



**Alan Barkun, MD**  
*Trainer Testimonial*  
Montréal, Canada

WOW! What an experience! Indeed, my involvement as speaker at this yearly Post-Graduate Course in Gastroenterology and Hepatology – the oldest and most respected, targeting French-speaking Africa - transcends the usual Faculty engagement. It is truly a life-changing event for both participants and Faculty. But why? What makes this such a special educational few days?

First and foremost, the participants: A highly motivated, multi-country, multicultural group of colleagues who bring with them an openness of mind and genuine thirst for learning that in my experience is both unusual and extremely gratifying for all present – both speakers and attendees. This is my fourth course and I still exchange WhatsApp and e-mail correspondence with some whom I had been privileged to meet at past courses. Next, the speakers who span designated parts of the 10-day curriculum. All carefully chosen for their expertise, lecturing skills, and endorsement of the course philosophy that focuses on extensive interactions with the attendees during both didactic and organized social events – all in an effort to help mentor participants about knowledge, procedural skills, and career goals. The entire group becomes essentially a family whose members – trainees and Faculty – learn continuously together and from each other, in a multitude of learning sessions that include didactic, small group, and hands-on opportunities. An additional reason for the success is no doubt in part the exotic, beautiful setting of Rabat, the capital of Morocco. But perhaps most crucial to the continued popularity of this wonderful educational event is the unending dedication, hard work, vision and generosity of its organizers led by Professor Naima Amrani. An intelligent, insightful and veritable leader with endless generosity who has remained true to the Course's aims and origins. As a busy international speaker, it is my honest opinion that this yearly program is quite unique, achieving significant impact by boldly and effectively addressing critical adult medical education needs in French-speaking Africa. This continued initiative is a tribute to the larger multifaceted efforts undertaken by the World Gastroenterology Organisation in fulfilling its truly global educational mandate.