaints of heartburn that may be the result of changes in lifestyle, increasing obesity, and lack of physical exercise.

The speakers encouraged the audience to avoid the excess intake of citrus fruit juices, carbonated, caffeinated, and alcoholic beverages, and spicy and fried foods, to avoid large meals and not to lie down at least two hours after meals. Patients who were unresponsive to such lifestyle changes require medical evaluation and therapy. Sometimes endoscopy and even surgery may be indicated. Highlighting the general complications of long term untreated heartburn, experts said that it could cause inflammation of the esophagus, esophageal ulcer or its narrowing, and Barrett’s esophagus, which could lead to cancer of the esophagus. Heartburn in children is different from adults as children may present with regurgitation, recurrent vomiting, recurrent chest infection, wheezing, and growth failure.

Those who addressed the seminar included Drs. Anwar Naqvi, Zaigham Abbas, Rajesh Mandhwani, Muhammad Manzoor Siddiqui, Muhammad Ali Khalid, Amir Bakhsh, Ghulamullah Lail, and Ghous Bux Soomro.





## WDHD in Somalia



**Prof. Dr. Osman M. Dufle, MD**

Chairman of Dufle Specialist Hospital  
Lecturer of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at Benadir University  
Mogadishu, Somalia



Prof. Dr. Osman M. Dufle, Chairman of Dufle Specialist Hospital.

On 29 May 2015, a World Digestive Health Day (WDHD) 2015: “Heartburn: A Global Perspective” event was organized and sponsored by Dufle Specialist Hospital in Mogadishu, Somalia through its Chairman, Prof. Dr. Osman M. Dufle, MD, a renowned gastroenterologist, in collaboration with the Benadir University Medical Student Association and members of the Somali Medical Association.

The session consisted of a lecture and talks for the public on heartburn, reflux, and esophagitis. The event displayed information about gastro-

esophageal reflux disease (GERD) via radio, TV and electronic media, and newspaper. Materials were given out to the public and published on websites including tips on healthy eating, common symptoms and alarm symptoms, and when to see someone for a consult.

This isn’t the first time Somalia has hosted an event like this. We have participated in global events for WDHD for the previous years, and will continue to be part of it for the future.



Prof. Dr. Osman M. Dufle with attendees at the WDHD event in Somalia.



WDHD 2015 event attendees with Prof. Dr. Osman M. Dufle at Dufle Specialist Hospital.

## World Digestive Health Day 2015 - United Arab Emirates



### Ali Al Fazari, MBBS, FRCPC, FACP

Assistant Professor of Medicine & Consultant & Gastroenterologist  
Department of Internal Medicine  
College of Medicine & Health Sciences  
United Arab Emirates University  
Al Ain, United Arab Emirates

Under the patronage of H.E. Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Culture, Youth, and Community Development in the UAE, the Emirates Digestive Diseases Group (EDDG) in partnership with the UAE Ministry of Health, Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Medical Awards, and the Supreme Council for Family Affairs, organized a medical conference entitled “*Frontiers in the Diagnosis and Management of Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease*” and a country-wide public awareness program titled the “*Emirati Awareness Program on Esophageal Reflux*” held 28-30 May 2015.

Dr. Ali Al Fazari, Chairman of Emirates Digestive Diseases Group

and Chairman of the Organizing Team, stated that the one-day medical conference in Dubai was attended by an excess of 300 delegates. The conference covered state-of-the-art knowledge about the diagnostic and therapeutic options in the management of reflux disease.

Dr. Naseem Mohammed, a conference delegate, thanked the organizing team for a wonderful program and said that the scientific program focused on practical management of challenging cases of reflux disease, including endoscopic and surgical options.

Dr. Fatma Al Shamsi, Vice Chairman of the Organizing Committee, stated that the major highlight



Delegates at the medical conference.

of the Emirates Digestive Diseases Group was the 3-day public awareness program with two interactive stands at two major shopping malls in the country, the larger of which was set at the prestigious City Center Mirdif, Dubai. The stands were equipped with touch screens loaded with interactive educational materials. In addition, volunteering medical students interacted with the crowds and explained the various aspects of heartburn.

Dr. Abdulaziz Al Nuaimi, Organizing Committee Member, mentioned that mall visitors were attracted to the stand because of the two large high definition TV screens which continuously played the campaign educational video.

Many mall shoppers engaged on the stage with Chef Khulood Atiq's approach to a healthier Emirati traditional cooking. Visitors also were able to taste ready-made traditional dishes from the Emirati Cuisine.

Ms. Salwa El-Ghifly, a volunteer third year medical student at the United Arab Emirates University, said that this is not her first public awareness program, but she thoroughly enjoyed interacting with the public in the mall. “I had a wonderful time and I personally learned a lot about reflux. I was surprised of how many people did actually have persistent heartburn issue and never saw any doctor about it.”

The families visiting the stands also enjoyed examining mannequins of the esophagus and stomach, as well as



Heartburn Awareness Stand at City Center Mirdif, Dubai, UAE.



Minister addresses the Conference and Inaugurates the Awareness Campaign.

getting their faces painted. Hundreds of special release brochures on reflux disease were distributed to visitors.

“The total of visitors to the campaign public awareness stands exceeded 3,000 visitors, we had more than 18 volunteering medical students and young doctors, and more importantly we succeeded to increase awareness about heartburn. The positive feedback from the public is very pleasing to receive,” said Dr. Al Fazari.

■



## Australian and New Zealand Gastroenterology International Training Association (ANZGITA)

## Teaching Visit to Myanmar March 2015

**Di Jones, OAM RN, ACGEN, FACN**

President, Society of International Gastroenterological Nurses and Endoscopy Associates (SIGNEA)  
Assistant Director of Nursing Endoscopy Services  
Logan Hospital Metro South Health  
Queensland, Australia

Following the inaugural visit in 2014, an Australian and New Zealand Gastroenterology International Training Association (ANZGITA) teaching team were again invited to provide two weeks of teaching in Yangon General Hospital (YGH) this past March. Our visit was timed to coincide with the inauguration of the Yangon General Hospital unit as a World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) recognized Training Center. During the ceremony, Professor James Toouli, the current WGO President, formally announced to Professor Thein Myint and the assembled dignitaries (which included representatives from the

Australian Embassy and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) that the YGH site would be one of the 23 WGO recognized training sites around the globe. This support from WGO will assist YGH to establish a small staff who will be responsible for the administration of the training center and for providing some of the teaching. There was a formal dinner held to celebrate the occasion. This was attended by many of the senior gastroenterologists from Yangon and Mandalay and senior university staff. Professor Toouli was presented with a painting by Professors Than Than Aye and New Ni on behalf of the Myanmar Gastroenterology Society.

Since the inaugural training visit in 2014, the endoscopy service at Yangon General Hospital (YGH) has rapidly developed; earlier this year they hosted a live endoscopy workshop with international faculty focusing on ERCP and EUS. This emphasized that some senior gastroenterologists in the unit have to rapidly acquire the technical expertise to deliver modern endoscopic procedures to Myanmar's population and that this learning is occurring in parallel with the acquisition of more basic endoscopic skills by the more junior consultant medical staff.

The changes implemented over the past year to the endoscopy unit facility were very obvious. Of specific note was the improvement of the facilities for reprocessing the endoscopes. The installation of covered sinks for disinfection and other sinks for manual cleaning really improved the flow of equipment from dirty to clean. The use of different colored bowls for the transport of dirty vs clean equipment ensures that mix ups are prevented. The procedure rooms had also undergone change, with the installation of impermeable flooring with coved corners that are easily cleaned and provide a clean room standard. A water filtration treatment system has been installed to guarantee high quality water for the manual rinsing of endoscopes and for the water supply for the endoscope reprocessing machines. The nursing staff are now permanently allocated to the gastroenterology unit and it was clear that each nurse at YGH was very competent in assisting with basic endoscopy procedures.

Medical trainees from various sites in Myanmar attended a two week training. Nurses from Yangon, Sanpya, 2nd Military hospital, Mandalay and



WGO President James Toouli with nurses at the Yangon Training Center.





Live case instruction with Dr. Peter Katelaris.



Nurse trainers, Ann Vandeleur (L) and Di Jones (R), with medical trainee from Yangon.

Napidaw took part in the live endoscopy procedures and in the lectures and tutorials provided by the two nurse trainers, Ann Vandeleur and Di Jones. Many of the Yangon nurses had participated in 2014, as had some of the nurses from other sites. These nurses were invaluable in teaching the new attendees about basic endoscopy assistance.

For the medical training, teaching during live cases was supplemented by teaching in the lecture rooms and by teaching on models and with a dry run on instruments. The model teaching was really useful for the new trainees and gave them insight into how to use the equipment when they commenced their first procedure.

The training site will rapidly become the hub of the development of a high quality endoscopy service in Myanmar.



## WGO-Xijing Training Center for Gastroenterology Inauguration



### Kaichun Wu, MD

Director, WGO-Xijing Training Center for Gastroenterology  
Xijing Hospital of Digestive Diseases  
Fourth Military Medical University  
Xi'an, China

On 20-21 March 2015, under the coordination of the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO), the Chinese Society of Gastroenterology (CSG), and Xijing Hospital of Digestive Diseases (XJHDD), the inauguration ceremony and the first course of the WGO-Xijing Training Center for Gastroenterology were held at Xijing Hospital of Digestive Diseases in Xi'an, P. R. China. Around 300 people attended the inauguration ceremony at the International Conference Hall of XJHDD, including doctors and postgraduates from XJHDD, officials from the Fourth Military

Medical University and Xijing Hospital, and 53 trainees from 10 provinces in west and mid-west China.

The inauguration ceremony was chaired by Prof. Daiming Fan, Chair of the WGO Scientific Programs Committee and President of Xijing Hospital of Digestive Diseases. WGO President Prof. James Toouli and Vice President Prof. KL Goh were invited to give speeches at the ceremony. Other speakers included: Vice President of the Fourth Military Medical University, Qian Wang; President of Chinese Society of Gastroenterology, Yunsheng Yang; and Director

of WGO-Xijing Training Center for Gastroenterology, Prof. Kaichun Wu. All of the speakers expressed their best wishes for a successful WGO-Xijing Training Center.

After the ceremony, all of the speakers and officials from Xijing Hospital and the Fourth Military Medical University took group photos at the International Conference Hall. All of the trainees and trainers also took group photos in front of Xijing Hospital of Digestive Diseases.

Forty-nine of the 53 trainees are working as gastroenterologists, while the other 4 come from the department of internal medicine. The mean age of the trainees was 34 years and 31% of them were female doctors.

All the trainees attended the subsequent course. The first day of the course was devoted to lectures given by experts from WGO, CSG, and Xijing Hospital of Digestive Diseases. The activities of the second day consisted of both live demonstrations and case discussions. Altogether there were 13 lectures on the first day. The topics of the lectures covered a variety of fields in gastroenterology and hepatology and are as follows:

- “WGO Tasks: Present and Future” by J Toouli
- “Epidemiological Changes in GI Diseases in the Asian-Pacific Region” by KL Goh
- “Gastric Cancer: New Clinical Insights and Research Development” by DM Fan
- “Gut Microbiota” by YS Yang
- “Biological Therapy for IBD” by KC Wu
- “Techniques of Small Bowel Transplantation and its Clinical Application” by GS Wu
- “Step-up for Severe Necrotizing Pancreatitis” by QC Zhao
- “TIPS for the Treatment of Portal Vein Thrombosis” by GH Han
- “ERCP and Pancreatic Diseases” by XG Guo



Faculty and participants at the inauguration of the WGO-Xijing Training Center.

- “Gut Microbiota and FMT” by YZ Nie
- “Clinical Management of Gastric Intestinal Metaplasia” by YQ Shi
- “Capsule Endoscopy for GI Disease Diagnosis” by DX Zhang
- “ESD Technology for the Treatment of Early Gastrointestinal Cancer” by ZG Liu
- “GI Endoscopy Live Demonstration” by XG Guo, ZG Liu, XY Zhang, and YL Pan
- “Liver Vascular Interventional Therapy Live Demonstration” by GH Han

On the second day, in the live demonstration session, gastrointestinal endoscopy demonstrations on selected cases which required endoscopic intervention were carried out through live broadcast of endoscopic manipulations on two large screens in the conference hall. These cases included common bile duct stones, biliary strictures, pancreatic pseudocyst, early gastric cancer, colon large polyps, achalasia, refractory constipation, etc. The endoscopic techniques performed included endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP), endoscopic sphincterotomy (EST), fine needle aspiration (FNA), per oral endoscopic myotomy (POEM), endoscopic mucosal resection (EMR), endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD), polypectomy, and endoscopic delivery of fecal microbiota extract.

In the case discussion session, several cases involving hepatic blood vessels (including Budd-Chiari syndrome and portal vein thrombosis) were presented along with a demonstration of how modern transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunts (TIPS) techniques can be used to reconstruct the obstructed vessels and relieve symptoms.

During lunch time and at the end of the course the trainees visited the endoscopy center and interventional center.

At the end of the course all trainees took a questionnaire to score the performance of every lecture from XJHDD and to give their comments and advice on the course. On the questionnaire each trainee was asked to give four votes for the best four lecturers in their opinion. The scoring system is based on the votes each lecturer gets and is used as a tool to evaluate the performance of his or her presentation. The lecturer who gets the fewest votes will be put on probation and a new lecturer will replace him/her in the future classes. Finally every participant was awarded a certificate endorsed by the WGO-Xijing Training Center and signed by its Director, Prof. Kaichun Wu.

Xijing Hospital of Digestive Diseases originates from the Department of Gastroenterology and therefore is an integral part of the larger Xijing Hospital, which is one of three affili-



Training Center Director, Prof. Kaichun Wu, with WGO President, Prof. James Toouli.



Training Center Director, Prof. Kaichun Wu; WGO President, Prof. James Toouli; WGO Vice President, Prof. KL Goh; and Chair of the WGO Scientific Programs Committee and President of Xijing Hospital of Digestive Diseases, Prof. Daiming Fan; with faculty.

ated hospitals of the Fourth Military Medical University. Xi'an is a historical city, located in the mid-west of China, and was the capital of more than a dozen dynasties of ancient China. It is also the home to one of the so-called eight wonders of the world, the Terracotta Warriors and Horses of Emperor Qin's Tombs.





## VIII International Course of Advances in Gastroenterology and Digestive Endoscopy



### Roque Sáenz, MD, FACC

Chair, Gastroenterology Department  
 Clínica Alemana Santiago  
 Professor of Medicine  
 Universidad Del Desarrollo /CAS  
 Vitacura, Santiago, Chile

An interesting and successful VIII International Course of Advances in Gastroenterology and Digestive Endoscopy took place 19-20 March 2015 in Santiago, Chile. More than 220 endoscopists were part of this event. There were attendees from Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia, Peru, and Chile.

A parallel course for GI nurses was also well attended, with 80 endoscopy

nurses participating in the event. Ms. Ma Luz Galvez, a well-known Spanish endoscopy nurse, from Hospital de La Santa Cruz y de San Pablo in Barcelona, was the international faculty in such course.

There was also for an international meeting among the German hospitals and clinics in South America. This meeting was held in order to enhance the academic and clinical relationship

among Hospital Alemao Oswaldo Cruz in Sao Paulo, Brazil (which was represented by Professor Paulo Sakai), Hospital Alemán de Buenos Aires in Buenos Aires, Argentina (which was represented by Professor Daniel Cimmino), and the local authorities in Clínica Alemana in Santiago Chile (which was represented by the Director, Dr. Juan Hepp, the Vice Director, Dr. Alejandro De Marinis, the Chair of the Education Department, Dr. Ivan Caviedes, and the Gastroenterology Department).

The goals of the course were to:

- Update concepts of diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopy dealing with aspects of quality and endoscopy teaching.
- Increase the space for academic interaction between German Hospitals in Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, and Chile).
- Enhance the new concepts of advanced upper GI endoscopy, with magnification and the spreading of the Japanese concepts by Professor K. Yao with a practical workshop on those technological advances.

Dr. Luis Mendez acted as General Secretary of the course. The faculty for the course included Professor Mark Topazian, from Mayo Clinic of Rochester, USA, and Professor Miguel Muñoz-Navas from University of Navarra, Spain, and local experts.

Professors Topazian and Muñoz-Navas were outstanding, not only in endoscopy topics but also in quality, equity, and teaching aspects.

Dr. Pablo Cortés, local faculty for this course and formerly a trainee of Professor Yao in Fukuoka, Japan, did



Panel of faculty. (From the left) Drs. Miguel Muñoz-Navas, Rodrigo Zapata, Alex Navarro, Roque Sáenz, Mark Topazian, Daniel Cimmino, and Paulo Sakai.



the workshop on the New Endoscopy (2.0) in the Early Gastric Cancer Diagnosis Pathway. He had given a similar workshop on this specific topic last April in Sao Paulo.

The course modality was focused on interaction, thanks to video-demonstrations, talks, and a final round table, dealing with ethics in endoscopy and endoscopy training and education.

Topics in the program included the latest advances on:

- Endoscopy therapy in esophagus: Achalasia/POEM, Zencker, and Barrett's
- Endoscopic interventional surgery
- Bariatric endoscopy
- Pancreatobiliary endoscopy
- Esophageal, gastric, and colon cancer
- GI Bleeding

Thanks to this course, a similar course will be organized in Buenos Aires, Argentina next August.

Again, the course was extremely successful. A new course is on the agenda for March 2016.



"Clinicas Alemanas de America Latina" Authorities meeting. (From the left) Drs. Alejandro de Marinis, Ivan Caviedes (Clinica Alemana Santiago), Paulo Sakai (Hospital Oswaldo Cruz, São Paulo, Brazil), and Daniel Cimmino (Hospital Alemán de Buenos Aires, Argentina).



Final round table, with Drs. Daniel Cimmino, Paulo Sakai, and Mark Topazian.

## Dr. Amy Oxentenکو on WGO Train-the-Trainers Taiwan 2015: Three Things to Share



### Amy S. Oxentenکو, MD, FACP, FACG, AGAF

Associate Professor of Medicine  
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine  
Rochester, Minnesota, USA



The Raohe Street Night Market in Taipei.

*The American College of Gastroenterology has been a long-time supporter of the World Gastroenterology Organization's international workshop, Train the Trainers, and each year sponsors the participation of two ACG member attendees and two ACG members who serve as faculty alongside other international experts at this four-day, intensive, hands-on, highly interactive and participatory workshop. Topics include teaching procedural skills, interpersonal skills and team working, credentialing, critical appraisal of papers, trial design,*

*presentations and evidenced-based medicine.*

*Amy Oxentenکو, MD, FACG, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, was one of four ACG-sponsored members who attended WGO TTT 2015 in Taipei, Taiwan in April. Dr. Oxentenکو, who served as faculty, was joined by Laura Raffals, MD (participant), Eamonn Quigley, MD, FACG (faculty) and Vivek Kaul, MD, FACG (participant).*

*She shares some highlights of her experience, along with some photos, below.*



Amy Oxentenکو, MD, FACG (faculty), Laura Raffals, MD (participant), Eamonn Quigley, MD, FACG (faculty) and Vivek Kaul, MD, FACG (participant) at WGO TTT in Taipei.

### 1. Key Take-Aways:

Having attended the WGO TTT three times now (Porto, Portugal [attendee]; Cape Town, South Africa [faculty]; Taipei, Taiwan [faculty]), I can say that each experience has been unique in its own way. As an attendee, I was able to learn some basic principles of education that I felt I should have learned long ago. The course not only teaches core principles, but allows you to practice those skills throughout the course itself, which really allows you to master the concepts quickly. As a faculty member for the last two TTIs, it has been such a pleasure to see the learning that is taking place and how individuals from all over the world can come together to learn in such a unified way.

### 2. Advice for colleagues considering WGO TTT 2016:

The WGO TTT is a wonderful opportunity for educators who are looking to add a unique experience compared to any other faculty development course they have ever attended. Many of the principles of the course are straightforward and fundamental for anyone with a role as an educator, but these core principles are often overlooked in other sessions I have ever attended. In addition

to the rich curricular elements, it is amazing to experience it with others from around the world, in order to compare and contrast how things are done elsewhere, which allows you to bring an even more diverse set of skills back to your own institution. The camaraderie is also amazing, and you will make lifelong friends from around the globe.

### 3. Impact on my role as a GI educator:

It has already changed the way I do things, immensely. It has changed the way I deliver a presentation, critique the literature, give my trainees feedback, and conduct all teaching activities. I can never go back to some of the old ways I was doing things! Even as a faculty member, I feel I learn so much each time from all of the participants!

*Reprinted with permission from the American College of Gastroenterology. This article originally appeared in the July 7, 2015 [ACG Blog](#).*



The final farewell dinner at the New Maple House in Taipei.



WGO TTT welcome reception in Taipei. Left to right: Sharif Jazzarm, UAE (brother, not participant); Ahmad Jazzar, UAE; Hussam Saleh, UAE; Amy Oxentenko, USA and Tony Chu, Taiwan.



At WGO TTT final farewell dinner, pictured left to right is Amber Chen (organizing committee), Shawn Oxentenko (Dr. Oxentenko's husband), Dr. Oxentenko, and Cheng-Tang Chiu, MD, PhD (Chairman, Organizing Committee of Taiwan Train the Trainers).

[Interested in applying for Train the Trainers Antalya?](#)

[Click here for more Information!](#)



## WGO Train the Trainers Workshop: Taipei, Taiwan

APRIL 13-16, 2015



### Han-Mo Chiu, MD, PhD

Visiting staff,  
Department of Internal Medicine & Health Management Center  
National Taiwan University Hospital  
Clinical Associate Professor,  
Department of Internal Medicine, College of Medicine  
National Taiwan University  
Taipei, Taiwan



Trainers and Trainees at the team building activity.

Participating in the Train the Trainers (TTT) course 2015 by the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) in Taipei was never in my schedule, until one day when the staff of our gastrointestinal society notified me that I was nominated to participate in this course. Even after receiving the notification mail from the WGO Executive Secretariat asking for all the participants to submit personal information and documents for TTT, I was still felt “out in left field.” I just deemed it as an ordinary teaching workshop similar to what I have participated in before and a “mission” that was assigned to me by the society. Then one day I received the training materials (research papers that would be discussed in the

workshop), followed by an internet link to the Critical Appraisal podcast created by Professor Kelly Burak. After watching the podcast, I was not only touched by the diligence of the WGO in preparing this program, but also deeply attracted to its content and way of conveying a simple, yet very important, concept on critical appraisal.

As the host country participants, we were anxious to assure the success of the program. All of the foreign participants introduced themselves in the welcome party on the first evening. It was during the team building activity (top spinning) that we quickly became familiar with each other and really felt comfortable.

This four-day workshop was divided into different modules and breakout sessions. The breakout sessions and teamwork gave us a very unique opportunity to learn about different healthcare systems from around the world and how gastroenterologists practice different cultural contexts. Moreover, though it was not easy to reach conclusion or consensus on an assigned single topic in a short breakout session in the beginning, we gradually became familiar with this way of brainstorming, summing up our thoughts, and most importantly building up our teamwork.

I also found “Pendleton’s Rules,” which repeatedly appeared in every report-back session, extremely useful. It gradually affected my attitude not only toward other peoples’ performance, but also myself. It is the “positive” feedback that indeed motivates people to keep learning and making progress and we certainly should apply it in our teaching and practices.

In the e-Learning module, I learned that there are already so many existing multimedia and resources that we could apply to the teaching and how easy it was to create podcast material. I am now keen to create my own teaching material podcast and make learning more effective and more accessible.



Author and his breakout team.





Author presenting to the group in class.

On the final day, the workshop quiz was a very nice arrangement for summarizing all the module contents in an interactive and entertaining way. We must say that TTT is a very well designed workshop and I will be happy to share my experience with my colleagues as well as introduce this activity to them.

To tell the truth, I have never been a person that enjoys “boy scout-style” activities, with people gathering together and doing some work or games. I have never imagined that I could have such a chance to enjoy the learning activities with many colleagues around the world at this age, but I have to say that I really enjoyed my days in TTT. When I listened

to the lecture of the adult education module, I learned that adult learning is most successful only if the learning goal is clear, the learner is actively involved and feels it useful. Although this is a basic in teaching, we are too much accustomed to the “routine” or “ordinary” way of teaching. Herein I am also very exciting to let WGO know that I have already applied what I have learned in the TTT in my teaching activities and daily practice after coming back from the workshop.

In the dinner party on the final day, the atmosphere was full of joy. I could feel that all the participants were fulfilled with what we had learned over the past few days and found friendship in this terrific activity. At that moment, all the participants were like a family and I began to feel unwilling to leave. I must say the workshop was very successful and most importantly has changed our minds. When I met by chance one of our teammates one month later at the Digestive Disease Week in Washington, DC I even felt a bit nostalgic about TTT!

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to both WGO and the American College for Gastroenterology (ACG) as well as the Gastroenterological Society of Taiwan (GEST) for providing such a fruitful program and also for the thorough arrangement, which could not be achieved



All the trainers and trainees at TTT Taipei.

without the effort of every faculty and the secretariat staff. I also hope all the participants enjoyed the training and learning in the workshop, refreshed their thought on teaching, and had an enjoyable memory in Taiwan! Cheers to our friendship and viva TTT!



Team building activity, Spinning Top.

## Train the Trainers Workshop: Antalya, Turkey 2016 Application Process Now Open



The World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO), in partnership with the Turkish Society of Gastroenterology (TSG), is pleased to announce that the next Train the Trainers (TTT) workshop will be held in Antalya, Turkey from 4-7 April 2016!

The application process for this workshop is now open. Each official WGO member society is invited to submit the names of two candidates within their country who are fluent in English and responsible for training in gastroenterology, hepatology, endoscopy, or GI surgery. The deadline to submit applications for this workshop is Friday, 18 September 2015.

Please note that in accordance with WGO's policy, applications to attend this TTT can only be accepted directly from WGO member societies. Regrettably WGO cannot accept applications directly from candidates. WGO invites individuals to contact their WGO Member Society

should they wish to attend this TTT workshop. To find out if your society is a member of WGO, please visit the [WGO membership section](#).

### About the WGO Train the Trainers Program:

Developed by WGO in 2001, this workshop concentrates on expanding the educational skills of educators in the fields of gastroenterology, hepatology, endoscopy, and GI surgery, who are responsible for teaching, through the use of current educational techniques and philosophies. It brings together faculty and participants from across the globe in an intensive and interactive workshop, characterized by numerous hands-on sessions with ample opportunity for discussion. An ability to communicate proficiently in English is an essential component within the breakout sessions as well as contributes to the overall success of the workshop.

Please note that TTT workshops include the following modules:

- Adult Education
- Group Discussions
- Teaching Procedural Skills
- Professionalism
- Preparation of an Abstract
- e-Learning
- Evidence-based Medicine
- Critical Appraisal
- Publications
- Presentations
- Trial Design
- Assessment and Appraisal
- Credentialing
- Interpersonal Skills and Teamwork
- Writing Multiple Choice Questions

Participants are required to engage actively in all sessions and social functions; hence they are required to attend all workshop days. In addition to fully participating in the program, we require that participants commit to the completion of the pre-workshop questionnaire, on-site evaluation, and post-workshop evaluation. Their responses assist WGO in best meeting their expectations prior to the workshop commencement and also serve as data that WGO compiles to measure the impact of TTTs overall contribution to continuing education.

To find out more about TTT please visit <http://www.worldgastroenterology.org/train-the-trainers.html>!

Should you have further questions pertaining to the Train the Trainers Program, please contact the WGO Executive Secretariat at [info@worldgastroenterology.org](mailto:info@worldgastroenterology.org)

**THE INTERNATIONAL COALITION OF HEPATOLOGY EDUCATION PROVIDERS (IC-HEP)** IS PLEASED TO PRESENT AN AUDIOCAST SERIES FOCUSED ON THE MANAGEMENT OF HEPATITIS C IN LATIN AMERICA. PRESENTED BY LEADING EXPERTS IN THE FIELD, THESE AUDIOCASTS PROVIDE EDUCATION TAILORED TO THE LATIN AMERICAN AUDIENCE.



## THE MANAGEMENT OF HEPATITIS C IN LATIN AMERICA

Expert presentations delivered by:



**JAVIER BRAHM, MD** | *ESTADO ACTUAL DEL MANEJO DE LA HEPATITIS C EN CHILE*  
Presented in Spanish



**HUGO CHEINQUER, MD** | *ESTADO ATUAL DO MANEJO DO HCV NO BRASIL*  
Presented in Portuguese



**MARCELO SILVA, MD** | *ESTADO ACTUAL DE LA HEPATITIS C EN LA ARGENTINA*  
Presented in Spanish

This initiative aims to connect physicians involved in the management and treatment of hepatitis C with the experts delivering the education. If you have any questions regarding the content of the presentations, or the management and treatment of HCV in your region, please send a request to [info@IC-HEP.com](mailto:info@IC-HEP.com) and you will be connected directly with one of the above experts.\*

Visit [www.IC-HEP.com](http://www.IC-HEP.com) to view these presentations and other hepatitis C related educational offerings.

This activity is supported by educational grants from AbbVie, Bristol-Myers Squibb, and Gilead Sciences.

Endorsed by:



\*NOTE: Initial email communications will be delivered to the general IC-HEP mailbox; they will be forwarded directly to each expert in order to establish contact. Please do not include any patient information until you receive a response directly from the selected expert.



THROUGH AN EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATION WITH THE WGO, **THE INTERNATIONAL COALITION OF HEPATOLOGY EDUCATION PROVIDERS (IC-HEP)** IS PLEASED TO PRESENT:

## HCC: A Global Crisis Silent and Widely Ignored

Webcast Presented by:

**DOUGLAS R. LABRECQUE, MD**

## Hepatitis C

Webcast Presented by:

**PROFESSOR AAMIR GHAFOOR KHAN**

MSc(G) DGM RCP&S(G) FRCP(Lond) FRCP(G)FRCP(Ed) FRCPI(Ire)  
FEBG(Eu) FRSM(UK)FACP(USA) FACG(USA) AGAF(USA)

Visit [www.IC-HEP.com](http://www.IC-HEP.com) to view these presentations and other hepatitis C related educational offerings.

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Endorsed by:





# The Hong Kong Society of Gastroenterology Health Exhibition and Annual Meeting



**Wai-Cheung Lao, FHKCP, FHKAM (Medicine), FRCP (Edin,Glasg)**

President  
The Hong Kong Society of Gastroenterology  
Wanchai, Hong Kong



Dr. Wai-Cheung Lao, President of The Hong Kong Society of Gastroenterology, presents Dr. D. Nageshwar Reddy with an honorary fellowship.

To promote the advancement of gastroenterology, The Hong Kong Society of Gastroenterology continues to organize academic activities.

In October and November 2014, our society participated in public education through the 2014 Health Exhibition organized by the medical students of The Hong Kong University with a donation and nomination of local speakers. Topics were as follows:

- “What’s wrong with your stomach?” by Dr. WONG Chi Tak (QEH)
- “Gastroenteritis” by Dr. CHAN Man Chun, Jacky (PMH)
- “Hepatitis B infection in Hong Kong” by Dr. HUI Yee Tak (QEH)
- “OGD and Enteroscopy” by Dr. LEE Ting Lam, Edwin (PYNEH)

- “Colorectal cancer and gastric cancer” by Dr. YEUNG Yat Wah (G&H Specialist)

On 26 March 2015, the Annual General Meeting cum Scientific Meeting was held at the Langham Place Hotel in Mongkok, Hong Kong. At the meeting an honorary fellowship was bestowed upon Dr. D. Nageshwar Reddy, Chairman and Chief of Gastroenterology at the Asian Institute of Gastroenterology in Hyderabad, India. During the meeting, Dr. Reddy delivered a state-of-the-art lecture on “Pancreato Biliary Endoscopy 2015 Update.” Dr. David Y. K. But of Queen Mary Hospital in Hong Kong also presented a case discussion on ERCP.

The 17<sup>th</sup> Joint Annual Scientific Meeting, organized by The Hong

Kong Society of Digestive Endoscopy, The Hong Kong Society for Coloproctology, The Hong Kong Association for the Study of Liver Diseases, The Hong Kong Society of Gastrointestinal Motility, and The Hong Kong IBD Society, will be held on 6 September 2015 at the Langham Place Hotel in Mongkok, Hong Kong. It will include renowned local and overseas guest speakers delivering lectures on gastroenterology, hepatology, and endoscopy.



Members of The Hong Kong Society of Gastroenterology at the opening ceremony of the Health Exhibition.



# Pakistan Society of Gastroenterology and GI Endoscopy 31st Annual Conference



**Aamir Ghafoor Khan, MD**

Past President  
Pakistan Society of Gastroenterology and GI Endoscopy  
Pakistan



**Bakht Biland, MD**

Vice President  
Pakistan Society of Gastroenterology and GI Endoscopy  
Chairman, Organizing Committee  
Pakistan



H.E. Mr. Shahram Khan Taraki Minister for Health KPK.

The 31st Annual International Conference of the Pakistan Society of Gastroenterology and GI Endoscopy (PSG) was held from 1-5 April 2015 in Serena, Islamabad. The meeting was held jointly with the Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology (APAGE) and The Japanese Society of Gastroenterology (JSGE) as well as the 6th Single Topic of APAGE on Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD), the first time that a single topic APAGE meeting was held in this part of the world.

The meeting was also endorsed by the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) and Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh United Kingdom (RCPEd), with messages of support sent in by their respective presidents.

Locally Khyber Puktoon Khawa (KPK) was the host chapter, with Associate Professor Dr. Bakht Biland, Vice President of the PSG, served as the chairman of the organizing committee.

The program began with a two day endoscopy workshop held in Quaid-

e-Azam International Hospital.

On day one, a Basic Endoscopy Workshop was held for postgraduate trainees. These trainees were placed in small groups of 10 with senior faculty members and international faculty, and were instructed with hands-on training in various procedures. On that day concurrently an endoscopy technician's workshop (in collabora-

tion with MMISDP) was held for the first time to discuss the role of health-care workers in infection control and prevention, cleaning and disinfection of scopes and instruments, handling and care of instruments, pre- and post- endoscopy patient care, and basic lifesaving (BLS) demonstration hands-on training. BLS certification was awarded on completion of the course. It was very well attended and oversubscribed, with delegates from throughout Pakistan taking part.

The international faculty from



Group Photo of All invited Foreign Faculty with Prof. Aamir Ghafoor Khan, President PSG, and Prof. Kentaro Sugano, President Asia Pacific Association (APAGE).

Japan, USA, UK, Thailand, the Philippines, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Canada, China, and India took part and conducted the Advance Endoscopy Workshop in collaboration with local faculty. On day two, various procedures, including POEM, ESD, EUS, Stenting ERCP, and Argon Plasma Laser (APC), were carried out by the faculty.

An esophageal high resolution motility ambulatory and pH-impedance lab was also setup with Professor Serat Bor from Turkey conducting the course with live demonstrations on patients.

The core meeting then moved to the Serena Hotel in Islamabad for the remaining three days of the conference.

The scientific session was very well

organized. All the common topics were covered on day three. Most of the speakers on that day were the international faculty, so as to impart the most up to date knowledge to delegates.

For the first time in Pakistan a hands-on Animal Endoscopy Skill lab was setup in collaboration with Boston Scientific, ERBE, Pentax, Fuji, and Olympus. This lab, which provided a very informative practical approach, was well attended.

The PSG President, Professor Muhammad Saeed Quraishy brought the 6<sup>th</sup> APAGE/JSGE presentation on IBD to Pakistan. The excellent lecture focused on the most up to date data and management plans in IBD.

The fifth day was dedicated to liver and liver transplantation, with world leaders in the field presenting their experience and data.

It was not all work and no fun. On inaugural night the Health Minister of KPK, Mr. Shahram Khan, was the chief guest. He distributed shields and souvenirs to the entire foreign faculty. The ambassadors of the foreign faculty were also invited and attended the dinner. Afterwards, a culture show depicting various regions and cultures of Pakistan was held. The gala and musical night was attended by families of the delegates. Mr. Shaukat Yousafzai, Parliamentary Leader of the KPK assembly, was the chief guest on this occasion. Lifetime achievement awards were also presented to senior gastroenterologists from KPK.

At the closing ceremony Dr. Sania Nishtar, former Federal Health Minister and chairperson of Heart File, was the chief guest.

The government of the Pakistan Health Governing Body (PMDC), has now made it mandatory for all doctors to get 50 CME accreditation hours for the next renewal of their registration. The PSG received the honors of being the first professional society in the country authorized to award CME accreditation hours. This congress was accredited for 10 CME hours. A biometric attendance digital system was introduced to authenticate attendance. A SMS message was sent to all delegates.



Award to Ms. Tehreen Chaudhry, Hepatologist North West Deanery UK, by Mrs. Sania Nishtar, President Heart File and Chief Guest for that session.

## Iraqi Gastroenterology and Hepatology Conference 2015



### ISGH Scientific Committee

Iraqi Society for Gastroenterology and Hepatology

The 7th Conference for the Iraqi Society for Gastroenterology and Hepatology was held on 10 April 2015 at the Babel Hotel in Baghdad from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm.

More than 170 physicians attended the conference, including gastroen-

terologists, hepatologists, endoscopists, and gastrointestinal surgeons. Attendees included both members and non-members of Iraqi Society for Gastroenterology and Hepatology.

The conference program was set up to cover all fields of gastroenterology

and hepatology, with three plenary sessions and two round tables. Each speaker was given 12 minutes for their presentations and 3 minutes for discussion.

Well-known names in the gastroenterology field participated as speakers in the conference and the articles presented were chosen according to their scientific material.

The conference was really successful and fruitful, producing both scientific and social interaction.



Iraqi Society for Gastroenterology and Hepatology Members at the Iraqi Gastroenterology and Hepatology Conference 2015.



## Spanish Society of Digestive Diseases (SEPD)



### Federico Argüelles Arias, MD

Secretary  
Spanish Society of Digestive Diseases (SEPD)  
Seville, Spain

The Spanish Society of Digestive Diseases (SEPD) is a scientific and professional organization with a professional executive structure that brings together more than 2,550 physicians.

Some of the many scientific, strategic, and institutional initiatives that the SEPD has recently led and presented to the recent SED Conference (Semana Enfermedades Digestivas, Spanish Digestive Diseases Week) are listed below.

#### A committed scientific society

The SEPD is working on a scientific position paper on PPIs (proton-pump inhibitors), one of the drugs most prescribed both by digestive and primary care specialists. PPIs

are considered safe, convenient, and effective medicines even when used daily. However, in recent years there have been several articles suggesting possible long-term side effects; these have caused alarm among patients and society. This has been the impetus for a position paper on PPIs led by the SEPD to provide evidence on questions raised regarding their efficacy and safety. ([Press release](#)).

Moreover, in 2013 the SEPD created the Working Group on Biosimilars and was one of the first Spanish scientific societies to develop a position paper on the use, effectiveness, and safety of biologic medical products through a joint document with the SEF (Spanish Society of Pharmacol-



From left to right: Drs. Francisco Bosques, President of AMG, and Fernando Carballo, President of the SEPD.

ogy). Also, the SEPD has recently signed the “Manifesto for Patient Safety in biological treatments” that drives the General Alliance of Patients (AGP), and in which more stringent drug-surveillance was claimed in the prescription of medications biosimilar or biological in order to ensure patient safety. ([Press release](#)).

#### Formative institutional collaboration

The SEPD and the Mexican Association of Gastroenterology (AMG) have just signed a new partnership agreement to develop joint training projects. This agreement represents a further step to promote cooperation between the two organizations with the signing of a framework of co-membership that includes mutual participation in scientific meetings of both institutions (ensuring inclusion in the scientific programs of meetings agreed by each national society). Other shared objectives included a reduction in the share of partners and the intention to seek ‘national research groups’ researchers interested in incorporating training, making resources available to both scientific organizations.



Image of the 2015 SED held in Seville.





Image of the 2015 SED held in Seville.

### SED 2015 (Spanish Digestive Diseases Week): a success of attendance and abstracts submission

More than 1,050 digestive specialists, national and international, gathered in Seville to celebrate the Spanish Digestive Diseases Week (SED 2015). The conference has been a scientific and educational success. The LXXIV Annual Congress of the SEPD received a total of 647 original communications, of which 507 papers have been accepted by the Scientific Committee and submitted to the SEPD for presented during the SED. If you want to look at some of the scientific developments shared, please review our [ABSTRACTS](#) during SED 2015.

Among the significant developments we had offered on the SED 2015, we included e-posters that allow an improved reading and presentation over last year, offering a clear and effective view of the data presented. All e-posters could be comfortably consulted by attendees in this format using touch screens during the conference itself and through a free app available to read all abstracts through mobile devices.

Activities were broadcast during the SED 2015 in real time through different channels from the instantaneous

transmission of audiovisual via [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), with news of what was happening through the app of the conference, along with several posts in the [blog](#) of the conference on the most important information.

### Presence of the UEG in 2015 SED

The United European Gastroenterology (UEG) participated with a booth at the Spanish Digestive Diseases Week 2015 which was attended by many lawmakers to learn about the training and scientific offers of the European society. Many other activities and projects of the UEG were presented, including information about the upcoming UEG Week, which will be held in Barcelona from 24 to 28 October.

### SEPD's commitment with Digestive Intelligence

The SEPD is committed to encourage and develop Spanish Digestive Intelligence tools. By Digestive Intelligence, the SEPD understands the generation, coordination, dissemination, and application of knowledge useful for the improvement of health care provided in Gastroenterology Services. Knowledge stems from data and project information (studies, surveys, records) through analysis of information from clinical practice, clinical management, and quality improvement (indicators, monitoring of trends, algorithms, etc.).

Therefore, the SEPD will soon launch the CID (Knowledge and Digestive Intelligence) platform, [www.sepd.es/cid](http://www.sepd.es/cid) that will start taking steps to transform data provided in surveys into information and knowledge (of registries, for example), enabling efficient planning and decision making. ([VIDEO](#))

### Spanish Journal of Gastroenterology (REED)

The REED is the official publication of the Spanish Society of Digestive Diseases (SEPD) and has been published continuously since 1944. This monthly scientific publication has recently published the article "[Management of antithrombotic drugs associated with endoscopic procedures](#)" (REED vol. 107, no. 5, 2015). This special article, authored by Drs. Fernando Alberca de las Parras, Francisco Marín, Vanessa Roland Schilling, and Fernando Carballo Álvarez, is the result of a close collaboration with the Group on Thrombosis of the Spanish Society of Cardiology (SEC), the Spanish Society of Digestive Endoscopy (SEED), the Spanish Society of Digestive Diseases (SEPD), and the Spanish Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis (SETH). These associations have teamed up with the aim of providing clinical guidelines regarding the use of antiplatelet agents and anticoagulants, developing algorithms and proposing a practical performance of a protocol for endoscopy units. We recommend this article as an example of the quality and scientific level of national and international papers published each month in the REED <http://www.reed.es>.



UEG stand in the exhibition area of the SED 2015.



## Educational Programs

Providing high quality educational opportunities for all levels of resources.



### WGO's IBS Educational Offering is Now Available in Multiple Languages!

**The French, German, Italian, and Spanish versions of WGO's IBS educational program are ready for viewing!**

#### **Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS): What is it, what causes it and can I do anything about it? A Web-Based Educational Program for the General Public**

This webcast, which was developed from the [World Digestive Health Day 2012 Campaign](#) "From Heartburn to Constipation - Common GI Symptoms in the Community: Impact and Interpretation", will target those common symptoms most associated with irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) and will focus, in particular, on an approach to educate the general public on issues related to this condition. It is led by Professors Eamonn Quigley, USA, WGO Foundation Chair, Richard Hunt, UK, WGO Foundation Vice Chair, Pali Hungin, UK, and Anton Emmanuel, UK.

The webcast is available as a full program, as well as individual segments, so that you may choose which topics you would like to view. Segment 1 focuses on "What is IBS?" and "How to communicate symptoms to help the doctor make the right diagnosis." Here the focus is on the various symptoms that may be experienced by the IBS sufferer and the various definitions of IBS used in clinical practice and in research are reviewed. Strategies that facilitate the best interaction between the sufferer and their doctor are discussed. In Segment 2 you will learn about "Progress in IBS" and "Could it be something else?" The various factors that might contribute to the development of symptoms are reviewed and the panel addresses what is often a major concern for the sufferer and their doctor: the fear of missing other diagnoses. Segment 3 will look at "What can I do to deal with my symptoms?" and "How about diet and dietary supplements?" The role of diet in IBS is a "hot" topic at present and the various ways that constituents of the diet might relate to symptoms are evaluated. And finally in Segment 4 "Managing IBS" and "Living with IBS" is discussed. Here there is good news for IBS sufferers both in terms of new, effective treatments and ongoing research for new approaches to managing IBS.

We hope that you will share this information with your colleagues, patients, followers on social media, and anyone else who might benefit from this important information. We thank you for your support of this program!

[Click Here to Begin Viewing the Webcast!](#)



*This webcast was created thanks to an unrestricted educational grant from*

## WGO Global Guidelines & Cascades at Gastro 2015



### Greger Lindberg, MD

Chair, Guidelines Committee  
Karolinska Institutet  
Department of Medicine  
Stockholm, Sweden



### Anton LeMair, MD

WGO Guidelines Project  
Amsterdam, The Netherlands



### A Resource Sensitive Solution

problems related to a faulty design of specific endoscope components illustrates that the disinfection and cleaning of endoscopes can not be taken for granted. With our guideline updates and the cascade system for cleaning options in a variety of situations we offer a valuable resource for technicians, nurses, and doctors to optimally fulfill their responsible task.

We believe our guidelines stand out from other practice guidelines. With the guideline development program, WGO brings together people from all over the world, both in the guideline production process (during the drafting) and stepwise enhancement (during the review team cycles), as well as in different user groups. Our guidelines are published in six major languages (English, French, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish) to provide easy access to online users, and a concise version of each new guideline is published in English in the *Journal of Clinical Gastroenterology*.

With our guideline chairs presenting the three selected titles at the upcoming Gastro 2015 meeting in Brisbane, we hope to familiarize participants with our cascades system. The WGO Cascades have been developed specifically to complement gold standard practice statements with alternative options for diagnosis and management, targeting health care

What we know today can focus new research to help communities throughout the world solve their, sometimes long existing, medical problems. If only we can apply what is known and so improve what is done! This is what the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) has been aiming for in the last 15 years with its very successful program to design and build GI Practice Global Guidelines & Cascades. Without your help, and without the commitment of our member societies, this would have been impossible.

The scientific program at the Gastro 2015 meeting in Brisbane provides a comprehensive overview of the latest information, insights, and practices in gastroenterology, endoscopy, and hepatology. In doing so, it fosters a better understanding and deeper insight for all new developments in our disciplines. Three of our guidelines

were selected for presentation during the guideline section of the Gastro 2015 program:

1. Our new Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD) guideline coincides with our 'World Digestive Health Day' (WDHD) topic for this year: "Heartburn: A Global Perspective."
2. The Esophageal Varices guideline deals with a significant problem worldwide, but particularly in areas where chronic hepatitis is prevalent.
3. The Endoscope Disinfection guideline covers a topic that is critical; wherever endoscopy is used, we must make sure that endoscope re-processing procedures will never play a role in spreading disease. The recent outbreak of Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) that was traced back to endoscope disinfection

workers in resource limited medical practice situations. Low and medium resourced practice settings, for example, will often still manage to buy-in treatment, probably because the cost of doing nothing (and so facing the costs of chronic disease) is much worse. Our WGO cascades also address access to secondary and tertiary levels of care with their associated technologies and equipment. And finally, our cascades try to take account of available expertise and training – resource distribution issues remain important so long as large differences in available resources are in place still.





## WGO Calendar of Events

### WGO-RELATED MEETINGS AND TRAIN THE TRAINERS WORKSHOPS

#### Gastro 2015 AGW-WGO International Congress

**When:** September 28 - October 2, 2015  
**Location:** Brisbane, Queensland, Australia  
**Organizers:** Gastroenterological Society of Australia and World Gastroenterology Organisation  
**Website:** [www.gastro2015.com](http://www.gastro2015.com)

#### WGO Train the Trainers Workshop

**When:** April 4-7, 2016  
**Location:** Antalya, Turkey  
**Organizers:** Turkish Society of Gastroenterology and World Gastroenterology Organisation  
**E-mail:** [info@worldgastroenterology.org](mailto:info@worldgastroenterology.org)  
**Website:** <http://www.worldgastroenterology.org/train-the-trainers-future-workshops.html>

#### Gastro 2016 EGHS-WGO International Congress

**When:** November 17-19, 2016  
**Location:** Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  
**Organizers:** Emirates Gastroenterology & Hepatology Society and World Gastroenterology Organisation  
**E-mail:** [info@worldgastroenterology.org](mailto:info@worldgastroenterology.org)

#### Gastro 2017 ACG-WGO World Congress of Gastroenterology

**When:** October 13-18, 2017  
**Location:** Orlando, Florida, USA  
**Organizers:** American College of Gastroenterology and World Gastroenterology Organisation  
**E-mail:** [info@worldgastroenterology.org](mailto:info@worldgastroenterology.org)

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS AUGUST 2015

#### Gastroenterological Society of Singapore Annual Scientific Meeting

**When:** August 1-2, 2015  
**Location:** Mandarin Orchard Hotel, Singapore  
**Address:** 333 Orchard Road, S238867  
**Organizer:** Gastroenterological Society of Singapore  
**Phone:** 6774-5201  
**Fax:** 6774-5203  
**E-mail:** [secretariat@gastro.org.sg](mailto:secretariat@gastro.org.sg)

#### GUT 2015

**When:** August 21-23, 2015  
**Location:** Persada Johor International Convention Centre, Johor, Malaysia  
**Organizer:** Malaysian Society of Gastroenterology & Hepatology  
**E-mail:** [secretariat@msggh.org.my](mailto:secretariat@msggh.org.my)  
**Website:** [www.msgh.org.my](http://www.msgh.org.my)

### SEPTEMBER 2015

#### Congress of Gastroenterology China (CGC)

**When:** September 4-6, 2015  
**Location:** Meijiang Convention and Exhibition Center, Tianjing, China  
**Organizer:** Chinese Society of Gastroenterology (CSG)  
**Phone:** +8610 8929 2552 821  
**Fax:** +8610 8515 8132  
**E-mail:** [nccsgd@126.com](mailto:nccsgd@126.com)  
**Website:** <http://www.csge.org>

#### Argentine Congress of Gastroenterology and Digestive Endoscopy 2015

**When:** September 17-19, 2015  
**Location:** Tucumán, Argentina  
**Address:** Centro de Convenciones, Sheraton Hotel, Tucumán, Av. Soldati 440, San Miguel de Tucumán, 4000 Tucumán, Argentina  
**Organizers:** Federación Argentina de Gastroenterología (FAGE), Sociedad Argentina de Gastroenterología, and Federación Argentina de Asociaciones de Endoscopia Digestiva (FAAED)  
**Phone:** +54-381-4303832  
**Fax:** +54-381-4303832  
**E-mail:** [gastro2015@marcelasantoro.com](mailto:gastro2015@marcelasantoro.com)  
[info@marcelasantoro.com](mailto:info@marcelasantoro.com)  
**Website:** [www.gastro2015.com.ar](http://www.gastro2015.com.ar)

#### XXV Central American and Caribbean Congress of Gastroenterology and Digestive Endoscopy and the XXIV Congress Dominican Gastroenterology

**When:** September 17-20, 2015  
**Location:** Punta Cana, Dominican Republic  
**Organizers:** Sociedad Dominicana De Gastroenterología and Asociación Centroamericana y del Caribe de Gastroenterología Endoscopia Digestiva  
**Phone:** +1 809 687 1515  
**E-mail:** [info@sodogastro.com](mailto:info@sodogastro.com)  
**Website:** [www.sodogastro.com](http://www.sodogastro.com)

### OCTOBER 2015

#### 7th Congress of the Croatian Society of Gastroenterology with International Participation

**When:** October 1-4, 2015  
**Address:** Hotel "4 Opatijska cvijeta," Opatija, 51410, Croatia  
**Organizer:** Croatian Society of Gastroenterology  
**Website:** [www.hgd.hr](http://www.hgd.hr) / [www.milenijhoteli.hr/](http://www.milenijhoteli.hr/)

**Annual Meeting SGG – SGVC – SASL 2015****When:** October 1-2, 2015**Location:** Interlaken Congress Center, Switzerland**Organizers:** Swiss Society of Gastroenterology (SGG), Swiss Society of Visceral Surgery (SGVC), Swiss Association for the Study of the Liver (SASL), and Swiss Society of Endoscopy Nurses and Associates (SSNA)**Website:** [www.sgg-sgvc-congress.ch](http://www.sgg-sgvc-congress.ch)**3rd Serbian Gastroenterology Congress with International Participation****When:** October 8-10, 2015**Location:** Belgrade, Serbia**Address:** Hotel Crowne Plaza Belgrade, Vladimira Popovića St No.10, 11070 Novi Beograd, Serbia**Organizer:** Association of Serbian Gastroenterologists (ASG)**Phone:** +381 63 247770**Fax:** +381 11 3615587**E-mail:** [gastroendo@beotel.rs](mailto:gastroendo@beotel.rs)**Website:** <http://www.ugs.rs>**JDDW 2015 – Japan Digestive Disease Week 2015****When:** October 8-11, 2015**Location:** Tokyo, Japan**Organizer:** Organization of JDDW**Website:** <http://www.jddw.jp/jddw2015/en/index.html>**XXI Russian Gastroenterological Week****When:** October 12-14, 2015**Location:** Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEP), Moscow, Russia**Address:** Prospect Vernadskogo, 82, Moscow, Russian Federation 119571**Organizer:** Russian Gastroenterological Association**Phone:** +7 926 213 25 52**E-mail:** [alexander.trukhmanov@gmail.com](mailto:alexander.trukhmanov@gmail.com)**Website:** <http://www.gastro.ru>**ACG 2015 Annual Scientific Meeting & Postgraduate Course****When:** October 16-21, 2015**Location:** Hawaii Convention Center, Honolulu, HI, USA**Organizer:** American College of Gastroenterology (ACG)**Website:** <http://www.gi.org/>**United European Gastroenterology Week (UEGW)****When:** October 24-28, 2015**Location:** Fira de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain**Organizer:** United European Gastroenterology (UEG)**E-mail:** [office@ueg.eu](mailto:office@ueg.eu)**Website:** [www.ueg.eu/week](http://www.ueg.eu/week)**NOVEMBER 2015****33rd Czech and Slovak Congress of Gastroenterology****When:** November 12-14, 2015**Location:** Prague, Czech Republic**Organizer:** Czech Society of Gastroenterology**Website:** <http://www.gastropraha2015.cz/>**21st National Annual Meeting on Gastroenterology****When:** November 12-14, 2015**Location:** Nghe An Province, Vietnam**Address:** Phuong Dong Hotel, No 2 Truong Thi Street, Vinh City, Nghe An Province, Vietnam**Organizer:** Vietnam Gastroenterology Association**Phone:** +0917.405.121, Mr. Tran Dinh Tri**E-mail:** [dinhtritan@gmail.com](mailto:dinhtritan@gmail.com)**56th Annual Conference of Indian Society of Gastroenterology****When:** November 19-22, 2015**Address:** Brilliant Convention Centre, Indore, Madhya Pradesh, 452014, India**Organizer:** Indian Society of Gastroenterology**Phone:** +91-7312362491**Fax:** +91-7312470068**E-mail:** [secretariat@isgcon2015.org](mailto:secretariat@isgcon2015.org)**Website:** [www.isgcon2015.org](http://www.isgcon2015.org)**XIV Brazilian Week of Digestive****When:** November 21-25, 2015**Location:** Curitiba, Paraná, Brazil**Organizers:** Federação Brasileira De Gastroenterologia, Sociedade Brasileira de Endoscopia Digestiva (SOBED), and Colégio Brasileiro de Cirurgia Digestiva (CBCD)**Website:** [www.sbad2015.com.br](http://www.sbad2015.com.br)**Iranian Congress of Gastroenterology and Hepatology****When:** November 24-27, 2015**Location:** West Saheli Avenue, Congress Complex of Shiraz University, Shiraz, Iran**Organizers:** Iranian Association of Gastroenterology and Hepatology (IAGH), Fars Branch of IAGH, Gastroenterohepatology Research Center (GEHRC)**E-mail:** [icgh@iaghcongress.org](mailto:icgh@iaghcongress.org)**NZSG Annual Scientific Meeting 2015****When:** November 25-27, 2015**Location:** Energy Events Centre, Rotorua, New Zealand**Address:** 99 The Terrace, 6012 Wellington, New Zealand**Organizer:** New Zealand Society of Gastroenterology (NZSG)**Phone:** +04 4608126**E-mail:** [anna.pears@racp.org.nz](mailto:anna.pears@racp.org.nz)**Website:** [www.gastro2015.co.nz](http://www.gastro2015.co.nz)**XLII Chilean Congress of Gastroenterology****When:** November 25-27, 2015**Address:** Centro de Convenciones Enjoy del Mar, Viña del Mar, Chile**Organizer:** Sociedad Chilena de Gastroenterología (SCHGE)**Phone:** +56 2 2342 5004**Fax:** +56 2 2342 5005**E-mail:** [schgastro@schge.cl](mailto:schgastro@schge.cl)**Website:** [www.sociedadgastro.cl](http://www.sociedadgastro.cl)

## DECEMBER 2015

**APDW 2015 – Asian Pacific Digestive Week**

**When:** December 3-6, 2015  
**Location:** Taipei International Convention Center  
**Address:** No. 1, Section 5, Xinyi Rd, Taipei, Taiwan  
**Organizer:** The Gastroenterological Society of Taiwan  
**Website:** [www.apdw2015.org](http://www.apdw2015.org)

**VII Latvian Gastroenterology Congress with International Participation**

**When:** December 5, 2015  
**Address:** Riga Congress Center, 5 Kr. Valdemara str., Riga, Latvia  
**Organizers:** Latvian Association of Gastroenterologists and Gastroenterology Support Society  
**Phone:** + 371 29 527 746  
**Fax:** + 371 67 303 160  
**E-mail:** [info@gastroenterologs.lv](mailto:info@gastroenterologs.lv)

**Website:** [www.lgk7.com](http://www.lgk7.com)**8th Hepatology and Gastroenterology Post Graduate Course**

**When:** December 10-11, 2015  
**Location:** Conrad Hotel, Cairo, Egypt  
**Course Director:** Prof. Ibrahim Mostafa  
**Phone:** +20 12 22113466  
**Fax:** +20 2 23953822  
**E-mail:** [ibrahimmostafa@egyptgastrohep.com](mailto:ibrahimmostafa@egyptgastrohep.com)  
**Website:** <http://www.egyptgastrohep.com/post-graduate-course/>

**National Congress**

**When:** December 10-12, 2015  
**Location:** Hotel Palm Plaza, Marrakech, Morocco  
**Organizer:** Société Marocaine des Maladies de l'Appareil Digestif  
**E-mail:** [smmad.secretariat@gmail.com](mailto:smmad.secretariat@gmail.com)  
**Website:** <http://smmad-ma.com/>

## JANUARY 2016

**14th SGA Annual Meeting & 3rd SASLT Meeting**

**When:** January 20-21, 2016  
**Location:** Al Faisaliah Hotel, King Fahd Road, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia  
**Organizers:** Saudi Gastroenterology Association (SGA) and Saudi Association for the Study of Liver diseases and Transplantation  
**Phone:** +966 564 412 595  
**E-mail:** [sga@saudigastro.com](mailto:sga@saudigastro.com)  
**Website:** <http://www.saudigastro.net>

## FEBRUARY 2016

**5th SSG International Conference**

**When:** February 6-8, 2016  
**Address:** Ibsina Specialized Hospital, Alamarat st17, Khartoum 12217, Sudan  
**Organizer:** Sudanese Society of Gastroenterology (SSG)  
**Phone:** +00249-183-461796  
**E-mail:** [Munem2002@hotmail.com](mailto:Munem2002@hotmail.com)  
**Website:** <http://www.ssgsudan.org>

**Canadian Digestive Diseases Week (CDDW 2016)**

**When:** February 26 – 29, 2016  
**Location:** Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel  
**Address:** 900 Rene Levesque Blvd., Montreal, QC H3B 4A5, Canada  
**Organizer:** Canadian Association of Gastroenterology  
**Phone:** +905-829-2504  
**E-mail:** [cddw@cag-acg.org](mailto:cddw@cag-acg.org)  
**Website:** <http://www.cag-acg.org/cddw>

## APRIL 2016

**The 5th International Forum**

**When:** April 22-23, 2016  
**Location:** Keio Plaza Hotel Tokyo  
**Address:** 2-2-1 Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku-Ku, Tokyo, 160-8330, Japan  
**Organizer:** The Japanese Society of Gastroenterology  
**Phone:** +81-3-3508-1214  
**Fax:** +81-3-3508-1302  
**E-mail:** [102jsge@convention.co.jp](mailto:102jsge@convention.co.jp)

## SEPTEMBER 2016

**Pan American Digestive Disease Week**

**When:** September 10-13, 2016  
**Location:** Convention Center of Cartagena de Indias, Colombia  
**Organizer:** Pan-American Gastroenterology Organization (OPGE)  
**Phone:** +57 1 6168315  
**Fax:** +57 1 6162376  
**E-mail:** [contacto@opge.org](mailto:contacto@opge.org)  
**Website:** <http://www.opge.org>

## OCTOBER 2016

**ACG 2016 Annual Scientific Meeting & Postgraduate Course**

**When:** October 14-19, 2016  
**Location:** Venetian Resort, Las Vegas, NV, USA  
**Organizer:** American College of Gastroenterology (ACG)  
**Website:** <http://www.gi.org/>

## NOVEMBER 2016

**APDW 2016 – Asian Pacific Digestive Week**

**When:** November 2-5, 2016  
**Location:** Kobe Convention Center, Kobe, Japan  
**Organizer:** Organization of JDDW  
**Website:** [www.apdw2016.org](http://www.apdw2016.org)

**JDDW 2016 – Japan Digestive Disease Week 2016**

**When:** November 3-6, 2016  
**Location:** Kobe, Japan  
**Organizer:** Organization of JDDW  
**Website:** <http://www.jddw.jp/english/index.html>

## OCTOBER 2017

**JDDW 2017 – Japan Digestive Disease Week 2017**

**When:** October 12-15, 2017  
**Location:** Fukuoka, Japan  
**Organizer:** Organization of JDDW  
**Website:** <http://www.jddw.jp/english/index.html>

**WGO MEMBER SOCIETIES SUBMIT YOUR EVENT**

Are you a WGO Member Society wanting to share your event with WGO readers? Visit <http://www.worldgastroenterology.org/submit-event.html> to submit your event for publication in WGO's website conference calendar as well as the quarterly *e-WGN* calendar of events!





We've ticked all the boxes...

work



play



- ✓ Diverse scientific program
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- ✓ Unique workshops
- ✓ Relaxed, friendly environment

- ✓ Koala sanctuary
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- ✓ Eat street markets and fine dining

# gastro

GESA-AGW & WGO  
International Congress

2015

[www.gastro2015.com](http://www.gastro2015.com)

*Images courtesy of Brisbane Marketing*

Brisbane, Queensland, Australia | 28 September - 2 October 2015

