

By: Ellist L. Muñiz

### WGO Bogotá Training Center

#### The latest updates

Dr. Luis Carlos Sabbagh, Director of WGO Bogotá Training Center and Chairperson of the Training Centers celebrated the 30th International Course Anniversary of Gastroenterology and Digestive Advanced Endoscopy on Feb 1 - Feb 3, 2024, at Grand Hyatt Bogotá. Dr. Sabbagh had over twenty international lecturers from all over the country. This includes Professor Guilherme Macedo - Director of WGO Porto Training Center / Former President of WGO and Professor Vivek Kaul - Secretary General from Rochester, New York.

The modules presented were about:

The Diagnostic Challenge of Barrett's Esophagus in 2024, Helicobacter Pylori in 2024, The High-Risk Polyp: EMR vs FTR vs ESD, Liver biopsy in 2024, Endoscopic Complication Management, what is Leadership in Medicine? Post ERCP Pancreatitis 50 years later, Advanced Endoscopic Ultrasound, and many more topics. We will need the entire newsletter to express all the topics that were presented at the 30th Anniversary.

Many attendees approached Professor Macedo regarding their interest in his topic: "What is Leadership in Medicine?" This means the future is about to evolve in a way that will bring to everyone a different perspective of viewing every scenario and approaching things with innovative ideas. Have you thought about Artificial Intelligence (AI)?

See who else attended the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:



Marissa López - Director of WGO,  
Ellist L. Muñiz - Program Manager of WGO



Dr. Albis Hani  
Bogotá, Colombia



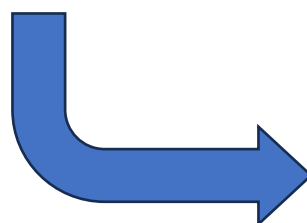
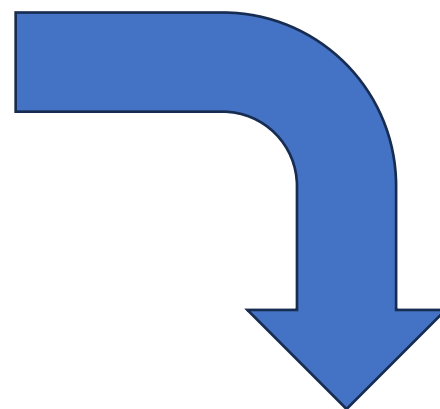
Dr. Maria Teresa Galiano  
Bogotá, Colombia



Professor Guilherme Macedo,  
Dr. Luis Carlos Sabbagh



Professor Vivek Kaul  
Rochester, NY



### Ankara Training Center Will be Active Soon!

Dr. Sedat Boyacıoğlu

Read further.



### Myanmar Training Center The latest updates

Prof. Than Than Aye

The Training Center needs remote training assistance.....Please reach out to Dr. Luis C. Sabbagh ([sabbaghluis@gmail.com](mailto:sabbaghluis@gmail.com)) for further information

### Bogotá Training Center The latest updates

Dr. Luis Carlos Sabbagh

30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Course was held on, February 1, 2, & 3, 2024, Bogotá Colombia.



By: Ellist L. Muñiz

### What happened at the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Course?

On the first day of arrival the following doctors / leaders visited Reina Sofia Clinic.



These leaders had the opportunity to be with Dr. Luis Carlos Sabbagh where they learned more about the clinic and the services.

Dr. Sabbagh received various recognition awards at his 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Course. One of the awards was from WGO. Throughout the years Dr. Sabbagh has demonstrated himself to be loyal, responsible, engaged to his patients, and valuable to many. Furthermore, he has a passion to serve in a distinct way that many can envy. He excels in all he does and wants. His leadership and modesty are one of his huge virtues that has allowed him to surpass any obstacles, and serve others through his expertise as a gastroenterologist, exceeding patient's, and customer's expectations.

## Time for photos!



**Now is show time!**



Professor Vivek Kaul presenting WGO's award

By: Ellist L. Muñiz

### Cont... with photos



**Guess who is the boy with his innocent look?**



Has he changed? Absolutely not!

Ankara Training Center

By: Prof. Sedat Boyacioglu

## WGO Ankara Training Center

### The latest updates to get you through the day

The Ankara Training Center has been inactive since COVID 2019. Professor Sedat Boyacioglu met with the Turkish Society of Gastroenterology president. A decision was made: Former president of the Society, Professor Dilek Oguz will replace Professor Sedat Boyacioglu. After the replacement, a new form of training will start. Professor Dilek Oguz's email address: [ddkoguz@yahoo.com](mailto:ddkoguz@yahoo.com).

In March, Dr. Luis Carlos Sabbagh met with Professor Oguz and Professor Ayhan Hilmi Cekin, Chief, Department of Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology, Antalya Training and Research Hospital, Secretary General of Turkish Gastroenterology Association. Professor Oguz will submit an annual report and is looking towards our assistance in bringing back on-board Ankara Training Center.

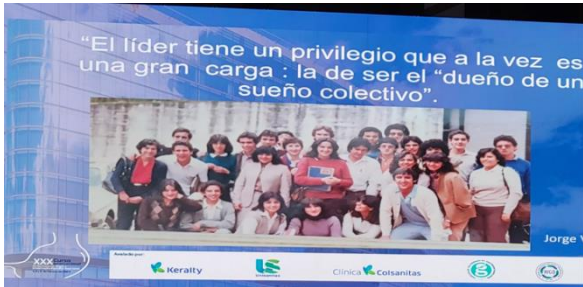


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### Cont...with..Photos

### Myanmar Training Center

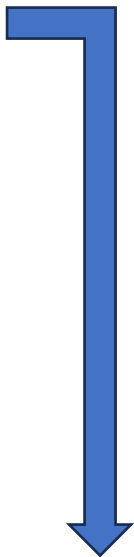


The plan was to start *remote training* in September 2023; for Endo-Nurses. We need those who can assist with training. If you can assist, please send an email to [emuniz@worldgastroenterology.org](mailto:emuniz@worldgastroenterology.org) and Mrs. Ellist L. Muñiz will forward the information to the appropriate area / people.

**Thank you in advance for assisting Myanmar Training Center**

The leader has a privilege that is at the same time a great burden: being the "owner of a lonely dream."

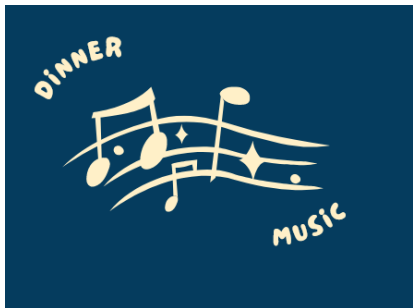
**The following Directors has agreed to assist Myanmar:**  
Professor Guilherme Macedo, Porto Training Center  
Ibrahim Mostafa, Cairo Training Center



Dr. Sabbagh thanks everyone for all the recognitions / awards, and kind words he received. He thanks those who contributed towards the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Course being a successful and memorable event. He couldn't thank enough all the participants, lecturers, attendees, and those who worked behind the scenes.

He humbly thanks his team which he works with every day. He appreciates the quality of work they do by achieving high standards, efficiency, along with excellence, human warmth, and assurance great service to all the patients.

Customer service is a key factor in every task it is performed. Viewing from the patient's lens will allow you to focus on the patient's needs and wants. No matter which positions you held in your career, exceeding customer's expectations is a must.





By: Professor Ahmed ElBehiry

**WGO Cairo Training Center**

During 2023, the Cairo Training Center organized two training courses in Cairo, Egypt. We started off in June with the Africa Health ExCon. The ExCon theme was "Health Care Challenges in Africa", which was attended by eight of the biggest names in gastroenterology in Africa who are heads of local GIT societies or WGO training centers said Professor Ahmed ElBehiry.

Four discussion sessions were held about gastrointestinal hemorrhage, colorectal cancer screening, endoscopy skills training, and H. pylori eradication. All the topics were discussed between professors from Egypt and Africa, and it was a great chance to exchange experiences and knowledge between gastroenterology professors from different Egyptian and African societies, universities, and institutes.



**Session Discussions:**

In the GIT hemorrhage session, it was discussed the main problem that is a shortage in the endoscopy units, and accessories, there is no sufficient training, which leads to the referral of patients to areas outside and away from the towns or countries, which raises the mortality rate.

In the Colorectal cancer screening session, was found that the age of presentation differs from Europe; it may present in Africa at an age less than 40 years, and it differs in its location, its side is mostly in the right colon, and late diagnosis of cases.

In the Training in Africa session, it was presented what was trained in the past 20 years in Africa and how to improve it and how to connect with other training centers. Also, it was discussed the shortage in endoscopy training in some African countries like Djibouti, Tanzania etc. and shortage in simulators needed for endoscopy training in their hospitals.

In the H. pylori eradication session: There are no specific guidelines for H. pylori eradication in Africa, and it was found that H. pylori is highly endemic in Africa, and it's widely spread in children.

Conclusion from the meeting of the leaders in gastroenterology in Africa:

1. The African countries need more training locally.
2. Shortage of all the endoscopic accessories and endoscopic units.
3. A registry of colorectal cancer cases should be done to accurately estimate the problem and putting specific guidelines for colorectal cancer screening because the European and American guidelines don't fit in Africa.

4. Putting specific guidelines for Africa in H. pylori eradication.

**Future-Plans:**

Invest in training in Africa within their own centers by funding for instruments and simulators and improving communication between different African countries to put guidelines for their specific disease.

Professor Ahmed ElBehiry said, in December, the second course, organized was an ERCP Training Program that took place from December 6th to December 15th, 2023. The program was attended by 23 African doctors who were selected to have a background in ERCP and to be able to build upon their previous basic knowledge with advanced lectures and hands-on training presented by an elite group of ERCP experts. During the ten-days course, the trainees have attended 13 lectures presented by international experts in collaboration with EGH, 17 lectures by Egyptian experts, 7 hands-on training sessions, 3 live endoscopy broadcasts, and focused crash courses with groups of 10 doctors each who would spend 4 hours with 2 international experts to discuss what they can learn from the experts and what the experts can learn from them.



By: Professor Ahmed ElBehiry

**WGO Cairo Training Center**

Continue...

Professor Ahmed ElBehiry said, they decided to shift their focus from mainly endoscopy to a broader view of the life of a doctor.

So, they had one full day focused on team building, leadership skills, personal accountability, and how to break the victimhood cycle.

And another full day focused on Basic and Advanced Life Support lectures and hands-on sessions, upper airway management lectures, upper airway opening maneuvers, and Laryngeal Mask Airway (LMA) insertion hands-on sessions.



By: Professor Ahmed ElBehiry

**WGO Cairo Training Center  
The latest update**

Dr. Miriam Gatehi who works at Kenyatta University Teaching & Referral Hospital (KUTRRH) that she has done the first ERCP in her hospital after one month of her training course in the Cairo Training Center.

Dr. Gatehi sent a picture of her during the ERCP with a message to Professor Ibrahim Mostafa and her training course colleagues: **“Hello team.....celebrating small wins”**.

First ERCP: intubation, cannulation, guide wire. Assisted with placing a metal stent.

**Thank you, Professor Ibrahim, the training was of great benefit!** “



By: Professor Guilherme Macedo

**WGO Porto Training Center  
The latest update**

The World Gastroenterology and Hepatology Training Center in Porto, located at the Gastroenterology Department of Centro Hospitalar Universitario S.João, Porto, provides several educational events in the area of Endoscopy, Hepatology, and Gastroenterology, designed to regional and international attendees, and has recently created a pioneer embracing teaching structure designated as Precision Medicine Unit.

Professor Macedo said: on January 15<sup>th</sup>, this year, we ran the first edition of Masterclass in Artificial Intelligence in Gastroenterology, focused on the basics and recent developments in this area, mainly dedicated to endoscopy. The program, in attachment, consisted of a full day immersion in the current landscape of Artificial Intelligence and was developed after a highly intense activity with both prolific academic and editorial endeavors.

The aim was to involve a wide range of potential national Units to become fully aware of the increasing importance of these topics. Indeed, Artificial Intelligence's transformative role has been highlighted in different medical specialties, and specialties with robust imaging and diagnostic components have assumed a leading position in the implementation of this technology. With the advent of the big data era, accumulating a gigantic number of digital images and medical records created an unparalleled set of resources for developing user-friendly AI tools.

The advent of deep learning in gastro-intestinal endoscopy, with its evolutionary character, is leading to a paradigm shift in clinical activity in this setting and we want to provide the appropriate information to surf this gigantic wave.

The 25 participants had a full and long enjoyable day, understanding the current and immediate horizons of AI in Endoscopy. This unique program will evolve to larger scale platforms, helping the GI community not to fear but apply all these amazing possibilities.



By: Ellist L. Muñíz

**e-WGN – To all Directors and Co-Directors**

Things to keep in mind

**The e-WGN EPOV form has changed.**

Please use the online submission form using the following link: <https://form.jotform.com/231257798490064>.

You can find all submission instructions and it will make sure you will have all needed components prior submission.

Below are the dates for 2024 submissions:

**Issue 2**

Content Deadline – April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Publication Date – June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Issue 3**

Content Deadline – July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Publication Date – September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Issue 4**

Content Deadline – October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Publication Date – December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024





By: Ellist L. Muñiz

## The latest breaking news of the day

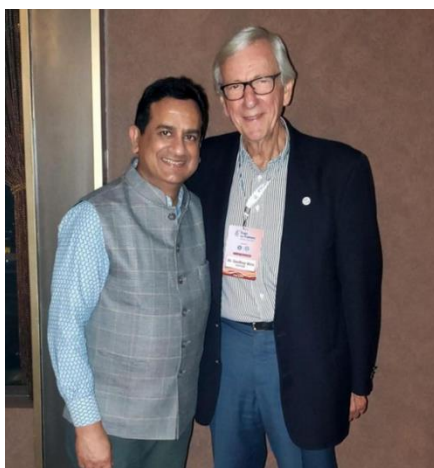
Guess where a Train the Trainer (TTT) workshop took place in February?

Train the Trainers was held in **Kolkata, India: 8-10 February 2024**. In partnership with the Indian Society of Gastroenterology (ISG), this TTT was highly successful. There were 48 participants and 11 faculty from 15 different countries who participated in three days of interactive learning sessions on a variety of key topics and issues, utilizing a few new modules introduced at the Colombia TTT last year. TTT is about more than just being an educational workshop. It is also about having fun, making memories, and learning the culture.

The faculty and participants enjoyed the events that were scheduled such as: cruise, cultural night, scenery and many more. The Indian Society of Gastroenterology (ISG) was an incredible host society for the Train the Trainers workshop in Kolkata.



This picture says it all. They were enjoying the time, location, weather, and surroundings.



Prof. Govind Makharia with our WGO President Prof. Geoffrey Metz

The experience and the relationships that each participant creates during their stay is unbelievable. There are no words to express their satisfaction and happiness.



Participants were physicians locally and internationally. What a beautiful environment!



Milly Gonzalez - WGO Secretariat at Kolkata, who works behind the scenes, and at the same time hand by hand with the team.

What an entrance to the Train the Trainer workshop!



By: Ellist L. Muñiz

## The latest breaking news

### 2024 Executive Committee

The Executive Committee - leadership team gathered in Porto, Portugal to discuss strategic planning.



From left to right, Prof. Vivek Kaul, USA - Secretary General, Prof. Carolina Olano, Uruguay - President Elect, Prof. Guilherme Macedo, Portugal - Past President, Prof. Geoffrey Metz, Australia - President and Chair of the WGO Foundation, Dr. Dan Dumitrascu, Romania - Director At-Large, and Prof. Kaichun Wu, China - Treasurer - on the screen.

Marissa Lopez and Zachary Blevins, both were at Porto, Portugal with the leaders.



By: Ellist L. Muñiz

### Thank you to all Directors / Co-Directors

Thank you to all Directors / Co-Directors that took their time to complete the WGO 2023 Training Center Annual Report and the WGO 2024 Educational Activity application.

We value your time and effort. We understand how busy you are with your schedule and providing your best service to your patients, customers, and surroundings.

Please keep in mind we will send the WGO 2024 Trainee Grants Program Application once funds are available. This is the best route moving forward. This will avoid any misunderstanding and disappointment. Once funds are available all Directors / Co-Directors will receive an email with the WGO 2024 Trainee Grants Program Application, which will allow you to forward the application to the participants. Keeping in mind grants are not guaranteed.





By: Ellist L. Muñiz

# The latest breaking news of the day

## Train the Trainers Portuguese Language Workshop



**Train the Trainers Portuguese Language Workshop**  
**Education & Training**  
**Fortaleza, Brazil**

**Arrival Date:** Wednesday 11 September 2024  
**Workshop Dates:** Thursday - Saturday 12-14 September 2024  
**Departure Date:** Sunday 15 September 2024

**FORTALEZA, BRAZIL 12-14 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**Course partnership:**  
 World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO)  
 Federação Brasileira de Gastroenterologia (FBG)

**Course Description**  
 Developed in 2001, the Train the Trainers (TTT) program concentrates on expanding the training 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.

**This course will be held in the Portuguese Language, which include the presentations.** Therefore, all participants are required to be fluent in Portuguese. All presentations will require active participation and/or discussion from all members of the group. Open to all WGO Member Societies and WGO Training Centers and in partnership with Federação Brasileira de Gastroenterologia (FBG).

**Some topics presented at this TTT Workshop will include:**

- Providing Feedback
- Evidence Based Medicine
- Teaching at the Bedside
- Trial Design
- Publications
- Teaching Skills

**Application Review**  
 Applications will be reviewed by for adherence to the above criteria and for equal geographical, gender and expertise distribution. Priority will be given to WGO member societies that have paid their dues through 2023 and WGO Training Center Directors that have completed their 2023 WGO Annual Report.

**Venue**  
**Gran Mareiro Hotel, Rua Oswaldo Araújo, 100 - Praia do Futuro, Fortaleza - CE, 60177-325, Brazil**

**Travel**  
 Participants are required to cover their own travel to and from Fortaleza, Brazil. There is no registration fee to attend TTT. The hotel cost is covered for the dates of the workshop, including the arrival night of 11 September (11-14 September). Airport transfers will be provided to and from the hotel upon arrival and departure of the workshop dates. **Participants should plan to arrive on 11 September.**

**Medical Insurance**  
 Participants are responsible for obtaining their own medical insurance while attending the workshop. WGO does not provide medical coverage for participants.

**Application Deadline: Monday, 15 April 2024**  
<https://form.jotform.com/240527976463163>



**Visas**  
 A letter of support and any course-related documentation needed to assist in obtaining a visa can be provided upon request. Please note that WGO is unable to contact the Embassy on your behalf. It is the responsibility of each participant to make the necessary arrangements related to this process. Participants are also responsible for the cost of the Visa. All requests for e-Visas must be made through the Brazil portal: <https://brazil.vfsevisa.com/>

**IMPORTANT:** Please bring a printed hard copy of the Visa during travel.

**Please note:**

- The participant acknowledges by registration, that he/she has no right to lodge damage claims against the organizers in the event of cancellation due to unexpected events / force majeure or changes to program due to any reason.
- Should participants wish to bring their partners with them to TTT they will be charged for the additional rooming costs along with social event and meal expenses.

Please share the information



**Train the Trainers**  
 Fortaleza, Brazil 2024

**NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN**

**PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE WORKSHOP**  
**12-14 SEPTEMBER**

**In Partnership with the Brazilian Federation of Gastroenterology**

Train the Trainers Application Link:  
<https://form.jotform.com/240527976463163>

**Application Deadline**  
 15 April, 2024

# DEADLINE





By: Dr. Liliana Mendes

# The latest breaking news of the day

## Brasilia Training Center

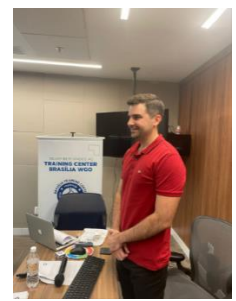
In Brasília Training Center on March 16, 2024, a multidisciplinary activity was carried out between gastroenterologists, endoscopists, pathologists, radio interventionalists, hepatologists, pathologists, digestive system surgeons, oncology, and liver transplant surgeons. Complex clinical cases were discussed in teams with medium to high complexity questions.

At the end of the dynamic, everyone grows and the role of the team in the patient care stands out. The teams were named: discipline, strength, attitude, determination, strategy, and energy. Dr. Mendes' quote "We need everyone because together we are better"!



In every preceptor they talk about one rare disease, and about Caroli syndrome. This serves to alert the medical community to the possibility of investigating rare diseases.

Caroli syndrome is a rare disease that affects one in every 6,000 to 40,000 newborns. It affects larger hepatic ducts when it is called Caroli disease, or smaller ones when congenital hepatic fibrosis is also present.



Hands-on training with a group of medical *students* of the league at Brasilia TC





By: Prof. Naima Amrani

## The latest breaking news of the day WGO Rabat Training Center

The Rabat Training Center has organized its 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Course, which was held on January 25 through February 3, 2024, said Prof. Naima Amrani. With lots of excitement Naima said it was another success in the opinion of the participants from 16 countries and partners. As follows, please enjoy one of the testimonies which warms Naima's heart.

Lets' find out what the French society of Digestive Endoscopy ("SFED - Société Française D'Endoscopie Digestive") wants us to know:

The SFED is pleased to continue its support for the courses of the Post-Graduate Training Center in Gastroenterology of the OMGE (World Organization of Gastroenterology) in Rabat in its 22<sup>nd</sup> edition.

Thus, Dr Stéphane Koch and Professor Gabriel Rahmi went there on January 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> to give courses and lead simulation workshops in therapeutic endoscopy.

Through a dedicated grant, the SFED this year enabled two Senegalese doctors to participate in highly qualified teaching covering all hepato-gastroenterology.



The level rises from year to year. The work of the SFED allows African doctors to improve their knowledge and skills.

Doctor Stéphane Koch, Besançon University Hospital,  
Professor Gabriel RAHMI, Head of the Francophonie Commission, Georges Pompidou European Hospital.



— Organisation Mondiale de la Gastroentérologie  
Retour sur la visite de la SFED

La SFED est heureuse de poursuivre son soutien aux cours du Centre de Formation Post-Graduée en Gastroentérologie de l'OMGE (Organisation Mondiale de la Gastroentérologie) à Rabat dans sa 22eme édition.

Ainsi, le Dr Stéphane Koch et le Pr Gabriel Rahmi s'y sont rendus les 29 et 30 janvier derniers pour donner des cours et animer des ateliers de simulation en endoscopie thérapeutique.

Par le biais d'une bourse dédiée, la SFED a permis cette année à deux médecins sénégalais de participer à un enseignement couvrant toute l'hépatogastroentérologie et hautement qualifiant.

Le niveau monte d'année en année. Le travail de la SFED permet aux médecins africains d'améliorer leurs savoirs et leur habilité.

Docteur Stéphane Koch, CHU Besançon,  
Professeur Gabriel RAHMI, Responsable de la Commission Francophonie, Hôpital Européen Georges Pompidou.

SFED  
Société Française d'Endoscopie Digestive  
79, boulevard du Montparnasse - 75006 Paris

By: Dr. Luis Carlos Sabbagh

## Training Center 's Chairperson

Dr. Sabbagh, Chairperson of the Training Centers extend his gratitude to all Directors and Co-Directors for completing the Annual Report.

As followed, we received:

### 2023 Annual Report:

- 20 Training Centers submitted their Annual Report, and
- 4 Training Centers did not respond.

### 2024 WGO Educational Activity Application:

- 15 Training Centers submitted an Educational Activity Application,
- 4 not interested in submitting an Educational Activity Application and
- 5 did not submit an Educational Activity Application.



### Executive Committee



#### President

Professor Geoffrey Metz  
Epworth Hospital  
Richmond, VIC, Australia



#### President-Elect

Professor Carolina Olanó  
Universidad de La Republica  
Montevideo, Uruguay



#### Past President

Professor Guilherme Macedo  
Centro Hospitalar São João  
Porto, Portugal



#### Treasurer

Professor Kaichun Wu  
Xijing Hospital  
Xi'an, China



#### Secretary General

Professor Vivek Kaul  
University of Rochester Medical Center  
Rochester, NY, USA



#### Director At-Large

Professor Dan Dumitrescu  
University of Medicine and Pharmacy  
Cluj-Napoca, Romania

### WGO Mission:

To promote to the public and healthcare professional alike, an awareness of the worldwide prevalence and optimal care of gastrointestinal and liver disorders, and to improve care of these disorders, through the provision of high quality, accessible and independent education, and training.