

e-WGN

WORLD GASTROENTEROLOGY NEWS

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Mark Topazian, MD



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Ubal Dhus, MD

Welcome to Istanbul and the World Congress of Gastroenterology!



Cihan Yurdayın, MD

President, World Gastroenterology Organisation



Serhat Bor, MD

President, Turkish Society of Gastroenterology

Welcome to the World Congress of Gastroenterology, to Istanbul, and Turkey. Our colleagues and we are excited about presenting this outstanding conference in Turkey. We hope to meet as many of you as possible so that we can share with you our enthusiasm for this meeting and our country Turkey.

This congress is being organized jointly by the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) and Turkish Society of Gastroenterology (TSG).

The meeting will be exceptional with international experts complementing local faculty, over 100 speakers in total, presenting a program with numerous concurrent sessions each day. The convention center -- the Istanbul Congress Center -- as well as the congress hotels are located near the famous historic sites of Istanbul, as well as Taksim Square, and is close to the banks of the beautiful Bosphorus. For the first time in the history of the WCOG many of the sessions will be translated simultaneously into Russian and Turkish.

Saturday 21 September 2019

The program begins on Saturday 21 September with **3 Postgraduate Courses**: "Hot Topics in Gastroenterology", "The Bugs Among Us: Microbiota in Health and Disease" and "Advances in GI Pharmacology". Additionally, we will offer Endoscopy Video Sessions (chaired by Profs. Mark Topazian and Seth Gross).

One of the pillars of WGO is the **Guidelines and Cascades**. Many of WGO's Guidelines will be highlighted as part of the robust Scientific Program of the WCOG in Istanbul. Be sure to attend the sessions featuring: Celiac Disease (Prof. Carolina Olano), Diet and the Gut (Prof. Govind Makharia), GERD (Prof. Greger Lindberg), HCC (Prof. Salma Barakat Modawi), Hepatitis B (Prof. Vasily A. Isakov), Hepatitis

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World Congress of Gastroenterology
21-24 September 2019

Istanbul Congress Center, Istanbul

*Join us in Istanbul, where two continents meet
and civilizations unite!*



C (Prof. Gamal Esmat), *H. Pylori* in Developing Countries (Prof. David Armstrong), IBD (Prof. Rami Elia-kim), NASH and NAFL (Prof. Saeed Hamid), Probiotics and Prebiotics (Prof. Francisco Guarner), Strongyloidiasis (Prof. Paul Kelly) and Tuberculosis (Prof. Mohamed Tahiri).

Sunday 22 September 2019

Day two on Sunday commences with several sunrise sessions, Pro/Con sessions, and also a day-long Hands-on-Ultrasonography Course. A highlight will be the **WGO Presidential Address** given by Prof. Cihan Yurdaydin.

WGO is also pleased to feature a **“Women in GI”** session, chaired by Profs. Naima Amrani, Maryam Al Khatry and Hale Akpinar. This will include presentations “Career Opportunities for Women in GI,” “Role of Women Mentors and How to Establish an Academic Career in GI,” “Do Women in GI Have the Same Opportunities in the East and West?” and “Tips and Tricks for a Successful Career in GI: Pearls From an Expert.”

Prof. Richard Kozarek will deliver the **Henry L. Bockus Lecture**, “The Evolution of Therapeutic Endoscopy: Where Have We Been? Where Are We Going?” The Henry L. Bockus Medal will be awarded to Prof. Kozarek at this time. Dr. Bockus (1894-1982) was a leading American gastroenterologist from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with a well-deserved reputation due to the authorship of an outstanding Gastroenterology treatise and the organization of specialty postgraduate courses at the University of Pennsylvania, which were attended by numerous physicians from North and South America as well as from Europe. He was elected President of the first World Congress of Gastroenterology, held in Washington, DC, USA on 29 May 1958.

Additionally WGO will host its popular **Train the Trainers alumni and faculty luncheon** on Sunday, 22 September. All of the 1,000-plus TTT alumni and faculty are cordially invited to attend the luncheon from 12:00-13:00.

Day two concludes with the formal **Opening Ceremony**.

Monday 23 September 2019

The Hands-on-Ultrasonography Course continues on Day Three of the congress. Also for the first time ever we are partnering with the *Journal of Clinical Gastroenterology (JCG)*, the official publication platform for the WGO’s Global Guidelines in the English language, on a JCG session, chaired by Prof. Ronnie Fass (Editor-in-Chief of the JCG) and Alejandro Piscoya (Chair of WGO’s Publications Committee).

The **WGO General Assembly** will take place on 23 September from 12:15-13:45. The General Assembly, comprising representatives from all WGO Member Societies and Regional Affiliate Associations, reviews the work of the Governing Council and attends to other business, including ratifying the selected bid for the next World Congress of Gastroenterology. General Assembly members also vote on amendments to the statutes and

the adoption of by-laws, as well as the election of WGO officers. There shall be only one vote for each Member Society.

Tuesday 24 September 2019

While the final day again begins with sunrise sessions and the Hands-on-Ultrasonography a highlight is sure to be the **Georges Brohée Lecture**, delivered by Prof. Michael Fried, entitled “Evidence based medicine: How good is the evidence?”. Georges Brohée was the founder of the first International Association of Gastroenterology. A medal will be presented to Prof. Fried by WGO Member Society, the Société Royale Belge de Gastro-Entérologie (of which Dr. Brohée was also a founder).

Master of the WGO Award

The Master of the WGO Award is the highest honor WGO can bestow on a member and is granted only to those individuals who have provided outstanding dedication to the mission of the WGO and achieved distinction in such areas as scholarly research, teaching, and service to WGO and the community at large.

The Award was created to recognize these contributions and by this recognition provide incentive, encouragement, and guidance for others to significantly contribute to their fields. The Masters of the WGO Award is a capstone career award and is given in conjunction with each World Congress of Gastroenterology.

In 2019 WGO is proud to present the MWGO Award to the following individuals during the General Assembly: T. S. Chandrasekar (India), Henry Cohen (Uruguay), Daiming Fan (China), Makki H. Fayadh (Iraq), Peter Ferenci (Austria), Eamonn Quigley (USA) and James Toouli (Australia).

For more information and to register for the World Congress of Gastroenterology please visit <https://wcog2019.org>.



Message from the Editors



Mário Reis Álvares-da-Silva, MD, PhD

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Porto Alegre, Brazil



Christina M. Surawicz, MD, MACG

Professor of Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology
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Greetings from your co-editors Chris and Mario. In this issue we first highlight the World Congress of Gastroenterology (WCOG) meeting in Istanbul from 21-24 September 2019. The details of the robust Scientific Program are laid out as well as the prestigious Bockus and Brohée Lectures. Prof. Richard Kozarek will deliver the Henry L. Bockus Lecture, “The Evolution of Therapeutic Endoscopy: Where Have We Been? Where Are We Going?” The Georges Brohée Lecture, “Evidence based medicine: How good is the evidence?” will be

delivered by Prof. Michael Fried. We hope to see many of you at the Congress!

The successful Train the Trainers program has again produced testimonials from the latest workshop in Romania. Please be sure to read the personal insights of participants from Madagascar, Brazil, Finland as well as the host country, Romania.

The focus of WDHD 2019 is Early Diagnosis and Treatment of GI Cancer. We are pleased to feature celebrations of WDHD with stories from WGO Member Societies around

the globe. Additionally our societies also were active in promoting awareness of hepatitis on World Hepatitis Day 2019.

Finally we end with a big thank you to Chris who has completed her two terms of co-Editor – this will be her last issue. She has continued to bring excellence to every issue of *e-WGN*. Rest assured that Mario is staying on and that Chris will stay active in other areas of WGO!



Gastro 2020 Prague: Save the Date!



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am extremely honored to announce that the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) has appointed the Czech Society of Gastroenterology to co-host its biyearly international conference, Gastro 2020, in Prague, Czech Republic.

This event, organized jointly by WGO and the Czech Society of Gastroenterology together with the Czech Society of Hepatology, Czech Society of Gastrointestinal Oncology, and Czech Society of Surgery, Gastro 2020, is to be held 3-5 December, 2020. More information is available on the Gastro 2020 website: <https://www.gastro2020prague.org>.

We are definitely honored by this decision and consider it an exceptional challenge to help to accomplish the mission of WGO and take this opportunity to exchange the thoughts,

experience, comments and information on all current major issues of gastroenterology and hepatology with respect to region-specific socio-economic background as well as cultural and historical aspects.

WGO and the CSG are pleased to announce the Joint Steering Committee and Joint Scientific Program Committee:

WGO Joint Steering Committee

Cihan Yurdaydin, President
Naima Amrani, President-elect
Guilherme Macedo, Treasurer

CSG Steering Committee

Julius Spicak, CSG Board Representative
Ondrej Urban, CSG President
Milan Lukas, CSG Past President

Joint Scientific Program Committee

Carolina Olano, Uruguay
Joost Drenth, Netherlands
Gerhard Rogler, Switzerland

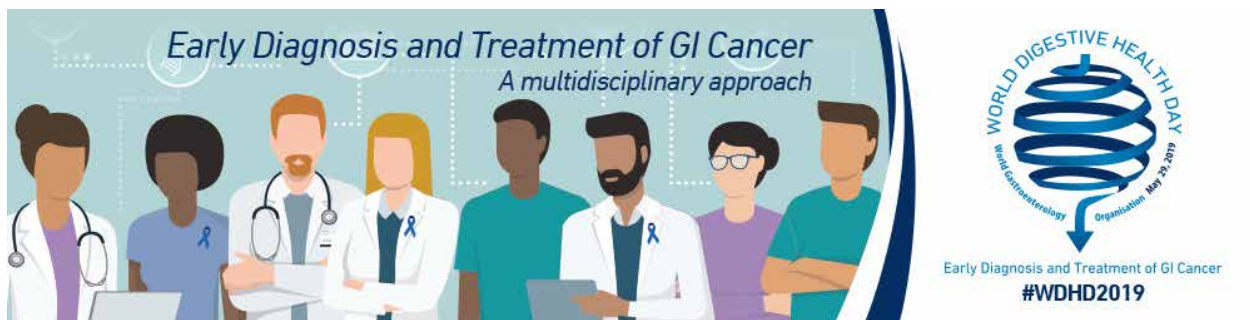
As you may know, Prague is a city with a unique potential to host such top international events.

Gastro 2020 is to be held in a brand-new spacious and multi-functional congress venue. Prague is easily accessible to visitors coming both from nearby and distant destinations, it prides itself a well-organized and efficient city transport system and a sufficient number of hotels of all categories. Last but not least, Prague has the reputation of a most attractive, friendly and safe city for tourists from all over the world.

Looking forward to welcoming you to Prague for an exciting and interactive meeting.

Julius Spicak, Co-Chair
Head of the Department of Hepato-gastroenterology
Institute of Clinical and Experimental Medicine Prague

World Digestive Health Day 2019 – Thank You



On behalf of the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) and The WGO Foundation (WGOF), the leadership extends their thanks and appreciation to all partners and supporters who joined us on World Digestive Health Day (WDHD), 29 May 2019, in advocating and raising awareness of early diagnosis and treatment of GI cancer. WDHD 2019 witnessed 24 celebrations in 19 countries as well as blog postings and infographics.

We are pleased to include summary articles from WDHD 2019 celebrations in Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, India, Mongolia, Pakistan and Uruguay in this issue of e-WGN.

To access new tools, resources, highlights, and happenings of WDHD 2019, please continue to visit <http://www.worldgastroenterology.org/wgo-foundation/wdhd/wdhd-2019>.

Together we can increase awareness of the optimal care of gastrointestinal and liver disorders worldwide. WGO and WGOF greatly value your support of World Digestive Health Day and helping to ensure its continued success.



WDHD in Argentina: New concepts in detection of colorectal cancer – Do we begin at 45 or 50 years of age?



Dr. María Laura González speaks on importance of early detection of cancer

The Sociedad Argentina de Gastroenterología (SAGE) held a press conference for World Digestive Health Day, which is celebrated by the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) each year. In 2019, WDHD promotes prevention in the diagnosis and treatment of digestive cancer. SAGE has among its objectives raising awareness among the population about the importance of detecting diseases such as colorectal cancer in time.

The conference was held on Tuesday, 28 May at the headquarters of SAGE in Buenos Aires, and was led by Drs.



SAGE has among its objectives raising awareness among the population about the importance of detecting diseases such as colorectal cancer in time.

Lisandro Pereyra (Medical Staff, Gastroenterology and Endoscopy of the Hospital Alemán and trainer of the National Program for the Prevention and Detection of Colorectal Cancer) and María Laura González (Deputy Head of the Gastroenterology Service of the Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires as well as Deputy Director of the Hereditary Cancer Program of the Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires).

The speakers provided especially useful information related to the controversy about the age of onset of colorectal cancer surveillance: is it at 45 years or 50 years?

It should be noted that the American Cancer Society recently recommended beginning detection at 45 years of age, given the high risk that could exist between the ages of 45 and 50. In relation to this, Stanford University in California, USA developed an important study the results of which suggest that starting the appropriate exams at age 45 is effective in clinical and economic terms.

Important facts raised by the speakers at WDHD 2019 in Argentina were:

- Colorectal cancer is one of the most frequent malignant tumors in Argentina and produces more

than 13,000 new cases a year in the country;

- An average of 20 Argentines die per day from colon cancer;
- Prevention exams are carried out for only 27% of the people who have an indication to do so;
- The symptoms of colorectal cancer can be rectal bleeding, abdominal pain, alteration of the bowel habits, anemia and weight loss;
- It is estimated that in people older than 50 years, one in four people could have polyps, which are benign lesions that are precursors of colorectal cancer. Most polyps do not show symptoms;
- It is important to recommend a healthy lifestyle, a balanced diet with adequate intake of micronutrients, regular physical activity, avoid smoking, maintain adequate weight and moderate the consumption of processed meats;
- A family history of colorectal cancer is a factor that increases the risk, therefore, it is important to consider this background. In the absence of history, age is the most important factor (50 years);
- In those individuals with a family history of colorectal cancer, the recommendations for prevention

are different from those without a history.

HOWEVER

- There are ways to prevent colorectal cancer;
- According to recent studies, colonoscopy can prevent colorectal cancer by removing polyps and reducing colon cancer mortality by up to 75%;
- When cancer is detected at an early stage, it can be cured in up to 90% of cases.



WDHD in Brazil: Prevention of Gastrointestinal Cancer — Social Actions in the Northeast of Brazil



We thank the audience, the speakers, the SGP participants who carried out the event, and all the sponsors and supporters who believed in our work and recognized that our social action has an important impact for all of us.



Audience at the WDHD social action in Teresina Shopping



The Gastroenterology Society of Paraíba

On 29 May 2019 both the Sociedade de Gastroenterologia do Piauí and the Sociedade de Gastroenterologia do Paraíba held events to celebrate WDHD 2019.

Piauí

On the evening of 29 May 2019, the Sociedade de Gastroenterologia do Piauí (SGP) celebrated Gastroenterologists Day and WDHD 2019 in grand style! We thank the audience, the speakers, the SGP participants who carried out the event, and all the sponsors and supporters who believed in our work and recognized that our social action has an important impact for all of us. The public was very attentive to the lectures and actively participated in the WDHD at Teresina Shopping. Our event was a success!

In addition to educational lectures, we offered vaccinations and rapid tests. Cancer nutritionist Dr. Socorro Coelho presented on the guidelines of nutrition in the prevention of cancer of the digestive system. Also Dr. Lucidio Balduino spoke on the prevention of stomach cancer. Other speakers included Joceli Santos, Jozelda Duarte and Sabas Vieira.

Paraíba

Gastroenterology Society of Paraíba held its social action at the Tambiá Shopping Center in João Pessoa, Paraíba. This event was carried out in partnership with leagues of students and related gastroenterology societies.



Sociedade de Gastroenterologia do Piauí



Students of nutrition with Dr. Socorro Coelho



Brochures from the social action at the Tambiá Shopping



Welcome to the social action at the Tambiá Shopping Center

WDHD in Cuba – Scientific Session in Havana

On 31 May 2019 the Sociedad Cubana de Gastroenterología (SCG) held a day-long Scientific Session dedicated to the celebration of World Digestive Health Day. Organized by Dr. Lissette Chao González, the SCG's WDHD conference was conducted at the Hospital Cimeq in Havana, Cuba.

Among the topics presented and discussed were:

- Early inflammatory bowel disease
- Advances in Ulcerative Colitis
- Advances in Crohn's Disease
- Microbiota and inflammatory bowel disease
- Biological Therapy in Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- Ulcerative Colitis and Cancer
- The Liver and Inflammatory Bowel Disease

The program ended with a presentation of various case studies.



Cimeq | 31/05/2019



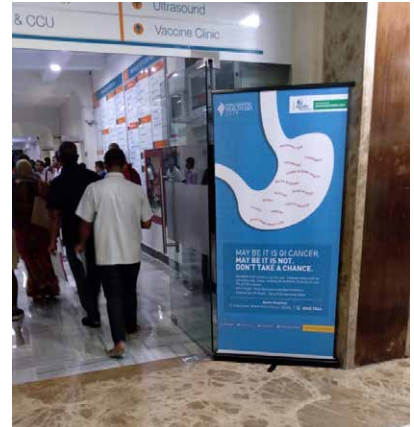
Hospital Cimeq in Havana

WDHD in Tamil Nadu, India



Ubal Dhus, MD

Secretary
Indian Society of Gastroenterology – Tamil Nadu Chapter
Chennai, India



World Digestive Health Day on 29th May 2019 was celebrated by our society members in various ways. Apollo Hospitals is the largest hospital system in Asia, with 11 branches in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. It was there that we created an awareness event in the form of standing posters.



Chairman Dr. T S Chandrasekar celebrated the day at Medindia Hospitals, Chennai



WDHD in Chennai



Dr. Radha, Gastroenterologist, Fortis Hospital, Chennai, Tamil Nadu created awareness in a Facebook post and media in the local Tamil language.

Mongolian Digestive Disease Week 2019



The current situation in Mongolia is that digestive disease is the second most common disease among the Mongolian population.

The Mongolian Gastroenterology Association was established in 1998 and in 2019 held its 12th annual conference of the Mongolian Digestive Disease Week. Mongolian Digestive Disease Week is the main event to discuss digestive diseases in Mongolia and always draws a high number of participants. This conference aimed to improve knowledge of the doctors and medical workers arising from the current situation of digestive disease among Mongolia and worldwide.

Mongolian Digestive Disease Week 2019 took place at the Novotel Hotel in Ulaanbaatar from 15 – 18 May. The conference included four main symposium days. Over 350 participants attended, including experts from Korea, Japan, China, India, USA, Germany, Kazakhstan and Vietnam.

The current situation in Mongolia is that digestive disease is the second most common disease among the Mongolian population. Moreover, the incidence of liver and gastric cancers

are the two most common cancers with the highest mortality rate.

After welcoming remarks from Prof. Davaadorj Duger, President of the Mongolian Gastroenterology Association, and Prof. Tserenchimed Sarantuya, Congress Chairman, Day One of the conference began with a focus on *Helicobacter pylori* infection. Mongolian, Korean and Japanese experts presented a total of 20 presentations.

Day Two was focused on Digestive Endoscopy and was co-organized with International Digestive Disease Network, the Korean Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy as well as the Mongolian Society of Interventional GI Endoscopy.

This day was divided into 4 main sessions:

1. Live demonstration, from Gastroenterology and Endoscopy department of Ulaanbaatar Songdo Hospital. Esophageal and Gastric ESD procedure for early cancers, performed by a team of

Korean experts with a Mongolian endoscopist;

2. Basic Techniques of Gastric ESD: Four presentations were presented and discussed by Korean experts;
3. Advanced techniques of ESD: Four presentations were presented and discussed by Korean experts; and
4. Current status of Gastric ESD in IDEN key member countries: Four presentations were presented and discussed by representatives of Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Turkey and Vietnam.

Day Three consisted of an International Symposium on Viral Hepatitis and was co-organized with Kanazawa University in Japan.

The Symposium was divided into 5 main sessions:

1. WHO session: Three presentations were presented and discussed by representatives of WHO and Ministry of Health;
2. HBV and HDV session: Six presentations were presented and discussed by Mongolian, Japanese, Chinese and Vietnamese experts;
3. HCV session: Four presentations were presented and discussed by Mongolian, Japanese, Chinese and Vietnamese experts;



WDHD participants in Mongolia

4. HCC session: Three presentations were presented and discussed by Mongolian and Japanese experts; and
5. Clinical and Basic research on Viral Hepatitis: Four presentations were presented and discussed by Japanese and Vietnamese experts.

Finally Day Four focused on pancreatology, nutrition and ERCP, co-organized with Pancreatology As-

sociation of Mongolia. This day was divided into 3 main sessions:

1. State of the Art lecture by Prof. Manfred V. Singer of Germany who presented on two topics: “Sociocultural, biological aspects of alcohol & alcoholism, with special respect to burden of disease in Mongolia” and “Alcohol-related pancreatitis;”

2. ERCP session: Four presentations and three clinical cases were presented and discussed by Mongolian participants; and
3. Clinical nutrition: Five presentations presented and discussed by Mongolian and German experts.

World Digestive Health Day 2019 in Karachi, Pakistan



Zaigham Abbas, MD

Dr. Ziauddin University Hospital
Karachi, Pakistan

Dr. Ziauddin University Hospital Clifton in Karachi, Pakistan organized a seminar to observe World Digestive Health Day 2019 with the title of “Early detection and screening of GI cancer”. The seminar focused on the barriers of early diagnosis of gastrointestinal cancers to timely cures and the importance of screening and surveillance among the masses. The program was attended by the GI community, medical students, trainee doctors, and general physicians.

Professor Zaigham Abbas, the Chair of the Department of Gastroenterology, welcomed the attendees. Professor Faisal Ziauddin stressed upon the screening and early detection of esophageal and gastric cancers. He also warned the audience regarding the rising number of these cancers in Pakistan.

Dr. Khurram Baqai presented on different methods of screening of colorectal cancers, their relative

There was enthusiastic participation by the audience in each session. To make it further interactive, case based scenarios were discussed with the audience regarding the theme.



significance, and advantage of early screening in a selected population. Colorectal cancer is, by far, one of the cancers that has achieved the maximum advantage of screening and surveillance. Colorectal cancer almost always develops from precancerous polyps in the colon or rectum. Screening tests can find precancerous polyps so that they can be removed before they turn into cancer. Screening tests can also find colorectal cancer early when treatment works best.

Dr. Abbas then elaborated on surveillance of hepatocellular carcinomas, explaining difficulties faced in

this area and shed light on the ways to overcome these difficulties. HCC is the most common type of primary liver cancer. It occurs most often in people with chronic liver diseases, such as cirrhosis caused by hepatitis B or hepatitis C infection.

There was enthusiastic participation by the audience in each session. To make it further interactive, case based scenarios were discussed with the audience regarding the theme. ■

WDHD in Uruguay

La Sociedad de Gastroenterología del Uruguay (SGU) hosted multi-disciplinary activities at the Instituto Nacional del Cáncer in Montevideo to mark the celebration of World Digestive Health Day on 29 May 2019. WDHD was founded as an initiative by Dr. Henry Cohen of Uruguay when he was President of WGO.

That is why the SGU, in adherence to World Digestive Health Day, carried out a scientific program, with references from different specialties,

in which many aspects of interest of early gastric cancer and colorectal cancer were discussed.

A whole range of medical professionals participated, including gastroenterologists, endoscopists, surgeons, oncologists and pathologists.

It was an enriching activity from all points of view, not only for the scientific program, but also because of the fellowship between colleagues of different specialties.



Prof. Henry Cohen addresses the session



Participants of WDHD in Uruguay



Audience



Instituto Nacional del Cáncer in Montevideo

2020 WDHD Theme Announced!

The World Digestive Health Day (WDHD) theme in 2020 is the **Gut Microbiome: A Global Perspective** led by Co-Chairs Eamonn Quigley, MD, FRCP, FACP (United States) and Uday Ghoshal, MD, DNB, DM, FACG (India), and the WDHD 2020 Steering Committee. WGO calls on its member societies, regional affiliates, and partner organizations to organize events to raise awareness around the 2020 theme. Watch the WDHD website at www.worldgastroenterology.org/wgo-foundation/wdhd and WGO publications as more information, tools, and resources become available.

Meet the WDHD 2020 Steering Committee

The World Digestive Health Day 2020 campaign is led by the following individuals representing a global view and expertise on the Gut Microbiome. They will guide the course of the campaign, leading the development of tools and resources.

Co-Chair World Digestive Health Day 2020

Eamonn Quigley, MD, FRCP, FACP
The Methodist Hospital
United States

Co-Chair World Digestive Health Day 2020

Uday Ghoshal, MD, DNB, DM, FACG
Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences
India

Members

Naima Amrani, MD
Mohamed V University – Rabat
Morocco

Julio Bai, MD
University Del Salvador
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Catherine Buckley, MD
APC Microbiome Institute
Ireland

Paúl Cárdenas, MD, PhD
Universidad San Francisco de Quito,
Institute of Microbiology
Ecuador

Henry Cohen, MD, PhD
University of the Republic Uruguay
Uruguay

Francisco Guarner, MD
University Hospital Vall D'Hebron
Spain

Saeed Hamid, MD, MBBS, FRCP
Aga Khan University Hospital
Pakistan

Gerald Holtmann, MD
The University of Queensland
Australia

Richard Hunt, FRCP, FRCPEd, FRCPC
McMaster University Health Science
Centre
United Kingdom

Dina Kao, MD
University of Alberta
Canada

Tarkan Karakan, MD
Gazi University
Turkey

Leonid Lazebnik, MD, PhD
Moscow University of Medicine and
Dentistry
Russia



Guilherme Macedo, MD, PhD
Centro Hospitalar Sao Joao
Portugal

Stephen J.D. O'Keefe, MBBS, MD, MSc, MRCS
The African Microbiome Institute
Stellenbosch University
South Africa

Mary Ellen Sanders, MD
International Scientific Association for
Probiotics and Prebiotics
United States

Fergus Shanahan, MD
University College Cork
Ireland

Ala Sharara, MD, FACG, AGAF, FRCP
American University of Beirut Medi-
cal Center
Lebanon

Justin Wu, MD
The Chinese University of Hong
Kong
Hong Kong

Plan Your Own WDHD Event

Start planning your event today. Past events include public campaigns, courses and lectures on treatments of the current theme, walkathons, national meetings, press conferences, radio and television interviews, devel-

oping a country's own WDHD Day, publications, and much more!

To officially submit your event for inclusion on the WGO Meetings and Events calendar, please visit www.worldgastroenterology.org/forms/submit-event.php and complete the online form.

Email info@worldgastroenterology.org with any WDHD related questions.

Join the WDHD on Social Media

Join the conversation in support of WDHD 2020, tag WGO on Face-

book, Twitter, or LinkedIn. Be sure to include **#WDHD2020** and **#GutMicrobiome** in your post.



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Train the ERCP Trainers Course



Mark Topazian, MD

Chair, WGO Endoscopy, Other Procedures & Outreach Interest Group
USA

Representatives from three WGO Training Centers (Bangkok, Nairobi and Porto) participated in a Train the ERCP Trainers workshop in London, England held in July 2019 in collaboration with the British Society of Gastroenterology (BSG). The BSG has developed world-leading methods of colonoscopy training, and the ERCP TTT Workshop applied these insights and methods to ERCP.

Attendees practiced didactic, simulator, and clinical ERCP instruction of trainees under the guidance of BSG staff. The course also provided a comprehensive approach to best practices in providing trainee feedback and structuring an ERCP training program. Delegates gave the course high ratings, with one writing “Do more courses like this!”

The BSG has developed world-leading methods of colonoscopy training, and the ERCP TTT Workshop applied these insights and methods to ERCP.



ERCP trainers workshop



ERCP simulator training. From left to right: Pedro Moutinho Ribeiro (Porto TC), David Rowlands (BSG), Guilherme Macedo (Porto TC), Kofi Opong (BSG, course faculty), Gavin Johnson (BSG, course co-director) and Andrew Veitch (BSG, course co-director).



Srisha Hebbar (BSG, course faculty), Elly Ogutu (Nairobi TC), Eduardo Moutinho Ribeiro (Porto TC) and Nonthalee Pawsawasdi (Bangkok TC) practicing training techniques.



Course delegates learning from Srisha Hebbar

World Hepatitis Day — 28 July 2019 — Find the Missing Millions



Cihan Yurdaydin, MD

President, WGO
Turkey



Naima Amrani, MD

President Elect, WGO
Morocco



Saeed Hamid, MD

Chair, WGO Hepatology Interest Group
Pakistan

World Hepatitis Day 2019 - Eliminate Viral Hepatitis by 2030

“Hepatitis B and C is a major health problem worldwide, especially in developing countries. It is a major cause of liver cancer which is the second leading cause of cancer related mortality in the world. Over half a million new cases are diagnosed annually and hepatitis B virus (HBV) and hepatitis C virus (HCV) account for the majority of liver cancer cases. Data from the World Health Organization (WHO) reveals that up to 325 million people are living with chronic hepatitis B and C infection.

Let us also not forget hepatitis E virus infection which mostly causes a self-limiting illness, however can lead to liver failure in pregnant women and patients with chronic liver disease, and yet is a vaccine preventable illness.

As the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO), we seek to raise awareness of viral hepatitis with and through our Member Societies, our Regional Affiliate Associations and all WGO Training Centers.

In 2018, WGO and WGO Foundation (WGOF) dedicated the World Digestive Health Day (WDHD) campaign, to Hepatitis B and C with the specific goal to ensure awareness of prevention, diagnosis and availability of treatment. Through our year-round campaign, WGO and WGO Foundation continued to provide a better understanding and a better management of this global burden.

Hand in hand we can be able to prevent, cure and eradicate Hepatitis B and C in the near future.

What is World Hepatitis Day?

World Hepatitis Day is an awareness campaign organized by the World Hepatitis Alliance. World Hepatitis Day is celebrated every 28 July to bring about the awareness of the global burden of viral hepatitis, with the primary campaign goal of eliminating viral hepatitis by 2030.

The theme for this year is “Eliminate Hepatitis” and the campaign for 2019 focuses on “Finding the Missing Millions”, a three-year global awareness-raising and advocacy campaign aimed at tackling the main barriers to diagnosis by putting civil society organizations and the affected community at the heart of the solution. All of which will contribute towards progressing WHO’s elimination target of a 30% diagnosis rate by 2020.

What is Viral Hepatitis?

“Acute viral hepatitis (AVH) is a systemic infection predominantly affecting the liver. It is most often caused by viruses that are hepatotropic (hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E). Other viral infections may also occasionally affect the liver, such as cytomegalovirus (CMV), herpes simplex, coxsackievirus, and adenovirus. Whereas hepatitis A and E are self-limiting, infection with hepatitis C and to a lesser extent hepatitis B usually become chronic”

- **Read more from the WGO Acute Viral Hepatitis Guideline at <http://www.worldgastroenterology.org/guidelines/global-guidelines/management-of-acute-viral-hepatitis>.**

Worldwide, 300 million people are living with viral hepatitis unaware. Without finding the undiagnosed and linking them to care, millions will continue to suffer, and lives will be lost. On World Hepa-

World Hepatitis Day, 28 July, we call on people from across the world to take action and raise awareness to find the “missing millions”.



View the World Hepatitis Day Film at [https://vimeo.com/332173101!](https://vimeo.com/332173101)

HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOAL OF ELIMINATING HEPATITIS BY 2030?

World Hepatitis Day 2019 Campaign Toolkit

Download the World Hepatitis Day 2019 Campaign Toolkit, provided by the World Hepatitis Alliance, to find ideas on how you can participate in the World Hepatitis Day 2019 Campaign <http://www.worldhepatitisalliance.org/world-hepatitis-day/campaign-materials/>

World Hepatitis Day 2019 on Social Media

Use the following hashtags when posting about hepatitis on social media!

- #WorldHepatitisDay
- #FindtheMissingMillions
- #NOhep
- #hepatitis

“Viral hepatitis and its consequences (cirrhosis, liver failure, liver cancer, death), have been ignored far too long. Hepatitis B and C alone affect over 1 in 12 of the world’s population and cause more chronic disease and death than HIV, TB or malaria. Both hepatitis B and C are preventable and hepatitis C can be cured. Several countries have made it national policy to completely eliminate hepatitis C, including Georgia, Mongolia, Egypt, Pakistan, Portugal and Australia. It is

time to unite and decide to eliminate hepatitis C globally. But to accomplish this, we must first identify the over 70% of infected patients who do not even know that they have hepatitis C. I strongly support World Hepatitis Day and the WHO initiative to over the next three years “Find the Missing Millions” as the first step to achieving this goal.

At the same time we must not forget hepatitis B which affects many millions more and dedicate ourselves to eliminating hepatitis B. We must push for final true universal vaccination, including the birth dose, with a vaccine that has been available since 1982!

Then, like smallpox before it and polio, now down to fewer than 100 new cases in only 2 countries worldwide, hepatitis B can become part of our ancient medical history.”

- Douglas R. LaBrecque, Past Chair, WGO Hepatology Interest Group

WGO Training Centers

Since 2001, over 3,400 professionals have received training through the various educational programs offered at the WGO Training Centers. Located in developing countries throughout the world, each WGO Training Center provides trainees with the opportunity to enhance their skills and further their education in gastroenterology, hepatology, endoscopy, oncology, and GI surgery. Each Center offers comprehensive training, ranging from multi-day workshops on special topics to four-year sub-specialty internships that include theoretical courses and practical applications of techniques. The Training Centers promulgate locally relevant knowledge and develop appropriate skills among medical practitioners and health care workers from low-resource countries. Visit www.worldgastroenterology.org/education-and-training/training-centers/centers to discover each of our WGO Training Centers!

Attention WGO Training Centers! Are you planning an activity for World Hepatitis Day? Let us know and be featured in an upcoming issue of e-WGN! Email your event summary and photos to us at info@worldgastroenterology.org.

Supporting WGO Global Guidelines and Cascades

The WGO Guidelines and Cascades library contains over 20 practice guidelines written from a global standpoint and published for viewing and download on the WGO website. Cascade-based guidelines offer various treatment options for diagnosis and treatment depending on the resources available in different parts of the world. The six supporting WGO Global Guidelines and Cascades listed below are available in different languages and focus on hepatitis and related liver disease topic areas:

- [Acute Viral Hepatitis](#)
- [Esophageal Varices](#)
- [Hepatitis B](#)
- [Hepatitis C](#)
- [Hepatocellular Carcinoma \(HCC\)](#)
- [NAFLD & Nash](#)

“Worldwide viral hepatitis is one of the leading causes of morbidity and life lost. The WHO has set goals to eliminate hepatitis B and C by 2030. To accomplish these goals, a concerted effort from governments, public health leaders and the public (civil society) will be needed. Sources of funding and experts to implement vaccination of all infants starting with a birth dose worldwide, to train providers to diagnose, link persons chronically infected with hepatitis B and C to care and treatment will be keys to achieving these goals. In addition, public awareness regarding the importance and seriousness of viral hepatitis, the keys to prevent infection through vaccination and other preventive measures and the awareness

that viral hepatitis B can be treated and hepatitis C cured.”

-Brian J. McMahon, MD, WDHD 2018 Co-Chair

e-WGN Expert Point of View (EPOV) Articles Hepatology Collection

The e-WGN Expert Point of View (EPOV) articles listed below are a part of the Hepatology Collection and are available for viewing on the WGO Website. Click the article title(s) below to begin reading!

- [Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease – A Growing Public Health Problem](#)
Davor Stimac, MD, PhD
Ivana Mikolasevic, MD, PhD
Vol. 20, Issue #4 (January 2016)
- [Outcomes and Treatments of Dual Chronic Hepatitis B and C](#)
Chun-Jen Liu, MD, PhD
Vol. 19, Issue #4 (January 2015)
- [HIV/HBV and HIV/HCV Co-infection in Sub-Saharan Africa: Transmission, Disease Outcomes, and Treatment Options](#)
Mark W. Sonderup, MD
C. Wendy Spearman, MD
Vol. 19, Issue #4 (January 2015)
- [WGO Lectureship, Georges Brohée Medal and Lecture: New Views on NASH Pathogenesis – How Should They Inform Management?](#)
Geoffrey C. Farrell, MD, FRACP
Vol. 18, Issue #3 (September 2013)
- [From Obesity to Fatty Liver/ NASH: Two Parallel Epidemics](#)
Sofia Carvalhana, MD
Helena Cortez-Pinto, MD, PhD
Vol. 18, Issue #2 (July 2013)
- [New Era of Antiviral Therapy for Chronic Hepatitis C Infection: Implications on Global Health](#)
Joseph K. Lim, MD
Vol. 17, Issue #4 (December 2012)

- [Part II: Global Burden Of Liver Disease: A True Burden on Health Sciences and Economies!!](#)
S. K. Sarin, MD, DM
Rakhi Maiwall, MD, DM
Vol. 17, Issue #3 (October 2012)
- [Global Burden Of Liver Disease: A True Burden on Health Sciences and Economies!!](#)
S. K. Sarin, MD, DM
Rakhi Maiwall, MD, DM
Vol. 17, Issue #2 (July 2012)
- [Acute Hepatitis E](#)
Wasim Jafri, MD, FRCP, FACP, FACP
Om Parkash, MBBS, FCPS, FCPS (GI), MSc, FACP
Vol. 17, Issue #1 (March 2012)

Educational Programs

In collaboration with WGO, the International Coalition of Hepatology Education Providers (IC-HEP) created an audiocast series focused on the management of Hepatitis C in Latin America.

This series includes expert presentations delivered by:

- Estado actual del manejo de la Hepatitis C en Chile,” presented in Spanish by Javier Brahm, MD
- Estado atual do manejo do HCV no Brasil,” presented in Portuguese by Hugo Cheinquer, MD, PhD
- Estado actual de la Hepatitis C en la Argentina,” presented in Spanish by Marcelo O. Silva, MD

Through educational collaboration with WGO, IC-HEP also created webcasts on Hepatitis C and HCC:

- “Review of the WHO Guidelines for the Screening, Care, and Treatment of Persons with HCV,” presented by Raj Reddy, MD
- Hepatitis C,” presented by Aamir Ghafoor Khan, MSc(G), DGMRCP&S(G) FRCP(Lond), FRCP(G), FRCP(Ed), FRCPI(Ire), FEBG(Eu) FRSM(UK), FACP(USA), FACG(USA), AGAF(USA)

- “HCC: A Global Crisis Silent and Widely Ignored,” presented by Douglas R. LaBrecque, MD

American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) - The Liver Meeting® 2019

Visit WGO at booth #1109 at the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases - The Liver Meeting® November 8–12, 2019 in Boston, Massachusetts!

Additional Resources for More Information

Click on the links below to learn more about World Hepatitis Day and join the global movement!

- World Hepatitis Day Website
- World Hepatitis Alliance
- NoHep Website
- Center for Disease Control (CDC) Viral Hepatitis Webpage
- World Health Organization Website

World Hepatitis Day in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India



Ubal Dhus, MD

Secretary, Indian Society of Gastroenterology, Tamil Nadu Chapter
Sr. Consultant, Apollo Hospital Chennai
India



Drs. Murugan and Vijayalakshmi at the WHD event

On the occasion of World Hepatitis Day 2019 the Indian Society of Gastroenterology, Tamil Nadu chapter, conducted multiple activities in Chennai, India.

24-Hour Liver Hotline and Free Liver Camp

GEM Hospital, a large gastroenterology, laparoscopic and robotic surgery facility in Chennai, celebrated World Hepatitis Day from 22 – 29 July 2019. On the 22nd they inaugurated a 24-Hour “Liver Hotline.” Dr. P. Senthilnathan, Director of GEM Hospital, stated, “This 24 Hour Liver Helpline is the first of its kind initiative by our hospital. This helpline is useful in creating awareness and to counsel patients with liver problems. People can either drop in or even call our Help Desk for any kind of emergency situations.”

Additionally, specialists from the GEM Hospital provided free consul-

tations for liver problems through a Free Liver Care Camp.

Free Blood Screening Camps
Sri Ramachandra Medical Centre in Porur conducted a free camp from 29 - 30 July to screen for viral hepatitis B and C. Fasting blood sugar tests and liver elastographies were done free of cost. Hepatitis B and C usually manifest as chronic hepatitis, with increased risk of progression to end stage liver cirrhosis and liver cancer, especially in those with fatty liver, long standing diabetes and a history of alcohol consumption. The screening camp was arranged by the Department of Hepatology on the occasion of World Hepatitis Day.

The Department of Digestive Health and Disease at **the Government Peripheral Hospital** in Annanagar, Chennai, is headed by Dr. Arvind with a team consisting of Dr. Ramkumar, Dr. Kavitha, Dr. Bal-



Dr. Murugan addresses the Indian Medical Society



Poster for Annanagar Screening Camp



Dr. Ubal Dhus addresses the ISG meeting

amurali and Dr. Vaishnavi Priya. In conjunction with WHD this center conducted a mass screening camp for both hepatitis B & C to increase the awareness and also to identify the infected peoples in early stage to help them to live their quality of life. Around 1200 people took part in this camp from 27 – 29 July.

The **Government Rayapettah Medical College** is one of the largest teaching institutes and tertiary care



Posters for the Coimbatore Medical College and Hospital CME sessions



Dr. Carolene Selvi and the Rayapettah team at their screening camp

hospitals in Chennai. On World Hepatitis Day, Dr. Carolene Selvi and the Rayapettah team organized a mass screening camp in the city and provided an awareness program to the general public followed by free vaccinations and advice to help prevent hepatitis infections.

Hepatitis Awareness Mobile App Stanley Medical College and Hospital (SMC) is one of the largest institutes in Chennai for liver and gastroenterology with team headed by Dr. M.S. Revathy. On the eve of World Hepatitis Day this department introduced the new mobile app in the presence of SMC members at Chennai. Through this app patients can directly be in contact with specialists and they can clear their doubts. They can also interact with the specialist and to ask questions about the diseases and disorders of the liver. The app was also promoted in the media and newspaper.



WHD poster



Media coverage of the Hepatitis Awareness Mobile App at Stanley Hospital

Continuing Medical Education (CME) Sessions Coimbatore Medical College and Hospital, located in Tamil Nadu, is one of the leading medical colleges with a talented group of consultants in its gastro and liver departments. During the WHD celebration they conducted a CME program in which they addressed many queries related to liver disease and hepatitis B & C infections. This program was organized by Dr. Arulselvan, Dr. Ravishankar and Dr. Senthilvadivu.

The Indian Medical Association, Naam Branch, also conducted a hepatitis and liver CME course on 28 July to increase the awareness about hepatitis. During this session 60 doctors participated. Dr. Joseph Jensing Babu, Dr. Radha, Dr. Vadivel Kumaran, Dr. Hariharan, Dr. Mahesh and Dr. Madhavan led the CME and addressed many issues related to hepatitis infections, jaundice, and liver care.

“Eliminating Hepatitis” Presentations Monthly Indian Society of Gastroenterology meeting

The monthly ISG meeting was held on 20 July 2019 with 70 doctors in attendance. The session lasted for three hours and discussed topics

related to WHD 2019. This meeting was organized by Dr. Ubal Dhus as well as team members and numerous students.

Sree Balaji Medical College and Hospital

Dr. Natarajan Murugan, a senior hepatologist from Apollo Hospital in Chennai, delivered a presentation entitled “Eliminate Hepatitis” around the theme of “Find the Missing Millions.” This program was initiated and organized by Dr. Hema Vijayalakshmi of the Department of Gastroenterology at Balaji Medical College Hospital. The program took place at the Sree Balaji Medical College and Hospital which is located in South Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Indian Medical Association Kodambakkam Branch

Dr. Murugan also delivered a speech at the Indian Medical Association Kodambakkam Branch in Chennai. During his addresses he highlighted the importance of awareness about hepatitis infections and emphasized about the WHO message for 2019. This session was chaired and organized by Dr. Arvind, of the Department of Digestive Disease at GPH, Chennai. Over 50 doctors from various specialties attended the meeting which lasted two hours and Dr. Murugan answered all the queries about the hepatitis infections.

Radio Interviews Across the Region and Nation

Dr. Murugan also gave an interview to the famous radio station Radio Mirchi to help spread awareness about hepatitis B and C. As part of

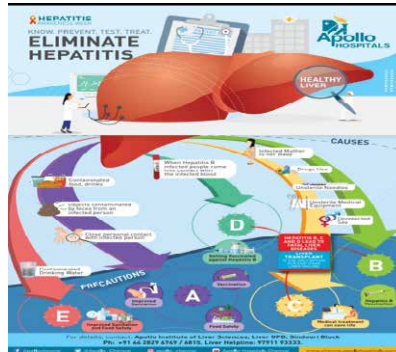


YouTube video promoting the Hepatitis Awareness Mobile App

his talk, he insisted that all listening get screened whenever they get an opportunity and that on that same day the Apollo hospital was holding a mass free screening campaign.

This was followed by an interview by Dr. Ilan Kumaran, a liver transplant surgeon, also on Radio Mirchi. He explored the newer opportunities available to treat the hepatitis infection and also promoted general awareness about jaundice.

Dr. T.S. Chandrasekar, a renowned gastro and therapeutic endoscopist in Med India Hospital in Chennai, Chennai, was interviewed by ALL INDIA RADIO, a famous radio station in India, on 28 July 2019. During the interview he addressed thorough questions involving jaundice, symp-



WHD at Apollo Hospitals

tom, treatments, “Dos & Don’ts” as well as spreading awareness about all the causes of hepatitis and how prevent infections.



World Hepatitis Day in Peshawar, Pakistan



Bakht Biland, MD

Vice President, Pakistan Society of Gastroenterology, KP Chapter Peshawar, Pakistan



Audience at the Lady Reading Hospital



wide, 300 million people are living with viral hepatitis unaware. Without finding the undiagnosed and linking them to care, millions will continue to suffer, and lives will be lost. On World Hepatitis Day people from across the world are called upon to take action and raise awareness to find the “missing millions”. The theme of 2019 is “Invest in eliminating hepatitis.”

are unaware that they are living with the disease.

To celebrate World Hepatitis Day on 28 July 2019, the Pakistan Society of Gastroenterology (PSG) arranged an awareness program at the Lady Reading Hospital in Peshawar. World-

It is thought that Pakistan has the second highest prevalence of HCV in the world. 12 million people are infected with hepatitis B and C in the country. Additionally according to the official data nearly 20 million people

All doctors, trainees, medical officers, paramedics and nurses on staff at the Lady Reading Hospital took part in a lecture and walk. Most of the emphasis of the event was devoted to the prevention of hepatitis. Professor Aamir Ghafoor Khan chaired the session.



Presentation at World Hepatitis Day

World Hepatitis Day in Rawalpindi, Pakistan



Muhammad Umar, MD, MBBS, MCPS, FCPS

Rawalpindi Medical University
Pakistan

257 million people are living with hepatitis B and 71 million are living with hepatitis C respectively. Pakistan being number two in the world with HCV viremic prevalence of 5.8%, shares a major disease burden. In 2016, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched a global campaign to eliminate hepatitis from the world by 2030, and 28th July has been celebrated as World Hepatitis Day internationally dedicated to this theme. In 2019, World Hepatitis Day was celebrated with the slogan of “Find the Missing Millions.” Nine out of ten people living with viral hepatitis are unaware that they are infected with the disease, which is more than 290 million people across the globe.

World Hepatitis Day celebrations were organized by Rawalpindi Medical University (RMU) in collaboration with the Center for Liver and Digestive Diseases at Holy Family Hospital Rawalpindi, the Society for Therapeutic Endoscopy Pakistan (STEP), the Pakistan Society of Hepatology (PSH), the Department of Community Medicine & Preventive Health, Department of Infectious Diseases, Department of Pathology, and Shifa4U, which is an American TelePhysicians Project in Pakistan,

along with MAS and VFAHT, the student societies of RMU.

The proceedings launched with an awareness lecture delivered by Prof. Muhammad Umar, Vice Chancellor of the Rawalpindi Medical University, highlighting the theme of the day “Find the Missing Millions.”

An awareness walk was organized starting from Rawalpindi Medical College and ending at the Administrative Block of the Holy Family Hospital. Doctors from different specialties, medical students, para-medical staff and patients participated in the walk. They were holding banners representing the slogan “Find the Missing Millions”. Informative brochures and booklets were distributed, highlighting preventive measures and screening testing in the local language. Huge banners with similar information were also displayed in all tertiary care hospitals of Rawalpindi. Awareness messages were publicized through print, social and electronic media. Free screening and vaccination camps also aiding in screening of 500 people and 100 vaccinations for Hepatitis B as well.

With the vision of eliminating hepatitis by 2030, Rawalpindi Medical University along with Center for



Liver and Digestive Diseases, Pakistan under the guidance of Prof. Umar has launched a “Hepatitis Free Rawalpindi” program which is the first program of its kind and a step forward towards elimination of hepatitis from Pakistan. It is a community-based program for screening, diagnoses and treatment of hepatitis C cases in the city of Rawalpindi. Through this program screening to find the missing cases has already been started and a fourth successful camp organized in this continuation at Rata Amral Rawalpindi to reinforce the effort. The first phase of this program will screen a population of 944,203 people and all positive patients will be treated free-of-cost. Up until now more than 2,000 people have been screened in two months and more than 100 patients have now been put on treatment free-of-cost. Programs like these are required throughout the country to eliminate hepatitis by 2030.



WGO Train the Trainers Bucharest 2019 – Part II

In our July edition of e-WGN from July 2019, WGO was pleased to feature testimonials from four of the participants of the 28th WGO Train the Trainers (TTT) workshop, which took place 1 – 4 April 2019 in Bucharest, Romania. This interactive workshop was organized by the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) and the Romanian Society of Gastroenterology & Hepatology (SRGH), with support from the American College of Gastroenterology (ACG).

Since Train the Trainers began in 2001, over 1,000 educators have attended this unique program to hone their skills in adult education. We are again pleased to highlight four more stories from these educators, this time from Brazil, Finland, Madagascar, and the host country, Romania.



 Train the Trainers

Bucharest, Romania
1–4 APRIL 2019



A Wonderful Journey Through Science and Culture



Antônio de Barros Lopes

Brazil

World Gastroenterology Organisation's Train the Trainers has been around me for a while. Since my main teachers and masters have participated TTTs, I have been listening to their testimony on the importance of seeing medical teaching as something special, not just limited to regular lectures, but with unlimited potential for growth for the trainee and also for the trainer. Fortunately I had the opportunity to see with my own eyes how great a TTT can be and how it can change some concepts on excellence and commitment to teaching. However, that was not all! I was further surprised by not only the science, but also the culture, friendship and networking that happened during those days in April 2019.

Romania was the site; Bucharest was the place where 50 participants from every continent met to learn and teach. Different from any workshop I have been involved in the past, the group of participants was small, so that everyone could meet and exchange experiences. Different ages, backgrounds and cultural aspects were at the same place, sharing a common activity: teaching. The faculty, also from all over the globe, was formed

by some of the best in their medical field. Moreover, these amazing gastroenterologists, endoscopists and hepatologists were also very caring and highly committed to teaching and sharing their knowledge on this field. They showed that we must search for expertise not only on medical issues, but also in the way we share medical information.

This four day workshop was dense and busy, but the journey was pleasant. TTT dynamics of short lectures followed by group work gave us the opportunity to learn about the subjects and discuss with colleagues of different backgrounds. Team work was encouraged and the roles of chair, scribe and presenter were given to different people in each session, letting every participant have the chance to bring his or her relevant contribution. Afternoon sessions occurred in small groups under the leadership of the faculty experts. These sessions gave us the great opportunity of learning and interacting with worldwide leaders of WGO.

The issues addressed in TTT were highly relevant, especially because some of them were never taught in medical school or workshops. Themes



Team work was encouraged, letting every participant have the chance to bring his or her relevant contribution

like e-learning, procedure teaching and feedback were some of them. E-learning (teaching and learning using internet) is here to stay. Current and next generations are very prone to using internet constantly and this teaching method can be very attractive to them. Moreover, it is a way of decentralizing the regular lecture process, since students can access important information at home, using classroom meeting as an opportunity to dive deeper into the subjects. Procedure teaching was really new to the audience. Old school methods of only watching were replaced by a different approach with specific steps involving the teacher and trainees, making them really aware of the moves and maneuvers they are performing. Discussions on feedback were conducted since the beginning of the workshop and gave us some important ways to improve our own skills and results in teaching activities.

Classical subjects like evidence-based medicine, epidemiology, study design, abstract writing and publication of articles were approached by worldwide experts. Being close to great researchers and journal editors of the faculty gave us the opportunity

The issues addressed in TTT were highly relevant, especially because some of them were never taught in medical school or workshops.

to learn very important tips on these issues. Small group work on study design was extremely important, since we had the chance of facing real life study questions and we could build our own way to solve them. After that, we presented this study design to the big group and, as usual in TTT, we had the feedback of all the participants and experts from our study design, giving us great advice.

But TTT was not just science! Every dinner together was an opportunity to build friendships and networking, alongside tasting the amazing local cuisine. Participants had a very warm welcome from our

hosts from Romania. Faculty and participants members from Romania gave us all the support necessary to focus on TTT, with great facilities and good care of every detail of the workshop. Our city tour in Bucharest was a special moment that ended in a very traditional restaurant where music, dance, food and wine showed us the flavors of this beautiful country. The cultural evening was also a touching moment where everyone had the opportunity to show some of their own culture. Every corner of the world was represented in TTT and it was amazing to take home a piece of the culture of people from numerous parts of the world.

My teaching and personal life will not be the same after Romania TTT. Network, friends and unique techniques made me a better person. I give many thanks to Mario Reis Álvares-da-Silva from the WGO Porto Alegre Training Center for giving me the opportunity to participate in this course by nominating me to be a participant. Back home I already started using more active learning methods, besides taking better care in giving feedback. E-learning is the next step to improve my institution teaching results. The journey in Romania was beautiful and my own is just beginning at home.

■

TTT perspective from Romania: Interactive lectures and group dynamics in practice



Georgiana-Emmanuela Gilcă-Blanariu

Romania



The cultural evening was a special time we spent together

For me, as a gastroenterologist in training, at the beginning of the teaching career as well, the chance to take part at WGO's Train the Trainers program arose at a perfect time, giving me the opportunity to have an insight, early in my career, on how to do things professionally. These topics ranged from critical appraisal, how to prepare a paper for publication, hints on preparing an abstract, to EBM and trial design, to embracing professionalism in all aspects of our career.

Among the first things that had a great positive impact during the sessions was how interactive the lectures were, and how group dynamics were put into practice. For me, it was extremely important to have been part of an amazing team, with members from across the world, and heterogeneous backgrounds, but who managed to work together productively, to

support each other, leading to a great context to learn from each other, both from tutors and colleagues. At times during our group work, especially on the first days, we felt the need for more time to prepare our presentations, and this experience helped us learn to finish the task in the available time frame and consequently to improve our time management skills as well.

All the teamwork set grounding for the bonds and the friendships we created, which were further enhanced during the social program, which also helped us get to know each other better, identify common hobbies and to share our culture and traditions. The cultural evening was a special time we spent together, when we were offered a glimpse of such amazing and diverse cultures; it was extremely fulfilling to see how colleagues enjoyed getting to see the Romanian traditional dancing, clothing and cuisine and also to have been able to contribute myself to highlighting the Romanian cultural background.

In my mind, TTT presented in an interactive way a wide range of knowledge that a complete gastroenterology trainer should acquire.

TTT has also offered the opportunity to learn from extremely skilled teachers, who shared with us not only their knowledge on how to conduct an RCT or to write a good abstract, but also their educational skills, public speaking hints and how to make our presentations more appealing and suitable for the target audience. Since I find these skills are extremely valuable for my career, I consider tackling these aspects as important strong points of the TTT program; moreover, following this training I began improving these features during my presentations and have already received great feedback. During the TTT we also learned how to offer feedback, so now I am able to not only practice this skill but also teach my students to do so and to suggest this to my colleagues as well.

In my mind, TTT presented in an interactive way a wide range of knowledge that a complete gastroenterology trainer should acquire. It was a great opportunity that WGO and the Romanian Society of Gastroenterology & Hepatology, through all the involved members, offered me, and I hope I will be able to contribute to improvement of gastroenterology practice, research and teaching and spread the knowledge I gained through this amazing experience.

Thank you, TTT team and all WGO staff for your contribution to make this wonderful experience possible and for all efforts to keep it growing!



Train the Trainers: A unique experience combining learning clinical teaching skills and global networking for all gastroenterology specialties



Laura Merras-Salmio

Finland



Johanna Louhimo

Finland



Taina Sipponen

Finland

Inspired by the past encouraging reports from our colleagues on the TTT program, we set out to travel from Finland to the Bucharest TTT on a beautiful spring Sunday. The Romanian Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology hosted the four-day TTT course held in a congress hotel close to the Bucharest international airport. Having dutifully read and prepared for the assigned pre-tasks (including curious dance move videoclips), we felt already in advance that this was going to be a productive week. And indeed, it turned out to be so.

The three of us representing the Finnish Society of Gastroenterology come all from different specialties: a GI surgeon, a pediatric gastroenterol-

ogist and a gastroenterologist. During the course, the medical background became superfluous as the course subjects were those uniting us all: how to best teach/coach our trainees to succeed in acquiring the necessary clinical, academic and motor skills. There was much focus on evaluation: both encouraging self-evaluation and teaching us to give both critical and positive feedback. We learned to apply the Pendleton's Rules for evaluation in practice, including evaluating our own dancing performances ("Yes, we think the group succeeded best in actually following the beat of the music, and yes, next time we think a more organized practice session would be needed to kick up the performance").

Medical education is undergoing major changes and during this TTT course, we were given the opportunity to learn about some modern teaching methods applying e-learning and more interactive approaches.

The course program in general was organized into well-defined sessions, breaking the participants into small groups for more hands-on practice, with general summary discussions concluding the sessions. Days were full: starting at 7:45 AM lasting until 4:30 PM, with evening social programs and dinner (and one afternoon city sightseeing trip) taking up the evenings.

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The course program in general was organized into well-defined sessions

more interactive approaches. Each various session included also “old-fashioned” 30 minute lectures on a specific topic. While some of them were inspiring enough they did pale in comparison with the buzz and involvement associated with some other teaching modalities employed during the TTT. Academic skills teaching was addressed in sessions focusing on critical paper appraisal and trial design, and a small group teaching on abstract preparation. Regarding these workshops, the most notable was the small group breakout session where all groups had assignments on various clinical research setup challenges. This was a convenient way to point out how to spot confounding factors and trial design specifics, which have a major impact on the interpretation of trial results. Another specific entity

was professionalism, credentialing and formal assessment of trainees. We learned later that some of these were new additions to the TTT program based on previous participant feedback. We endorse this addition, while the single topic of professionalism would be best addressed in an interactive setting. Multiple choice question preparation and trainee program development were useful and important sessions, as well as the quick dip into interpersonal skills. With the acquired new skills, one of us has already created her first vodcast, as well as applied the Pendleton’s rules of feedback with great success!

Overall, the course was extremely well-organized, with well-functioning schedules (for us Finns very important...) and arrangements. The Romanian hosts provided for welcoming

and lively evenings with traditional music and dancing – lots of dancing! Team building events were very efficient and helped the entire group to feel more united and to befriend colleagues from all around the globe. The atmosphere between faculty and participants was warm and casual.

We warmly endorse participating in the TTT program for all WGO members, regardless of their background or whether coming from low- or high-income countries. We have made friendships all over the world, have learned new methods to improve our own practice of teaching medical students and specialist trainees as well as increased our understanding of the entire process involved in growing and nurturing a new generation of professionals.



A dense and rich week dedicated to sharing experiences



Rado Ramanampamonjy

Madagascar

This was far from the usual workshop where speeches monopolize either by the presenter who wanted to show off his knowledge or by some participants who want to illustrate themselves. Each participant had the opportunity to express themselves in order to fully benefit from the training.

It was not the first time I attended an international meeting in hepatology and gastroenterology, nor was it the first time I had the privilege of participating in a train the trainers workshop. But I admit that this workshop, Train the Trainers organized by the WGO with the active participation of the Romanian Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, had a particular flavor.

This TTT was so distinctive in its choice of themes. Indeed, the different aspects of education have been explored. Among which, topics such as group discussion, e-learning were discussed. But in addition, techniques for training young trainees in learning technical procedures such as digestive endoscopy were also shared.

As education rhymes with publication, I have also been able to benefit from sharing experiences on topics such as evidence-based medicine, publication and ways to conduct a study.

Personally I was surprised by other topics that do not appear frequently on the menu of a training work-

shop but remain very relevant as the different educational tools to assess learners through topics such as critical appraisal, assessment and appraisal, credentialing, and writing multiple choice questions. Personally, this is the first time that I saw the topic “professionalism” during a workshop and having addressed it during this meeting, I am entirely convinced that this subject deserves to be mentioned and has all its importance.

I particularly appreciated the fact that after having tackled a theme, a practice is followed by group work which allowed us to come back to the salient points of the previously taught techniques.

The subjects were interesting, but the way the training was conducted also appealed to me for several reasons.

Firstly, the topics were tackled by highly specialized international experts on their subjects, but the transmission was done in a very simple and relaxed way with the active participation of the participants.

This was far from the usual workshop

where speeches monopolize either by the presenter who wanted to show off his knowledge or by some participants who want to illustrate themselves. Each participant had the opportunity to express themselves in order to fully benefit from the training.

Secondly, the perfect timing allotted meant we did not have time to be bored. On the contrary, I would have liked to see some themes be given more time when the subject was new and interesting.

In short, it was a very dense and very rich week in which every moment was dedicated to sharing experiences in order to improve participants' ability to teach and train.

But periods of relaxation also punctuated this week. These times have strengthened ties between participants from around the world through fun activities. These activities allowed each participant to bring their touches so that this meeting is unique. Personally, I particularly remember the cultural evening where each participant has a few minutes to present his or her country.

We cannot comment on this workshop without highlighting the city of Bucharest, which was chosen for its organization and admirable hosts, the Romanians. Indeed, the organizers provided opportunity for us to



Group work allowed us to come back to the salient points of the previously taught techniques

tour the beautiful city of Bucharest, which is full of cultural and historic sites teeming with stories. Honestly, I think that this event met such a success, because our friends, Romanians, through the dynamic SRGH, who have shown themselves as remarkable hosts. They behaved like true ambassadors of their country who were able to show us the quintessence of the culture of Romania. Their sense of hospitality and their kindness recognized by the participants made this week very pleasant.

I cannot finish my testimony without highlighting the fact that this is a

time when we can have very interesting connections because more than 25 nationalities were represented. I especially enjoyed the moments of discussion during which I was able to exchange with my brothers and sisters from Africa, among others Profs. Damon Bizos and Naima Amrani, as well as the moments when I could talk with French and American colleagues about the projects that I want to put in place for my own country of Madagascar. I also fondly recall the times of sharing experiences with a liver transplant specialist from Croatia.

As for me, this TTT workshop

organized by the WGO has met all my expectations, I will return to my country eager to put into practice the achievements of this workshop. My only regret is to have forgotten to ask the WGO team about the date of the next edition of TTT so that I can apply and this time I hope to come with other Malagasy colleagues and to meet other colleagues because workshops like this TTT I recommend to everyone!





DONATE TODAY

Contributions to **The WGO Foundation** support and expand the educational, training, research, and awareness programs and initiatives of WGO by strengthening the reach of WGO to areas in the world that benefit directly from the education offered through programs such as Training Centers, Train the Trainers, World Digestive Health Day, Global Guidelines, and meetings such as the World Congress.

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Scan me to go to the WGO website!

WGO Guidelines and Cascades at the World Congress of Gastroenterology (WCOG)

WGO has a library of 26 Global Guidelines, which are written from a viewpoint of global applicability. Each Guideline goes through a rigorous process of authoring, editing, and peer review, and is as evidence based as possible. WGO is the only organization whose guidelines have adopted a global focus. Each WGO guideline is available in English, French, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish and is updated as new information and evidence is discovered. The Global Guidelines Committee meets each year to discuss updating and creating new guidelines and consists of 30-plus members from around the globe.

Many of WGO's Guidelines will be highlighted as part of the robust Scientific Program of the World Congress of Gastroenterology in Istanbul.

Be sure to attend the sessions featuring:



A Resource Sensitive Solution

Saturday 21 September 2019	
12:05	Probiotics and Prebiotics Guideline Prof. Francisco Guarner
Sunday 22 September 2019	
11:45	Hepatitis C Guideline Prof. Gamal Esmat
11:45	Celiac Disease Guideline Prof. Carolina Olano
11:45	GERD Guideline Prof. Greger Lindberg
15:30	<i>H. Pylori</i> in Developing Countries Guideline Prof. David Armstrong
15:30	Hepatitis B Guideline Prof. Vasily A. Isakov
16:50	WGO Guidelines Prof. Greger Lindberg
17:10	Diet and the Gut Guideline Prof. Govind Makharia
17:10	Tuberculosis Guideline Prof. Mohamed Tahiri
17:30	Strongyloidiasis Guideline Prof. Paul Kelly
17:30	NASH and NAFL Guideline Prof. Saeed Hamid
Monday 23 September 2019	
9:45	HCC Guideline Prof. Salma Barakat Modawi
17:30	IBD Prof. Rami Eliakim

Calendar of Events

WGO RELATED MEETINGS

World Congress of Gastroenterology 2019

When: September 21-24, 2019
Location: Istanbul, Turkey
Organizers: WGO and the Turkish Society of Gastroenterology (TSG)
Website: www.wcog2019.org

Gastro 2020 Prague

When: December 3-5, 2020
Location: Prague, Czech Republic
Organizers: WGO and the Czech Society of Gastroenterology
Website: www.gastro2020prague.org

World Congress of Gastroenterology 2021

When: December 12-15, 2021
Location: Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Organizers: WGO and the Emirates Gastroenterology and Hepatology Society

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EUS ENDO 2019 - International Live Course

When: September 19-21, 2019
Location: Palais des Congres, Aix-en-Provence, France
Course Directors: Drs. Marc Giovannini and Erwan Bories
Website: <http://www.eus-endo.org/en>

13th Annual Conference of the International Liver Cancer Association (ILCA)

When: September 20-22, 2019
Location: Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile, Chicago, Illinois, USA
Organizer: International Liver Cancer Association (ILCA)
Email: info@ilca-online.org
Website: <https://ilca2019.org>

XIV Congreso Paraguayo de Gastroenterología y Endoscopia Digestiva

When: September 25-27, 2019
Location: Asuncion, Paraguay
Organizer: Sociedad Paraguaya de Gastroenterología
Website: <https://www.congreso.spge.org.py>

Trilogía Vol. 3 - Curso de Posgrado

When: September 27-28, 2019
Location: Hotel Diego de Mazariegos, San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico
Organizer: Asociación Mexicana de Gastroenterología
Website: <http://gastro.org.mx/trilogia-vol-3>

Taiwan Digestive Disease Week 2019

When: September 27-29, 2019
Location: Kaohsiung Exhibition Center, Kaohsiung, Taiwan
Organizer: The Gastroenterological Society of Taiwan
Website: <http://www.tddw.org>

XXV United Russian Gastroenterology Week

When: October 7-9, 2019
Location: Moscow World Trade Center, 12 Krasnopresnenskaya embankment, 123610 Moscow, Russian Federation
Organizer: Russian Gastroenterological Association
Email: rga-org@yandex.ru
Website: www.gastro.ru

39th Panhellenic Congress of Gastroenterology

When: October 10-13, 2019
Location: Athens, Greece
Organizer: Hellenic Society of Gastroenterology
Website: <http://www.hsg.gr>

27th United European Gastroenterology (UEG) Week Barcelona 2019

When: October 19-23, 2019
Location: Fira Gran Via, Barcelona, Spain
Organizer: United European Gastroenterology
Website: www.ueg.eu/week

Gastro Cuba 2019: VII Congress

When: October 22-25, 2019
Location: Palacio de Convenciones, Havana, Cuba
Organizer: Sociedad Cubana De Gastroenterología
Website: <http://www.gastrocuba2019.com>

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/forms/submit-event.php> to submit your event for publication in WGO's website conference calendar as well as the quarterly e-WGN calendar of events!

XXVII Congreso Dominicano de Gastroenterología**When:** October 24-27, 2019**Location:** Punta Cana, Dominican Republic**Organizer:** Sociedad Dominicana De Gastroenterología**Website:** <http://sodogastro.com/esp>**ACG 2019 Annual Scientific Meeting and Postgraduate Course****When:** October 25-30, 2019**Location:** Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, San Antonio, Texas, USA**Organizer:** American College of Gastroenterology**Email:** info@gi.org**Website:** www.gi.org**19th Iranian Congress of Gastroenterology and Hepatology****When:** November 5-8, 2019**Location:** Tehran, Iran**Organizer:** Iranian Association of Gastroenterology and Hepatology**Website:** <http://iaghcongress.org>**2nd European Lifestyle Medicine Congress****When:** November 8-10, 2019**Location:** Roma Eventi - Fontana di Trevi, Rome, Italy**Organizer:** European Lifestyle Medicine Organization (ELMO)**Email:** info@elmocongress.com**Website:** www.elmocongress.com**The Liver Meeting® 2019****When:** November 8-12, 2019**Location:** Hynes Convention Center, Boston, Massachusetts, USA**Organizer:** AASLD**Website:** <https://www.aasld.org/event/liver-meeting>**Emirates International Gastroenterology and Hepatology Conference (EIGHC 2019)****When:** November 14-16, 2019**Location:** Dubai International Convention & Exhibition Center, Dubai, United Arab Emirates**Organizer:** Emirates Gastroenterology & Hepatology Society**Website:** <http://eighc.com>**Semana Nacional de Gastroenterología 2019****When:** November 16-20, 2019**Location:** Cancún ICC International Convention Center, Cancún, Quintana Roo, Mexico**Organizer:** Asociación Mexicana de Gastroenterología**Website:** <http://www.gastro.org.mx>**Cancer: Evidence Based Therapies – Prevention and Treatment****When:** November 16, 2019**Location:** The Auditorium Prof. Stanisław Skoczowski, West Pomeranian University of Technology in Szczecin, UL, Poland**Organizer:** Pomeranian Medical University in Szczecin**Email:** dietykafunkcjonalnapum@gmail.com**Website:** <http://neurobiota.pum.edu.pl>**JDDW 2019 - Japan Digestive Disease Week 2019****When:** November 21-24, 2019**Location:** Kobe, Hyogo, Japan**Organizer:** Organization of JDDW**Website:** <http://www.jddw.jp/english/index.html>**43 Congres SMMAD 2019****When:** November 21-23, 2019**Location:** Hotel Royal Tulip, Tanger, Morocco**Organizers:** Société Marocaine Des Maladies de L'Appareil Digestif and Federation Maghrebine de Gastro-Enterologie**Website:** www.smmad-ma.com**XVIII Semana Brasileira do Aparelho Digestivo****When:** November 23-26, 2019**Location:** Centro de Eventos do Ceara, Fortaleza, Brazil**Organizers:** Federação Brasileira de Gastroenterologia (FBG), Sociedade Brasileira de Endoscopia Digestiva (SOBED) and the Colégio Brasileiro de Cirurgia Digestiva (CBCD)**Website:** <http://www.sbad.com.br>**XLVI Congreso Chileno de Gastroenterología****When:** November 26-28, 2019**Location:** Antofagasta, Chile**Organizer:** Sociedad Chilena de Gastroenterología**Website:** www.sociedadgastro.cl**18th Annual Congress****When:** November 29, 2019 - November 30, 2019**Location:** Hilton Habtoor Hotel, Beirut, Lebanon**Organizer:** Lebanese Gastroenterology Society**Email:** lebanesegastrosociety@gmail.com**Website:** www.lsgc.org**European Colorectal Congress****When:** December 1-5, 2019**Location:** St. Gallen, Switzerland**Organizer:** Medkongress AG**Email:** info@colorectalsurgery.eu**Website:** www.colorectalsurgery.eu**Egypt Gastrohep 2019: 12th Hepatology and Gastroenterology Post Graduate Course and 10th Pan Arab Congress of Gastroenterology****When:** December 5-9, 2019**Location:** Conrad Hotel, Cairo, Egypt**Course Director:** Ibrahim Mostafa**Email:** congress@roeyaegypt.com**Website:** www.egyptgastrohep.com

9th Latvian Gastroenterology Congress with International participation**When:** December 7, 2019**Location:** Riga Congress Center, Riga, Latvia**Organizer:** Latvian Gastroenterologists Association**Email:** jelena.derova@gastroenterologs.lv**Website:** www.gastroenterologs.lv**Asian Pacific Digestive Week 2019****When:** December 12-15, 2019**Location:** Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, Kolkata, India**Organizers:** Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology, Asian Pacific Association for the Study of the Liver, Asian Pacific Society of Digestive Endoscopy and International Society for Digestive Surgery- Asian Pacific Section**Website:** <http://www.apdw2019.com>**36th PSG Annual Congress****When:** February 28 - March 1, 2020**Location:** Pearl Continental, Peshawar, Pakistan**Organizer:** Pakistan Society of Gastroenterology & GI Endoscopy**Email:** muzammil.mh@live.com**Website:** www.psg2020.com**APASL 2020****When:** March 4, 2020 - March 8, 2020**Location:** Bali, Indonesia**Organizer:** Asian Pacific Association for the Study of the Liver**Website:** <http://apasl2020.org>**Endo 2020 - 2nd World Congress of Endoscopy****When:** March 7-10, 2020**Location:** Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**Organizers:** World Endoscopy Organization, Sociedade Brasileira de Endoscopia Digestiva and Interamerican Society of Digestive Endoscopy**Website:** www.endo2020.org**9th AMAGE Congress****When:** March 18, 2020 - March 20, 2020**Location:** Amman, Jordan**Organizer:** African Middle East Association of Gastroenterology (AMAGE)**23rd Annual Meeting****When:** March 25-28, 2020**Location:** Madrid, Spain**Organizer:** Asociación Española de Gastroenterología (AEG)**Website:** www.aegastro.es**International Liver Congress 2020 (ILC)****When:** April 15, 2020 - April 19, 2020**Location:** London, United Kingdom**Organizer:** EASL**Website:** <https://easl.eu>**Portuguese Digestive Week 2020****When:** June 3-6, 2020**Location:** Centro de Congressos do Algarve, Vilamoura, Portugal**Organizer:** Sociedade Portuguesa de Gastrenterologia**Email:** geral@spg.pt**Website:** www.semanadigestiva.pt**International Symposium on Viral Hepatitis and Liver Disease (ISVHLD)****When:** June 18-21, 2020**Location:** Taipei International Convention Center, Taipei, Taiwan**Organizer:** ISVHLD / GHS and the Taiwan Association for the Study of the Liver**Website:** www.ghs2020taipei.com**Congress of the Association of Gastroenterologists and Hepatologists in Bosnia and Herzegovina****When:** September 10, 2020**Location:** Cultural Centre Banski Dvor, Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina**Organizer:** Association of Gastroenterologists and Hepatologists in Bosnia and Herzegovina**Website:** <http://www.geha.ba>**Asian Pacific Digestive Week 2020****When:** September 19-22, 2020**Location:** Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**Organizers:** Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology and Malaysian Society of Gastroenterology & Hepatology**Website:** <http://www.apdw2020.org>**28th UEG Week****When:** October 10-14, 2020**Location:** RAI, Amsterdam, Netherlands**Organizer:** United European Gastroenterology**Website:** <https://www.ueg.eu>**Panamerican Digestive Disease Week 2020****When:** November 4-7, 2020**Location:** Punta del Este, Uruguay**Organizer:** OPGE**Website:** www.sped2020.uy**JDDW 2020 - Japan Digestive Disease Week 2020****When:** November 5-8, 2020**Location:** Kobe, Japan**Organizer:** Organization of JDDW**Website:** <http://www.jddw.jp/english/index.html>**JDDW 2021 - Japan Digestive Disease Week 2021****When:** November 4-7, 2021**Location:** Kobe, Japan**Organizer:** Organization of JDDW**Website:** <http://www.jddw.jp/english/index.html>**JDDW 2022 - Japan Digestive Disease Week 2022****When:** October 27-30, 2022**Location:** Fukuoka, Japan**Organizer:** Organization of JDDW**Website:** <http://www.jddw.jp/english/index.html>