

e-WGN

WORLD GASTROENTEROLOGY NEWS

Official e-newsletter of the World Gastroenterology Organisation

www.worldgastroenterology.org



VOL. 24, ISSUE 1

JULY 2019

In this issue



Achalasia: New Insights in Pathophysiology

Janette Furuzawa-Carballeda, MSc, PhD
Gonzalo Torres-Villalobos, MD, PhD
Miguel A. Valdovinos, MD



Updated Endoscope Disinfection and New Pancreas Cystic Lesions Guidelines are Published

Anton LeMair, MD

Why You Should Attend the 2019 World Congress in Istanbul?



1. The World Congress of Gastroenterology is the premier biennial scientific meeting for digestive diseases. In 2019, the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) is proud to partner with the Turkish Society of Gastroenterology (TSG).
2. Top class scientific program encompassing key areas in Gastroenterology, Hepatology, GI Endoscopy and Surgery delivered by over 100 regional and international leaders in the field.
3. An exceptional Postgraduate Course, featuring hot topics in gastroenterology, liver, microbiota, and advances in GI pharmacology.
4. Four concurrent sessions daily, hands-on workshops, both oral and poster presentations, and exhibitions. Unmatchable platform to showcase your products. Sessions will offer simultaneous translation in Turkish and Russian!
5. Over 4,000 delegates from around the globe. This meeting will provide an opportunity for professionals in the field of gastroenterology, hepatology and related disciplines to come together to learn about the latest research and advancements, collaborate with colleagues and actively participate in this rapidly advancing field.
6. One of WGO's pillars are Guidelines and Cascades. Featured in the scientific program will be presentations on many of these, including: Celiac Disease, Diet and the Gut, GERD, HCC, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, IBD, IBS, NASH and NAFL, and Management of Strongyloidiasis.
7. Presentation of the Master of the WGO, the Henry L. Bockus Medal and Lecture to be delivered by Prof. Richard Kozarek (USA) as well as the Georges Brohée Medal and Lecture to be delivered by Prof. Michael Fried (Switzerland). These are among the leading awards in gastroenterology.
8. Convenience of travel and stay: Getting to Istanbul is easy! Well-connected air flight schedules – served by over 50 international airlines at a brand-new international airport in addition to two other airports. Whether you are traveling from Latin America, Africa or Asia, the Istanbul International Airport has over 3,000 flights per day. Top class hotels at affordable prices within walking distance from the congress venue.

Contents

VOL. 24, ISSUE 1

Editors

**Christina M. Surawicz, MD, MACG**

Professor of Medicine
Division of Gastroenterology
Associate Dean for Faculty Development
University of Washington School of Medicine
Seattle, Washington, USA

**Mário Reis Álvares-da-Silva, MD, PhD**

Professor of Hepatology
Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre
Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul
Porto Alegre, Brazil

e-WGN Editorial Board

- Anita Afzali, USA
- Min-Hu Chen, China
- Dan Dumitrascu, Romania
- Sara Elfadil, Sudan
- Amy Foxx-Orenstein, USA
- Ernst Fredericks, South Africa
- Waseem Hamoudi, Jordan
- Nassir Alhaboob Arabi Mohammad, Sudan
- VG Naidoo, South Africa
- Alejandro Piscocoy, Peru
- Naoya Sakamoto, Japan
- Michael Schultz, New Zealand
- C. Wendy Spearman, South Africa
- Miguel Valdovinos, Mexico
- Haleh Vaziri, USA
- Lu Xia, China

Managing Editor

James Melberg, WGO Program Manager

Art Production

Jennifer Gubbin

Editorial Office

WGO Executive Secretariat
555 East Wells Street, Suite 1100
Milwaukee, WI 53202 USA
info@worldgastroenterology.org



<https://www.facebook.com/WorldGastroOrg>



<https://twitter.com/WorldGastroOrg>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/world-gastro-enterology-organisation-wgo-wgo-foundation>

www.worldgastroenterology.org



©2019 World Gastroenterology Organisation. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form without the prior permission of the copyright owner.

WCOG 2019

World Congress of Gastroenterology 2019, Istanbul 5

Editorial

Message from the Editors 6

Mário Reis Álvares-da-Silva, MD, PhD
Christina M. Surawicz, MD, MACG

Expert Point of View

Achalasia: New Insights in Pathophysiology 7

Janette Furuzawa-Carballeda, MSc, PhD
Gonzalo Torres-Villalobos, MD, PhD
Miguel A. Valdovinos, MD

WDHD News

Welcome to World Digestive Health Day (WDHD) 2019! 11

Kentaro Sugano, MD
Joseph Sung, MD, PhD, FRCP, MWGO
Richard Hunt, FRCP, FRCPEd, FRCPC, MWGO

WGO & WGOF News

The La Paz Training Center Revisited – the Legacy of Guido Villa-Gomez MD MWGO 14

Eamonn M.M. Quigley, MD, FRCP, FACP, MACG, FRCPI
Henry Cohen, MD, FACC

18th WGO-RTC Post-Graduate Course at the Rabat Training Center, Morocco 17

Alan Barkun, MD, CM, FRCP(C), FACP, FACC, AGAF, MSc (Clinical Epidemiology)

WGO Train the Trainers Bucharest 2019 19

Asian Pacific Digestive Week 2018 in Seoul, Korea 23

Khean-Lee Goh, MD

28th Annual Conference of the Asian Pacific Association for the Study of the Liver 26

ISGCON 2018 — 59th Annual Conference of Indian Society of Gastroenterology 28

Naresh Bhat, MD, DM
Govind Makharia, MBBS, MD, DM, DNB

▼
Contents

26th UEG Week Vienna 2018	29
<hr/>	
UEG Week 2019	31
<hr/>	
17th Egyptian Digestive Disease Week 2019	32
Serag Zakaria, MD	
<hr/>	
Prof. Eamonn Quigley, WGO Past President, awarded St. Patrick's Day Medal	33
<hr/>	

WGO Global Guidelines

Updated Endoscope Disinfection and New Pancreas Cystic Lesions Guidelines are Published	35
Anton LeMair, MD	

Calendar of Events

Calendar of Events	37
--------------------	----



Continued from first page

9. Throughout the Congress, attendees will have opportunities to schedule tours and experience the many historic sites in and around Istanbul to learn about its traditions.
10. Istanbul, the only city in the world built on two continents, has a strategic setting forming the city's destiny as an imperial capital for nearly 1600 years, for Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman Empires. This metropolis, proud of its rich history and unequalled natural beauty, offers a friendly welcome and genuine hospitality. Seated on the Bosphorus, some of the most fascinating history will unfold before your eyes as you visit this magnificent city.

Don't delay, register today! We look forward to seeing you in Istanbul!





World Congress of Gastroenterology

21-24 September 2019
Istanbul Congress Center, Istanbul

Registration Now Open!
www.wcog2019.org



Congress Secretariat
flap tour

Podgoritsa Cad.No.1, 06610,
Birlik, Çankaya-ANKARA
Phone: 0 312 454 00 00
Fax: 0 312 454 00 01

E-mail: wcog2019@flaptour.com.tr
Web: www.wcog2019.org

Message from the Editors



Mário Reis Álvares-da-Silva, MD, PhD

Professor of Hepatology
Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre
Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul
Porto Alegre, Brazil



Christina M. Surawicz, MD, MACG

Professor of Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology
Associate Dean for Faculty Development
University of Washington School of Medicine
Seattle, Washington, USA

2019 continues to be a busy and productive year for us and our many member societies. You can see updates from several international meetings in this first issue.

We are proud to highlight the EPOV article “Achalasia: new insights into Pathophysiology” by Drs. Janette Furuzawa-Carbelleda, Gonzalo Torres-Villalobos and Miguel A. Valdovinos. (Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Médicas y Nutrición “Salvador Zubirán”, Mexico City). They state that “findings in molecular pathology in patients with achalasia have suggested the hypothesis that achalasia is an autoimmune disorder.” They cite evidence of preceding viral

infection in some cases, the pathology showing chronic inflammation, presence of organ specific antibodies, association with autoimmune diseases, as well as improvement in symptoms with immune suppressive therapy in some patients. Their excellent article gives us a new way of thinking and approaching this important disease.

Note also that new Guidelines are available!

The new Pancreatic Cystic Lesions Guidelines as well as updated “Endoscope disinfection update: a guide to resource-sensitive reprocessing” Guidelines are now published. The new Diet and the Gut Guideline is now available in Portuguese, Spanish

and Russian translations. They can be found on the WGO website at <http://www.worldgastroenterology.org/guidelines/global-guidelines>.

Plan to attend the World Congress of Gastroenterology (WCOG) meeting in Istanbul from 21-24 September 2019.

One important feature will be WGO Guidelines and Cascades. Many will be highlighted as part of the robust Scientific Program of the WCOG in Istanbul. Be sure to attend the sessions featuring: Celiac Disease, Diet and the Gut, GERD, HCC, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, IBD, IBS, NASH and NAFL, and Management of Strongyloidiasis.



Achalasia: New Insights in Pathophysiology



Janette Furuzawa-Carballeda, MSc, PhD

Department of Immunology and Rheumatology
Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Médicas y Nutrición "Salvador Zubirán".



Gonzalo Torres-Villalobos, MD, PhD

Department of Surgery and Experimental Surgery
Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Médicas y Nutrición "Salvador Zubirán".



Miguel A. Valdovinos, MD

Department of Gastroenterology
Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Médicas y Nutrición "Salvador Zubirán".

Achalasia is an uncommon major esophageal motility disorder characterized by loss of esophageal peristalsis and incomplete relaxation of the lower esophageal sphincter (LES). The primary cause of achalasia is thought to be a loss of neurons in the myenteric plexus of the distal esophagus and LES. New findings in molecular pathology in patients with achalasia have suggested the hypothesis that achalasia is an autoimmune disorder.

In this review we will focus on the evaluation of the several aspects that suggests that achalasia is an autoimmune inflammatory disease, including:

1. Evidence that the pathology is preceded by a viral infection;
2. Chronic inflammatory infiltrates, predominantly enriched in lymphocytes that damage the ganglion cells of the myenteric plexus of the LES;

3. The presence of organ-specific autoantibodies;
4. The association of achalasia with well-established autoimmune diseases;
5. Genetic factors and polymorphisms that might play a role in the development and progression of achalasia; and
6. The improvement of achalasia symptoms with immunosuppressive agents.

Infections

It has been hypothesized that the infectious agent represents the trigger of an immune reaction in the myenteric plexus. This immune response eventually overcomes the infectious insult, but only in genetically predispose individuals may create susceptibility to this disease and the damage of ganglion cells. Several studies have suggested that a chronic

latent or active neurotrophic viral or bacterial infections are associated with achalasia. The proposed virus candidates have included HSV-1, JC virus, bornavirus, VZV, measles, and HPV.¹ An epidemiological study and genotype-phenotype analysis demonstrated that patients with achalasia were frequently affected by viral infections, especially by VZV, before achalasia onset, and that pregnancy may stimulate the disease in females who are carriers of the HLA-DQB1 insertion.² Achalasia patients have a significantly higher rate of oligoclonal CD3+/CD8+ lymphocytic infiltrates in LES than healthy controls, and a deprived release of Th1-type cytokines (IFN- γ and IL-2) that may contribute to establish the neuronal damage and the HSV-1 latent state.¹ Moreover, HSV-1 DNA (viral infection), RNA (active replication), and virus has been detected in LES tissue from achalasia patients by PCR, RT-PCR, and immunohistochemistry, but not in control tissue.²

Inflammation

Inflammatory infiltrates of varying intensity around myenteric neurons have been found in achalasia patients, contrasting with the non-infiltrate findings of control groups with normal myenteric plexus.^{3,4} The characterization of the intraganglionic infiltrate showed a predominance of CD3+, CD4+, CD25+ and CD8+ T lymphocytes, as well as CD20+ B cells and eosinophils but to a lesser degree, with detection of occasional plasma cells along the nerve fascicles and around the ganglion cells.⁵ Functional contact of mast cells with interstitial cells of Cajal (ICC) has recently associated with nitregic nerves, S-100-positive cells, ICC and

Continued from first page.

neuronal degeneration in achalasia. The number of mast cells was higher in type I achalasia than type III. Additionally, patients with a history of autoimmune disease or viral infection had greater mast cell infiltration in the LES muscle. Mast cells express the 3-O-sulphated heparan sulphate receptor that mediates the entry of HSV-1 but not HSV-2.⁴

Serum profile studies has established that elevated concentrations of proinflammatory cytokines (IL-22, IL-23, IL-17, TNF- α , IL-6, IFN- γ , and IL-12), C4B5, C3, cyclin-dependent kinase 5, α 2-macroglobulin and anti-GAD65 antibodies are up-regulated in achalasia patients, as compared with controls, supporting the hypothesis of immune-mediated response.^{6,7}

A significantly increased ratios of MMP-9/MMP-2 and activated MMP-9/proMMP-9 in sera of achalasia patients has been determined compared with controls. Moreover, extensive damage within the plexus was found in the tissues with more MMP-9-expressing cells. Additionally, achalasia-associated autoantigens PNMA2, GAD65, VIP and Ri are substrates of MMP-9. Thus MMP-9 may contribute to the pathogenesis by cleaving achalasia-associated autoantigens into remnant epitopes generating autoimmunity (REGA paradigm).⁸

An increased in some proinflammatory/profibrogenic tissue and circulating CD4+ T cell subsets (Th22, Th17, Th2 and Th1) have been characterized in patients with achalasia compared with controls.^{2,3} Furthermore, patients with achalasia have also shown a higher frequency of immune regulatory cells in the myenteric plexus of esophageal tissue, as compared to controls.^{2,3} The concomitant presence of inflammatory and regulatory cells suggests that the proinflammatory and regulatory balance favors the former with the incapacity of the latter in trying to

maintain homeostasis and avoid tissue damage.

Ganglion cell loss

Achalasia is known to be caused by the reduction of ICC but most importantly to a selective loss of inhibitory ganglion in the myenteric plexus of the esophagus, which is associated with a decrease of nNOS, VIP, neural proteins, S-100, substance P and PGP9.5. The imbalance produced by loss of VIP and NO-secreting neurons as a result of the progressive destruction of myenteric ganglion cells and the occurrence of neural fibrosis would lead to the classic subtype of achalasia.⁴

An underpinning pathogenic mechanism in the early stage of achalasia is the esophageal myenteric immune-mediated response, inflammatory state accompanied by T cell infiltration, neuritis, ganglionitis and neuronal degeneration with only mild to severe fibrosis in the smooth muscle layer. Moreover, achalasia patients have shown increased deposits of the complement complex C5b-C9, C9 and of IgM within or proximal to ganglion cells of myenteric plexus.⁶

Autoantibodies

Antinuclear antibodies (ANAs) are present in 56-68% of the patients with achalasia. The most prevalent pattern observed is speckled, followed by nucleolar, homogeneous and NuMA-1. Moreover, unusual staining patterns in the nuclei, such as the nuclear mitotic apparatus, and cytoplasmic staining as in anti-Jo-1 positive polymyositis/dermatomyositis, and antimitochondrial antibodies have been determined.^{2,3,9,10}

The increased prevalence of circulating IgG antibodies against cytoplasm and nucleus of neuronal cells from myenteric plexus in most patients with achalasia compared with GERD, Hirschsprung's disease, esophageal cancer, peptic esophagitis,

or myasthenia gravis has led to the suggestion of a key role for autoantibodies in the etiopathogenesis of the disease. However, their precise role is still unclear. Nonetheless, serum from patients with achalasia can reproduce functional and phenotypic changes of the disease in normal tissues.⁹

Nuclear, nucleolar or cytoplasmic circulating myenteric anti-plexus antibodies were detected in 54.3-100% of serum samples from patients with achalasia versus 7.5-12% of healthy subjects, especially in carriers of HLA DQA1*0103 and DQB1*0603 alleles (OR=3.17 and OR=5.82, respectively). The target antigens of circulating anti-myenteric autoantibodies are PNMA2 and GAD65 (69%-80%), recoverin (8%) and none with Hu, CDR-62 (Yo), Nova-1 (Ri), SOX-1, titina or amphiphysin.^{2,3}

Autoimmunity and inflammatory diseases comorbidity

Autoimmune diseases often occur in association with one another, either involving a single individual or within a family sharing autoimmune diseases, and the presence of autoantibodies without disease. Compared with the general population, patients with achalasia are 3.6-times more likely to have autoimmune diseases, including uveitis (RR=259), Sjögren's syndrome (RR=37), systemic lupus erythematosus (RR=43), type I diabetes (RR=5.4), hypothyroidism (RR=8.5), rheumatoid arthritis (RR=2.4), scleroderma, ankylosing spondylitis, myasthenia gravis, Guillain-Barre syndrome, autoimmune acquired hemophilia A, polyglandular autoimmune syndrome type II, psoriasis and asthma. Intriguingly, the younger population of patients with achalasia was shown to have a higher prevalence of autoimmune comorbidities (RR = 3.3), compared with an older population of patients with achalasia.¹¹ A recent cross-sectional study of 114 patients with achalasia showed that

the presence of autoimmune disease was found in 19 patients (16.7%), hypothyroidism was the main diagnosis, and it was present in 52.6% of patients compared with 4.2% in controls. Two patients had more than one concomitant autoimmune diseases (one hyperthyroidism/vitiligo and one hypothyroidism/scleroderma/rheumatoid arthritis). Most of the patients with concomitant autoimmune disease (79%) had the autoimmune disease established before the diagnosis of achalasia (median: 14.6 years). For 10.5% of the patients the autoimmune disease was established after the diagnosis of achalasia (median: 2 years) and 10.5% had the diagnosis occurring simultaneously for both conditions. Thirteen of the 19 achalasia patients (68.4%) with autoimmune disease had history of familial autoimmunity (6 with hypothyroidism, one with hyperthyroidism, and 6 with rheumatoid arthritis). Compared with GERD, the achalasia group was 3.8-times more likely to have an autoimmune disease including, thyroidopathies (RR=3), and chronic inflammatory disease including allergic rhinitis, asthma, rosacea and gout (RR=3.02).¹⁰

Human Leukocyte Antigen Association

Associations between achalasia and HLA-DQB1*05:03 and HLA-DQB1*06:01; HLA-DQA1*01:03; and HLA-DQB1*03:01 and HLA-DQB1*03:04 have been determined. In fact, many studies have also shown a positive association with DQw1, DQA1*0103, DQB1*0601, DQB1*0602, DQB1*0603, DQB1*0601, DQB1*0502, and DQB1*0503 alleles, in Caucasians. In a study of 1068 cases of achalasia from central Europe, Spain and Italy, an 8-residue insertion at position 227-234 in the cytoplasmic tail of HLA-DQβ1 (encoded by HLA-DQB1*05:03 and HLA-

DQB1*06:01) was characterized as conferring the strongest risk for achalasia, and showed a particular geospatial north-south gradient among Europeans. The finding of this insertion being less common in northern European populations, as compared with those from the southern regions mirrored the differential prevalence of the disease between populations.¹² Finally, the HLA-DRB1*14:54:01 and DQB1*05:03:01 and the extended haplotype were characterized as risk factor for achalasia in mixed-ancestry Mexican individuals suggesting that the haplotype was introduced by admixture with European and/or Asian populations.¹³

Immunosuppressive therapies

Finally, there are some reports of achalasia patients under treatment with corticosteroids (prednisolone, methylprednisolone or beclomethasone) alone or combined with other immunosuppressive drugs (methotrexate, azathioprine or cyclophosphamide) with dramatic clinical improvement and complete recovery of peristalsis corroborated by HRM, lending further credence to the notion that this disease has an autoimmune component.¹⁴

Conclusion

The initial event that triggers achalasia may be the result of a repetitive insult produced by neurotropic virus infection, likely HSV-1, which induces a conspicuous and persistent inflammation at the perineural level, in the myenteric plexus. Not all infected patients will develop achalasia, on account of a genetic predisposition to develop a chronic auto-inflammatory response that has the potential to progress to the disease.

References

Facco M, Brun P, Baesso I, et al. T cells in the myenteric plexus of achalasia patients show a skewed

TCR repertoire and react to HSV-1 antigens. *Am J Gastroenterol.* 2008;103:1598-1609.

Furuzawa-Carballeda J, Torres-Landa S, Valdovinos MA, et al. New insights into the pathophysiology of achalasia and implications for future treatment. *World J Gastroenterol.* 2016;22:7892-7907.

Furuzawa-Carballeda J, Aguilar-León D, Gamboa-Domínguez A, et al. Achalasia--An Autoimmune Inflammatory Disease: A Cross-Sectional Study. *J Immunol Res.* 2015;2015:729217.

Liu ZQ, Chen WF, Wang Y, et al. Mast cell infiltration associated with loss of interstitial cells of Cajal and neuronal degeneration in achalasia. *Neurogastroenterol Motil.* 2019;31:e13565.

Sodikoff JB, Lo AA, Shetuni BB, et al. Histopathologic patterns among achalasia subtypes. *Neurogastroenterol Motil.* 2016;28:139-45.

Im SK, Yeo M, Lee KJ. Proteomic identification of proteins suggestive of immune-mediated response or neuronal degeneration in serum of achalasia patients. *Gut Liver.* 2013;7:411-416.

Clayton S, Cauble E, Kumar A, et al. Plasma levels of TNF-α, IL-6, IFN-γ, IL-12, IL-17, IL-22, and IL-23 in achalasia, eosinophilic esophagitis (EoE), and gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD). *BMC Gastroenterol.* 2019;19:28.

Furuzawa-Carballeda J, Boon L, Torres-Villalobos G, et al. Gelatinase B/Matrix Metalloproteinase-9 as Innate Immune Effector Molecule in Achalasia. *Clin Transl Gastroenterol.* 2018;9:208.

Bruley des Varannes S, Chevalier J, Pimont S, et al. Serum from achalasia patients alters neurochemical coding in the myenteric plexus and nitric oxide mediated motor response in normal human fundus. *Gut.* 2006;55:319-326.

- Romero-Hernández F, Furuzawa-Carballeda J, Hernández-Molina G, et al. Autoimmune comorbidity in achalasia patients. *J Gastroenterol Hepatol.* 2018;33:203-208.
- Booy JD, Takata J, Tomlinson G, Urbach DR. The prevalence of autoimmune disease in patients with esophageal achalasia. *Dis Esophagus.* 2012;25:209-13.
- Becker J, Haas SL, Mokrowiecka A, et al. The HLA-DQB1 insertion is a strong achalasia risk factor and displays a geospatial north-south gradient among Europeans. *Eur J Hum Genet* 2016;24:1228-1231.
- Furuzawa-Carballeda J, Zuñiga J, Hernández-Zaragoza DI, et al. An original Eurasian haplotype, HLA-DRB1*14:54-DQB1*05:03, influences the susceptibility to idiopathic achalasia. *PLoS One.* 2018;13:e0201676.
- Savarino E, Gemignani L, Zentilin P, De Bortoli N, Malesci A, Mastrocacci L, Fiocca R, Savarino V. Achalasia with dense eosinophilic infiltrate responds to steroid therapy. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2011; 9: 1104-1106.

Welcome to World Digestive Health Day (WDHD) 2019!



Kentaro Sugano, MD

Jichi Medical University, Japan
Co-Chair World Digestive Health Day 2019



Joseph Sung, MD, PhD, FRCP, MWGO

The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
Co-Chair World Digestive Health Day 2019



Richard Hunt, FRCP, FRCPEd, FRCPC, MWGO

McMaster University Health Science Centre, United Kingdom
Co-Chair World Digestive Health Day 2019

- Promote a multidisciplinary and personalized treatment of digestive cancers to achieve better clinical outcomes
- Increase the awareness of the public on the benefit of screening and early detection of digestive cancers
- Provide gastroenterologists, hepatologists, their patients, and the lay public with an understanding of the latest basic and clinical research on the early detection, screening, and treatment of digestive cancers.
- Translate research into clinical practice to inform physicians, pharmacists, allied health professionals, healthcare payers, and the public of the risk factors, causes, and treatment of digestive cancers
- Stimulate international collaborations that foster improved digestive cancer education, research, and training especially in the developing world
- Increase awareness of digestive cancers by providing a better understanding and recognition of the GI cancers as a global burden

Join WGO in Increasing Awareness of the Benefits of Early Diagnosis and Promoting Multidisciplinary Treatment of Digestive Cancers in 2019

The celebration of World Digestive Health Day (WDHD) began on 29 May 2019 and is in full swing. The success of WDHD, a yearlong, worldwide, public health campaign, is derived from the combined efforts of

the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO), The WGO Foundation (WGOE), WGO Member Societies, WGO Training Centers, WGO Regional Affiliate Associations, and other WGO partners worldwide.

Campaign Information

The WDHD 2019 campaign theme is “Early Diagnosis and Treatment of GI Cancer.” By participating in WDHD 2019, you will help to:

How to Get Involved

If you have not started planning your WDHD 2019 event we invite you to start today! While the official date of WDHD is 29th May, many events



Early Diagnosis and Treatment of GI Cancer
#WDHD2019

take place throughout 2019. WGO challenges you to get involved in the campaign by creating exciting ways to raise awareness around the benefits of the early diagnosis and treatments of digestive cancers all year long, to improve the standards of practice, and to educate the public. WGO is pleased to provide you with a few ways that you can TAKE ACTION and CELEBRATE World Digestive Health Day in your respective community (see the breakout boxes). WGO and The WGO Foundation are appreciative of all campaign participants and for the ongoing efforts in supporting the WDHD 2019 campaign. We look forward to a successful year!

TAKE ACTION

- Host an academic conference or symposium featuring scientific programs, plenaries, posters presentations, and forums.
- Create prevention toolkits for healthcare professionals and the general public.
- Organize a public awareness campaign and disseminate campaign materials through blogs, podcasts, videos, and brochures.
- How will you TAKE ACTION to support WDHD?

CELEBRATE

- Host a walk-a-thon to rally your community in support of WDHD.
- Generate awareness by developing a social media campaign.
- Engage your local media with public service announcements, press releases, radio advertisements, and TV interviews.
- How are you planning to CELEBRATE WDHD?

To submit an event to the WGO Meetings & Events Calendar please visit www.worldgastroenterology.org/forms/submit-event.php.

Plan Your Own WDHD Event
WGO and The WGO Foundation encourage all members to participate in World Digestive Health Day 2019 by organizing events in their regions to observe this day. We hope that this year's campaign will help increase awareness of the importance of the Early Diagnosis and Treatment of GI Cancer worldwide.

Have you started planning your event? Past events include public campaigns, courses and lectures on treatments of the current theme, walkathons, national meetings, press conferences, radio and television interviews, developing a country's own WDHD Day, publications, and much more!

In the coming months, you will find available a variety of tools and resources, which may benefit your physicians, allied healthcare professionals, patients and the general public, by visiting www.worldgastroenterology.org/wgo-foundation/wdhd/wdhd-2019.

WDHD 2019 Steering Committee
The World Digestive Health Day 2019 campaign is led by the following individuals representing a global view and expertise on the Early Diagnosis and Treatment of GI Cancer. They are guiding the course of the campaign, and are leading in the development of tools and resources throughout 2019 and beyond.

Co-Chair World Digestive Health Day 2019

Kentaro Sugano, MD
Jichi Medical University
Japan

Co-Chair World Digestive Health Day 2019

Joseph Sung, MD, PhD, FRCP, MNGO
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Hong Kong

Co-Chair World Digestive Health Day 2019

Richard Hunt, FRCP, FRCPEd, FR-CPC, MWGO
McMaster University Health Science Centre
United Kingdom

Chair, WGO Foundation

Naima Amrani, MD
Mohamed V University – Rabat
Morocco

Members

Han-Mo Chiu, MD
National Taiwan University
Taiwan

Henry Cohen, MD
University of the Republic Uruguay
Uruguay

Francesco Di Mario, MD
University of Palma
Italy

Takuji Gotoda, MD
Nihon University
Japan

David Graham, MD, MACG
Baylor College of Medicine
United States

Abdel Meguid Kassem, MD
Cairo University
Egypt

Nayoung Kim, MD, PhD
Seoul National University
Korea

Ernst Kuipers, MD, PhD
Erasmus University, Rotterdam
Netherlands

Yi-Chia Lee, MD, PhD
National Taiwan University
Taiwan

Wai Keung Leung, MD
Hong Kong University
Hong Kong

Brigitte Ma, MD
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Hong Kong

Peter Malfertheiner, MD
Otto Von Guericke University Magdeburg
Germany

Wojciech Marlicz, MD, PhD, DSci, FACC
Pomeranian Medical University
Poland

Simon Ng, MD
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Hong Kong

Arnoldo Riquelme Pérez, MD
Pontifical Catholic University of Chile
Chile

Prateek Sharma, MD
University of Kansas Medical Center
United States

Shunji Tanaka, MD
Hiroshima University
Japan

Kaichun Wu, MD
Xijing Hospital
China

Jesús Kazuo Yamamoto-Furusho, MD
National Institute of Medical Sciences and Nutrition Salvador Zubirán
Mexico

Graeme Young, MD
Flinder University Adelaide
Australia

To learn more about WDHD we welcome you to visit any of the following WDHD 2019 webpages:

- [WDHD 2019 Homepage](#)
- [Message from the Co-Chairs](#)
- [Tools and Resources](#)
- [Supporting WGO Global Guidelines and Cascades](#)

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

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.

Join the WDHD Conversation on Social Media

WGO and The WGO Foundation want to hear from you! Join the conversation in support of WDHD 2019, tag WGO on Facebook (World Digestive Health Day - WDHD), Twitter (@WGOFWHD), or LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com/company/world-gastroenterology-organisation-wgo-wgo-foundation). Be sure to include #WDHD2019 and #GICancer in your post.



Like @WGOFWHD on Facebook



Follow @WGOFWHD on Twitter



Follow WGO/WGO Foundation on LinkedIn



The La Paz Training Center Revisited – the Legacy of Guido Villa-Gomez MD MWGO



Eamonn M.M. Quigley, MD, FRCP, FACP, MACG, FRCPI

Past President of WGO (2005-2009)
Houston, Texas



Henry Cohen, MD, FACG

Past President of WGO (2011-2013)
Montevideo, Uruguay

In February 2019 we participated in the 15th international course at the WGO Training Center in La Paz, Bolivia. It was an experience that was, on the one hand, exhilarating and, on the other, tinged with a little sadness. The exhilaration came from witnessing at first hand and in all its glory the success story that is the La Paz Training Center; sadness on the realization that the individual who developed and has guided the center for the past 15 years is stepping down on the occasion of his retirement from the University.

We were both privileged to have been there on the occasion of the inauguration of the center in 2005 as the first WGO Training Center in Latin America and paid further visits since then. The La Paz center was always exactly what WGO had

in mind when the concept of training centers was proposed. Accordingly, La Paz presented a yearly course on gastroenterology and gastrointestinal endoscopy delivered by local and international experts to young gastroenterologists from across Latin

America and also provided extended periods of training (for up to a year) in selected areas of the specialty to smaller numbers. Over the 15 years of its existence over 400 “trainees” have attended the La Paz center courses. In looking through photographs from



Unveiling of the La Paz Training Center in 2005.

The La Paz Center was always exactly what WGO had in mind when the concept of training centers was proposed.



Trainees and trainers at the 2019 course

the very first course, one can identify “trainees” who have since gone on to hold leadership roles in gastroenterology in their home nations. The La Paz Center has clearly served to galvanize the training and practice of gastroenterology in the region and, in so doing, fostered the emergence of a group of young gastroenterologists who share a commitment to the highest standards in clinical practice and a dedication to training and education. Those who remained in La Paz for longer periods of “hands-on” training returned to their home base with new skills to the great benefit of their patients and their community.

Throughout its 15 years under the leadership of Guido Villa-Gomez, the courses at La Paz always adhered to the highest standards of ethical practice and educational principles – evidence-based presentations, critical assessment (in terms of knowledge gained by the attendees and their critical assessment of the educational experience), experienced faculty with known reputations in teaching and an atmosphere of critical analysis and open interactivity. Interactions between the “trainees” was further fostered by social activities that promoted bonding among the group as well as interchange with faculty.

Highlights from the 2019 course that illustrated how well it worked

included the rapt attention of the young gastroenterologists at each session, their enthusiastic participation in panel discussions and the sheer joy that they brought to the entire event; joy at the opportunity to listen to and interact with a who’s who of Latin American gastroenterology and sheer delight at being together and sharing a common mission. This exuberance overflowed in the talent show where “trainees” from the various nations competed with each other in front of the entire attendance. The Bolivian group who presented a fully costumed representation of the famed Carnaval de Oruro won in an event that showcased the diverse talents of these young physicians.



La Paz from the Teleferico

On every front the La Paz Training Center has been an undoubted success and has exceeded any and all expectations. Why did a Training Center located in a somewhat inaccessible city (“on the roof of the world” where oxygen is at a premium) and in one of the poorest nations in the continent work and work so well? Several factors contributed to this success – the wholehearted support of the university, its medical school and their leaderships, and of the municipality of La Paz and national government agencies. The Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the overseas development authority of the Japanese government, provided substantial funding for the establishment of the Bolivian-Japanese Institute of Gastroenterology in La Paz which has housed the training center and hosted its courses and continues to provide ongoing support. Crucial also has been the unwavering commitment of the Bolivian Society of Gastroenterology to the center; its members have selflessly contributed to the courses. Over the years, a host of expert gastroenterologists and endoscopists from around the globe have willingly given of their time and expertise at the courses and local and national industry have provided invaluable financial and in-kind support. As one of its accredited centers, WGO has also provided funding and faculty and the center has attracted the endorsement and support of GI societies from North and South America.

There is an additional factor, the X-factor, that has been absolutely fundamental to the success of the La Paz Training Center: its director – Guido Villa Gomez.



Tiwanaku

There is an additional factor, the X-factor, that has been absolutely fundamental to the success of the La Paz training center: its director – Guido Villa Gomez. It is appropriate that we should acknowledge his unique and profound contributions to gastroenterology in the region through this leadership of the center. An internationally recognized gastroenterologist, wizard endoscopist and renowned educator, Guido brought a reputation and gravitas to the center that provided the foundation to its success. Yet he, as a person, brings so much more – why else would some of the world's busiest clinician-educators make the trek to a city perched over 12,000 feet up in the Andes? He is universally respected, knows the worlds of gastroenterology and gastrointestinal endoscopy intimately and can identify those teachers who will best fulfill his goals.

Their time in La Paz will be rendered memorable by engaging in the course, coming to appreciate how unique and wonderful La Paz and Bolivia are, and by the unrivalled hospitality of Guido, his team and his colleagues. Why else do the same faces reappear year after year to experience dyspnea, see their finger-tips go a little blue as they teach on the La Paz courses? There is also no doubt that his decades at the top in gastroenterology in Bolivia and the continent facilitate the ongoing and essential support of the pharmaceutical, instrument and device industries.

Many, many tributes were appropriately paid to Guido at this this year's event, his last as he retires from the University and relinquishes directorship of the center. Each he greeted, surrounded by his supportive family, with complete modesty and always emphasizing the roles of all of those who have worked with him.

The La Paz Training Center, under the directorship of Guido Villa–Gomez, provides a template for a successful training center; his professional and personal qualities have been critical to this success. Its success



The Bolivian Altiplano with Illimani in the background



La Paz Training Center director, Guido Villa Gomez

illustrates what can be achieved when those dedicated to a clear goal and under outstanding leadership can achieve. Guido, the world of gastroenterology owes you a profound debt of gratitude. We thank you for getting to know La Paz, Bolivia and its people and the wealth of ideas, talent and potential that the young gastroenterologists of the continent possess. We wish you success and happiness in the next phase of your career. Your legacy will be the continued success of the center with ongoing support from JICA, WGO, industry and all the friends of La Paz.

18th WGO-RTC Post-Graduate Course at the Rabat Training Center, Morocco

MY ALL-TOO-SHORT STAY IN MOROCCO AT THE YEARLY FRENCH AFRICA POST-GRADUATE COURSE



Alan Barkun, MD, CM, FRCP(C), FACP, FACG, AGAF, MSc (Clinical Epidemiology)

Division of Gastroenterology, McGill University and the McGill University Health Centre
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

WOW! What an experience! Indeed, my involvement as a 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, multinational and 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 were carefully chosen for their expertise, lecturing skills, and endorsement of the course philosophy that focuses on extensive interactions

The WGO Rabat Training Center offers a ten day course which is open to all Francophone gastroenterologists (with preference to those from Africa) who wish to improve their knowledge in hepatology, gastroenterology and digestive oncology. The 2019 edition was held from 24 January – 2 February.



Training models

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.



Course at the Rabat TC



Participants and faculty

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



Hands-on training

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.



More hands-on training

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 effec-

tively 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.



The entire group becomes essentially a family

WGO Train the Trainers Bucharest 2019



WGO is proud to announce that its latest Train the Trainers workshop was a success! Since Train the Trainers began in 2001, over 1,000 educators have attended this unique program to hone their skills in adult education. The 28th WGO Train the Trainers (TTT) workshop took place this past 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. It was made up of 17 modules, included lectures, small group discussions, and hands-on sessions while creating the opportunity for everyone to engage in an open discussion on many topics related to teaching and training.

TTT is a highly successful program designed to disseminate teaching skills to those gastroenterologists who hold training positions in their own countries. Delegates are equipped with both skills and tools which they can then implement on their home ground. Not only has this workshop been enthusiastically received by all WGO member societies around the world, it continues to provide an excellent forum for the exchange of ideas and the establishment of contacts between various countries, in an environment which is conducive to learning and interaction.



Opening session led by Prof. Jean-Christophe Saurin, Chair of the TTT Committee



26 countries spanning the globe were represented at TTT Bucharest!

The 2019 TTT Bucharest workshop was a notable addition as it was the first Train the Trainers workshop in Eastern Europe in many years. Romania welcomed participants and faculty from 26 countries including several participants from WGO Member Society countries (Madagascar and Puerto Rico) that had never before participated in a Train the Trainers workshop.

In particular, TTT Bucharest 2019 was an intensive four-day course focused on improving the abilities and educational skills of trainers in the field of gastroenterology. The workshop brought together renowned faculty members from WGO (the trainers) and participants (the trainees) from those different countries and settings around the world, in an enabling environment to improve their potential for teaching.

Going beyond the seminars, the workshop also sought to bring the participants and faculty together



Thanks to our gracious hosts from the SRGH!



Participants and faculty



TTT Report Back Session

through a variety of teambuilding and small group activities that highlighted the beauty and history of Romanian culture. All attendees were treated to the best of Bucharest by their kind Romanian hosts.

TTT Bucharest: A Global “United Nations” Gathering

Wai-Kay Seto, MD
The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong



The World Gastroenterology Organisation TTT Workshop is a great course to equip oneself in the philosophies and concepts of teaching and training.

Right at the start of the workshop, my first impression was: if only this were taught in medical school! I have been working in an academic institution in Hong Kong for more than 6 years, teaching medical students, postgraduate students, junior doctors and gastroenterology trainees on a regular basis. And yet, after going through the course, I feel there is so much more one can improve in teaching and education. The workshop adopts a real-life perspective on gastroenterology teaching and training in the classroom, in the clinical setting and during endoscopies and procedures. The breakout

continued...

Train the Trainers, Bucharest: A Romanian Perspective

Carmen Monica Preda, MD
Bucharest, Romania



Train the Trainers Bucharest 2019 was for me a great opportunity to improve my educational skills in gastroenterology, hepatology and endoscopy.

On this occasion I met extraordinary professionals from these domains and colleagues from all over the world. Here is a summary of the sessions:

Professor Naima Amrani taught me how to write a presentation and good ways to deliver to my students.

The technique of teaching someone endoscopy was explained to us by Professor Damon Bizos, which is very useful for my daily practice.

Trial design, presented by Professor David Bjorkman has had a great importance for me, which makes me want to improve myself further in epidemiology.

continued...

Four Days of Intense Work and Fun in Bucharest, Romania!

Nancy Fanous, MD
Cairo, Egypt



In 2013, I had the honor to join the WGO Cairo Training Center (CTC) through its director, Prof. Ibrahim Mostafa. I was much impressed by the vision, mission and the great work it carried on its shoulders to promote medical services in Africa in the field of gastroenterology, hepatology and endoscopy. Since its start in 2004, about 300 of my fellow African doctors have been trained through the WGO CTC & gone back to serve their people with the knowledge they gained.

I knew about the TTT courses provided by WGO a few years before through CTC and always appreciated their caliber. In October 2018, and upon request from WGO for nomination, I was nominated by CTC director, Prof. Ibrahim Mostafa to join the TTT in Bucha-

continued...

Train the Trainers Bucharest: Tremendous Power of Active Learning

Lidia Ciobanu, MD
Cluj-Napoca, Romania



My name is Lidia Ciobanu (Munteanu) and I am one of the attendees of the WGO Train the Trainers Workshop recently held in Bucharest from 1-4 April 2019.

This meeting joined gastroenterologists from many countries and cultures, with different levels of practice, with very different scientific and educational careers. The topics were also very diverse: Education, Teaching Procedural Skills, e-Learning, Preparation of an Abstract, Professionalism, Evidence Based Medicine, Critical Appraisal, Publications, Trial Design, Assessment, Appraisal and Credentialing, Writing Multiple Choice Questions, Interpersonal Skills and Team Working. When I first saw the attendees and

continued...

Continued from: TTT Bucharest: A Global "United Nations" Gathering

sessions put what we have learned into practice and solidified our teaching concepts. There were concise sessions on different aspects of research. I really found the sections on appraisal and credentialing useful, as these are relevant to my daily clinical practice. And tips on setting multiple choice questions: I finally have guidance!

The content of this workshop can be potentially very impactful for gastroenterologists in China and Asia. China is in the midst of modernizing its medical teaching and training methods up to international standards. Gastroenterology is one of the fastest-growing specialties in China, and the content of this workshop will be highly useful for Chinese institutions aspiring to improve their teaching and training standards. Hopefully WGO can take a leading role in this. In addition, this workshop was truly a global "United Nations" gathering with participants from all six continents. It was great to meet new gastroenterology friends from Argentina, Croatia, Madagascar, Guatemala, and of course Romania!

I would like to wholeheartedly thank the faculty members of this workshop for the enlightening learning experience, including Drs. Jean-Christophe Saurin, Damon Bizos, Guilherme Macedo, David Bjorkman, Emmanuelle Williams, Harshit Khara and Kelly Burak. Thoroughly impressed by their wholehearted dedication to education! And of course a million thanks to the Romanian Society of Gastroenterology for being the best host possible and providing an enriching dose of Romanian culture! I fully support the conducting of similar TTT workshops in the future and the devotion of WGO to improving gastroenterology educational standards worldwide.

Continued from: Train the Trainers, Bucharest: A Romanian Perspective

Also this concept of intensive and interactive workshops, practicing teamwork, gave me a great opportunity for me to learn better.

I was impressed by the concept of a flipped classroom and the presentation how to make multiple choice questions, given by Professor Kelly Burak. I will definitely try to implement these techniques in my department.

Professor Harshit Khara talked to us about credentialing, interpersonal skills and team working, which was a very interesting presentation.

Professor Guilherme Macedo made a very good presentation about professionalism, which many will definitely remember for a long time now.

Professor Chris Mulder explained publications and publication politics, which gave us a lot of clues to why somebody is published and why they are not.

Professor Jean-Christophe Saurin was our principal chair

throughout the sessions, made the sessions very interactive and has shared many of his ideas about gastroenterology and endoscopy.

I have to note our Romanian teachers Professors Anca Trifan, Carol Stanciu and Catalin Sfarti who delivered great presentations about evidence-based medicine and publications.

Professor Emmanuelle Williams spoke to us about assessment and appraisal and she did a wonderful job moderating the breakout session.

Last, but not least, Professor Cihan Yurdaydin, with his impressive experience as editor, gave us an interesting presentation of critical appraisal of an article, followed by a very useful teamwork in the breakout session.

Finally, I have to emphasize how successful the social side of the event was organized by the Romanian Professors Trifan, Stanciu and Sfarti. Many participants appreciated it as superlative and will keep many, many wonderful memories.

Professor Harshit Khara organized a WhatsApp group for all TTT attendees which we used to exchange photos, films and ideas. Thank you very much Harshit!

Thank you very much WGO! Thank you very much SRGH!

Continued from: Four Days of Intense Work and Fun in Bucharest, Romania!

rest, Romania that was planned to take place from 1-4 April, 2019 in partnership with Romanian Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology (SRGH).

From the very beginning, the event was highly organized. All details were perfectly taken care of so precisely and carefully, thanks to the highly skilled organizing team who made our task an easy one. The warm welcome provided to me, along with the wonderful hand-made Romanian souvenir upon my arrival to Bucharest seemed so promising with a unique event to come.

The TTT had a unique structure, mixing hard work with fun. A total of 50 participants from all over the world, making it a cosmopolitan event, first met during the welcome dinner on the first day of arrival and never imagine how we would feel on the last day!

Dividing the group into smaller working groups was a very effective idea which allowed people to interact in a friendly and professional manner, breaking geographical, language and cultural boundaries.

The content of the course was extraordinarily practical and highly focused on the skills we need to encounter everyday, the challenges in the training field. Shorter lectures, longer breakout sessions and small group workshops made the long days so interesting and interactive. Very rich topics were

addressed in a very professional and interactive way by our great moderators who came from different continents and different backgrounds, however all having a common theme in between: a passionate trainer. Education, evidence based medicine, presentations, trial design, critical appraisal, publications, e-learning, professionalism, preparing an abstract, assessment & appraisal, credentialing, and writing multiple choice questions were all hot topics that were addressed through very informative short lecture sessions.

Small group workshops were really a perfect experience and exposure. At the beginning, all the six small group members faced difficulties in proper communication and harmonization in order to accomplish the assigned group tasks in the given time, and this was clear during the first report back sessions. Amazingly enough, a marked progress from session to session became so obviously reflected on each teams' performance, and reached its maximum by the end of the course. The group members showed perfect teamwork and improvement in problem-solving skills, a tough but achievable goal for the TTT course in such a short time.

Coming to one of the most "extraordinary" team building activities I have ever participated in: the dancing groups. With such a surprising choice from the faculty and organizing committee for such an important activity, most of the group members stated clearly that they can't dance! Each group was assigned a specific dance and its video was sent to us on the previous day to practice. Interestingly enough, we all took it so seriously and practiced continuously and harmoniously with the professional dancers who trained us. It seems that hard work is one of doctors' main criteria even when it comes to fun. The teambuilding activity was really great success with lots and lots of passion, fun and physical fitness. That is surely a night to remember.

The cultural night was another story to tell! A very special night held in a very special place embraced people, videos, presentations, performances and souvenirs from different countries and different continents, each carrying the flavor of the place it came from. Fraternizing was the theme and boundaries melted in Bucharest that night!

Of all the training workshops I have attended so far, I have learned from and enjoyed this one the most, and it has changed concepts about my practice in the future. I encourage all colleagues who are interested in training to join future TTT courses. Mixing intense knowledge and professional attitude with fun and enjoyment is the best way to succeed. Our mission as trainers is to pass the knowledge we have to our trainees, so we have to do it the right way. Also, I have gained lots of new friends and connections that I will try to keep on the personal and professional level.

Credit and sincere thanks goes to everyone who really worked so hard to make an unforgettable event for every-

one. Special thanks to the SRGH, WGO and all the faculty members who sacrificed their time and efforts for the idea of ongoing training. I am very grateful for CTC for nominating me and giving me this precious opportunity to join such a distinguished event.

And one very important thing I have also learned and to start with: how to plan a successful training course like TTT!

From Egypt with love,
Nancy Fanous

Train the Trainers Bucharest: Tremendous Power of Active Learning

the program I was surprised; I thought this might not be a successful course. How can all these different participants be focused and enjoy these scientific topics? How can all be interested in these subjects? The only initial visible bond was our profession: gastroenterology.

The organizers reached to train us to learn and to love all of these topics, as we all have tremendously enjoyed the way of learning. They introduced us to the educational techniques in a very friendly and motivated manner. We had high-quality lectures from dedicated faculty members. Then we were trained to work together in breakout groups where we discovered our potential of debating subjects, of presenting and arguing our debates. We also learned in an interactive way how to give a performance appraisal to our colleagues. We discovered the role of feedback to improve our education process. We learned in a positive manner. And no matter our professional background, our culture, and our level of scientific knowledge or educational previous skills we were all actively involved in our education and we were encouraged to develop the learning process. The active participatory methods experienced during this course were the key to improving our scientific level, to learn the principle of teaching and to form friendships with all of the other participants.

The active role of the WGO faculty members and the local organizer, the Romanian Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology should be highlighted, as they facilitated this amazing active learning process.

We also learned about the attendee's culture, values and traditions in a special cultural night event. Our minds and souls were enriched during our stay in Bucharest, where the very friendly hosts provided all the necessary human and scientific resources for the course.

In these decades with rapid development of artificial intelligence where the machines are facilitated for deeply learning I strongly recommend this type of course as the human values for professing and teaching medicine are enriched through this tremendous power of active learning.

Asian Pacific Digestive Week 2018 in Seoul, Korea



Khean-Lee Goh, MD

President
Asian Pacific Digestive Week Federation (APDWF) (2014-2018)
Vice President, WGO (2011-2015)

The Asian Pacific Digestive Week Federation (APDWF) is comprised of four non-profit professional organizations, namely, the Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology (APAGE), the Asian-Pacific Society of Digestive Endoscopy (A-PSDE), the Asian Pacific Association for the Study of the Liver (APASL) and the International Society for Digestive Surgery-Asian Pacific Section (ISDS-AP). These societies have a common interest in diseases of the digestive system, including the esophagus, stomach, liver, gallbladder, pancreas, intestine and bowel.

The Federation organizes an annual scientific meeting – Asian Pacific Digestive Week (APDW) -- in collaboration with the member societies. The 2018 version of this meeting took place from 15-17 November in Seoul,

Korea. I wish to congratulate and, at the same time thank, the local organizing committee headed by Congress President Professor Won-Ho Kim for the hard work they put in for the past three years to realize such a successful conference!

APDW 2018's organizing committee developed a comprehensive and exciting scientific program under the theme of "Connecting Excellence on Gastroenterology and Hepatol-

This continued the tradition of previous APDW meetings while highlighting recent developments in the field of digestive disease in the rapidly developing Asia Pacific region.



Welcome to APDW 2018!

ogy in Asia-Pacific." This continued the tradition of previous APDW meetings while highlighting recent developments in the field of digestive disease in the rapidly developing Asia Pacific region. APDW 2018 was held in conjunction with Korea Digestive Disease Week 2018, hosted by the eight member societies: The Korean Society of Gastroenterology (a WGO member), Korean Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, Korean Association for the Study of the Liver, The Korean Society of Neurogastroenterology and Motility, Korean College of Helicobacter and Upper Gastrointestinal Research, Korean Association for the Study of Intestinal Diseases, Korean Pancreatobiliary Association, and Korean Society of Gastrointestinal Cancer. This is the first time that these societies joined hands with APDW Organizing Committee to offer a diverse program that integrated cutting-edge knowledge and advanced technology in the research and clinical practice of gastroenterology and hepatology and their related fields.

In addition to providing a significant platform for exchanging valuable



APDW 2018



WGO's booth at APDW, visited by WGO Past President Henry Cohen.

ideas, APDW 2018 offered attendees, exhibitors and sponsors a chance to socialize and interact with colleagues and friends from not only the Asia Pacific region but also all parts of the world. APDW 2018 brought innovation and further advancement in the scientific level and quality of the study of our fields.

At the KDDW 2018, under the theme "Advancing Gastroenterology and Hepatology through Creative Integration" a large number of professors, doctors, and distinguished leaders from world convened to discuss recently emerging issues and exchange the latest information in the field of digestive diseases. The KDDW 2018 Scientific Program proposed high quality scientific sessions that provided deeper

knowledge and new perspectives on the field of digestive diseases. The program was a highly rewarding international platform for every one of the participants, and contributed to the enhancement of the scientific level and quality of our field.

The next APDW will occur from 12-15 December 2019 in Kolkata, India. The conference is jointly hosted by the Indian Society of Gastroenterology, Society of GI Endoscopy of India and Indian National Association for Study of Liver. Please find details at <https://www.apdw2019.com>. We hope to see you there!

The 2020 APDW, with the theme "Vision of Excellence in Digestive Disorders and Sciences," will take place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 19-22 September 2020 in coordination with the Malaysian Society of Gastroenterology & Hepatology. More information can be found at <http://www.apdw2020.org>

About APDWF

The APDWF weaves together the aims of four Asia Pacific Associations: A-PSDE, APASL, APAGE and the ISDS-AP in coming together on an annual basis, to hold a combined sci-

entific meeting on fields where there is intrinsically much shared and overlapping knowledge, clinical practices and research. In an age where there are many small specialty meetings, the APDW provides a unified platform in organizing a common meeting in the Asia Pacific, where we can meet with a shared set of values in promoting the practice and research in gastroenterology, hepatology, gastrointestinal endoscopy and gastrointestinal surgery. But the success of the APDW also depends very much on the contribution of the component associations and societies. To this end, all sister organizations of the APDWF, must reflect and represent fully, their respective disciplines in a fair and democratic way, such that their membership can enjoy fully the fruits of our endeavor in organizing an APDW.

The WGO has contributed to the APDWs in a big way. In 2013, the WGO organized the highly successful World Congress of Gastroenterology in conjunction with the APDW, held in Shanghai from 21st-24th September 2013

The WGO continues to contribute to all regional meetings with our partner regional associations and societies. A fine example of the contribution of our partners is the World Gastroenterology Organisation's Distinguished Global Lecture 2018 which focuses on "global issues" in the particular region of the world.



APDW's Korean hosts entertain guests with a K-POP concert!



KL Goh addresses APDW 2018

In 2018 WGO, under the leadership of chairs Eamonn Quigley (USA) and Henry Cohen (Uruguay), is proud to have presented the Distinguished Global Lecture to Prof. Suk-Kyun Yang of Korea who gave the lecture: “Inflammatory Bowel Disease: A New Health Problem in Asia” at Asian Pacific Digestive Week 2018.

WGO Distinguished Global Lecture 2018

WGO believes that it is important to continuously expand the ways in which it supports its Member Societies and Regional Affiliate Associations and their activities. With this goal in mind, the WGO Governing Council established the “WGO Distinguished Global Lecture” as one means by which WGO can even more effectively demonstrate its commitment to participating in and supporting the major annual or biannual meetings of the Regional Affiliate Associations.

The central aim of the WGO Distinguished Global Lecture is to contribute from a global perspective to the education and training being offered on a regional basis by the four WGO Regional Affiliate Associations: African Middle East Association of Gastroenterology (AMAGE); Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology (APAGE); Pan-American Gastroenterological Association (OPGE); and United European Gastroenterology (UEG), through its National Societies Committee.

It also provides an opportunity for WGO to realize in partnership with its Regional Affiliate Associations its primary mission, which is to represent, present, and support the discipline of gastroenterology, hepatology and related disciplines worldwide and enhance the reach of WGO’s members, particularly in developing and low-resource regions.

In 2018 WGO, under the leadership of chairs Eamonn Quigley (USA) and Henry Cohen (Uruguay), is proud to have presented the Distinguished Global Lecture to Prof. Suk-Kyun Yang of Korea who gave the lecture: “Inflammatory Bowel Disease: A New Health Problem in Asia” at Asian Pacific Digestive Week 2018.



Presentation of the WGO Distinguished Global Lecture to Prof. Suk-Kyun Yang



Prof. Suk-Kyun Yang delivers his lecture: “Inflammatory Bowel Disease: A New Health Problem in Asia”



Presentation of the WGO Distinguished Global Lecture to Prof. Suk-Kyun Yang

Reprinted with permission of the Asian Pacific Digestive Week 2018. Professor KL Goh was Vice President of the WGO from 2011-2015. He was President of the Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology from 2010-2014 and then President of the APDWF Federation from 2014-2018. He continues to sit on the APDWF Board as Immediate Past president.

28th Annual Conference of the Asian Pacific Association for the Study of the Liver

“Soaring to New Heights in Hepatology” was the theme and embodied the driving force of the conference

The Asian Pacific Association for the Study of the Liver (APASL) has been in existence since 1978 with the objective of creating forums for the advancement of science in liver health. We are pleased to announce that the 28th edition of the APASL Annual Convention, held in Manila, Philippines from 20-24 February, 2019, was a great success!

“Soaring to New Heights in Hepatology” was the theme and embodied the driving force of the conference as it addressed such important topics as stimulating changes from highly effective drugs for treatment for liver cancer, cures for Hepatitis C, emerging therapies for Hepatitis B and other hepatitides as well as metabolic liver diseases.

An assembly at the Philippine International Convention Center of over 50 countries from the Asian Pacific

region, APASL 2019 brought together scientists, clinicians, students, other specialties and associates to discuss cutting edge technology in frontline of hepatology treatment, merging with tools for digital exchange. Workshops were specifically designed as platforms for exchanging ideas between mentors and mentee, a debate roundtable on ambiguous issues on treatment and management as well as clinical research forums featuring innovative concepts and techniques. These were all aimed at improving the health care of patients with liver disease. Liver tracks on pathology, radiology, endoscopy, surgery, nutrition as well as pediatrics provided the framework of the growing landscape of hepatology.

2019 APASL provided a distinct opportunity to interact, establish a larger network, and collaborate



APASL warmly welcomes conference attendees to Manila, Philippines

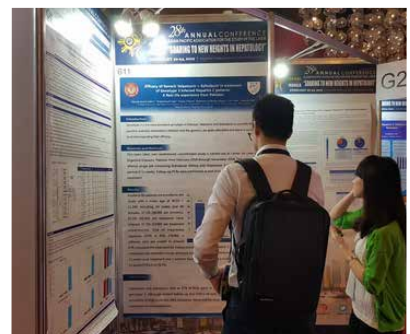
among other researchers from a region of great cultural diversity, all bound together with a single vision to improve patient care. We trust that all who presented, attended and exhibited found it to be a rewarding experience.

Many thanks to our Steering Committee, Executive Council, Local Organizing Committee, and the APASL 2019 Manila Organizing Committee for all their hard work in ensuring the conference’s success.

Highlights of APASL 2019 included the conferring of our various awards. This year we congratulate these winners:



Opening Ceremony



Poster sessions at APASL



WGO's exhibit at APASL 2019 in Manila

APASL Okuda-Omata Distinguished Achievement Award -- Professor JiaHorng Kao, Taipei, Taiwan

The APASL Okuda-Omata Distinguished Achievement Award is conferred to an individual who has made scientific contributions of outstanding significance in the field of hepatology. This is awarded to an individual with an established history of distinguished service and exhibited leadership as

well as provided inspiration to others in hepatology positively influencing both national and international level.

APASL Powell- Sarin Distinguished Service Award -- Professor Osamu Yokosuka, Chiba, Japan

The APASL Powell-Sarin Distinguished Service Award is conferred to an individual who has made exceptional service to the APASL organization. The award recognizes the individual's contribution to APASL's positive culture and environment as well as his unselfish dedication in making the APASL a forefront in the field of hepatology.

APASL Sollano -Lesmana Great Mentor Award -- Professor Wan Long Chuang, Kaohsiung, Taiwan

The APASL Sollano-Lesmana Great Mentor is conferred to an individual

who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to the mentorship of students, fellows and younger members of APASL. This award recognizes an individual who stands out for effectively guiding younger colleagues throughout their professional training in a continuing, multifaceted partnership sustained by mutual respect and concern.

APASL Rising Star Award -- Professor Mohamed Alborai, Cairo, Egypt

The APASL Rising Star Award is conferred to an individual younger than 40 years old who continuously attends and contributes to APASL activities. This award is given to an individual who actively contributes to the scientific research in the field of hepatology and have at least five papers published in Hepatology International, including three papers with his/her name as the first or as the correspondence author.

2020 APASL Annual Meeting

The 2020 APASL Annual Meeting will take place in Bali, Indonesia from 4-8 March with the theme of "Golden Ages of Hepatology". Information can be found at <http://www.apasl2020.org/>. We look forward to seeing you there!



Congratulations to the APASL award winners!

ISGCON 2018 — 59th Annual Conference of Indian Society of Gastroenterology



Naresh Bhat, MD, DM

President
Indian Society of Gastroenterology



Govind Makharia, MBBS, MD, DM, DNB

Secretary General
Indian Society of Gastroenterology



Participants at ISGCON 2018

lectures, eight panel discussion as well as four debates.

Dr. Naresh Bhat, President of the Indian Society of Gastroenterology, said in his speech that the gut is in many ways our second brain and its influence is extensive. “Eat healthy food, lead an active lifestyle, manage stress and optimize your gastrointestinal health. A healthy gut means a healthy you.”



The national conference of the Indian Society of Gastroenterology, ISGCON 2018, was held with great success from 28 November – 1 December 2018 at the Lulu Bolgatty International Convention Centre in Kochi, India. The meeting was organized with the Indian National Association for the Study of Liver (INASL) and Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy of India (SGEI).

ISGCON 2018 was a scientific update on current knowledge and future advances in the field of gastroenterology, hepatology and GI endoscopy. Eminent faculty were selected from across India and around the world to lead this scientific journey. The meeting was attended by over 2500 including gastroenterologists, scientists, and industry partners. 215 speakers and 202 chairpersons participated in 156



Opening Ceremony

“Our country is worst hit for reasons attributable to rapid urbanization, change in food habits, lifestyle and genetic factors,” said Dr. Mathew Philip, director of the PVS Institute of Digestive Diseases in Kaloor, Kochi, referring specifically to issues in India.

Hands-on workshops for doctors and endoscopy technicians as well as a training program for nurses were other highlights of the event.

“Eat healthy food, lead an active lifestyle, manage stress and optimize your gastro-intestinal health. A healthy gut means a healthy you.”

26th UEG Week Vienna 2018

UEG Week Vienna truly lived up to its motto: advancing science - linking people.

With more than 12,500 attendees from 111 different countries, the 26th UEG Week in Vienna 2018 was a great success again. For 5 intensive days, a world-class and diverse program was carefully pieced together featuring the latest advancements in clinical management and the best new research in digestive health. The program boasted a variety of symposia and session types to ensure that a comprehensive offering was provided for all attendees, whatever their specialty. Like every year, it was a get together of practitioners, top scientists and everyone invested in digestive health. With additional 3,400 people who tuned in on UEG Week Live and participated from around the world, UEG Week Vienna truly lived up to its motto: advancing science - linking people.

Herbert Tilg, Chair of the UEG Scientific Committee, provides his highlights from UEG Week Vienna 2018: “This year’s program featured the latest advances in clinical management, the best research in GI and



Prof. Herbert Tilg at opening session

liver disease and included several different kinds of symposia and fora, where cutting-edge developments in gastroenterology and hepatology were discussed.”

Postgraduate Teaching Program

The congress kicked-off with the Postgraduate Teaching Program (PGT) that was designed to emphasize the importance of the multimodal management of gastrointestinal diseases, including IBD, colorectal and other digestive cancers, gallstones, and Barrett’s esophagus. A record 3,425 physicians with an interest in gastrointestinal medicine and hepatology took part in the program, which included a lively mix of plenary teaching sessions with audience voting, video case sessions, and clinical case-based teaching.

Newly introduced for the UEG Week Vienna 2018 were “Crash Courses”, providing highly interactive and engaging sessions that offered the ideal setting for clinicians to get a complete update on a common topic. Crash course session topics included the liver, perianal Crohn’s disease and non-bleeding upper GI emergencies.

UEG president Paul Fockens: “Providing cutting-edge science is always at the forefront of UEG Week and we are constantly looking to attract the best research to our congress, both clinical and basic. One highlight was the ‘Today’s Science, Tomorrow’s Medicine’ sessions, with the theme this year focusing on regenerative medicine in digestive diseases. This

Newly introduced for the UEG Week Vienna 2018 were “Crash Courses”



Opening session

symposium series was constructed through a combination of invited speaker and Free Paper sessions and ensured that world’s leading scientists and young researchers were able to unite to help shape future developments in our dynamic field. Once again, the congress provided a fantastic opportunity for researchers around the world to submit and present their latest research findings.”

Young GI Network

The Young GI Network is a popular element of UEG Week and is expertly organized by UEG’s Young Talent Group (YTG), who are responsible for main UEG and UEG Week initiatives more accessible and attractive to young gastroenterologists. UEG Week 2018 offered a variety of sessions dedicated specifically to the Young GI Network like several popular sessions within the Young GI Lounge: Senior experts provided valuable advice on how to establish a career in gastroenterology, or on how to prepare engaging presentations. A chat for women focused on the opportunities relating to a woman’s career in teaching and achieving an effective work-life balance.

UEG is constantly looking to attract the best science and research to the congress and had a record number

UEG is constantly looking to attract the best science and research to the congress and had a record number of original abstracts.



UEG president Paul Fockens

of original abstracts. The meeting provides a fantastic opportunity for researchers around the world to submit and present their latest research findings and, to support the quality of submissions, UEG offers a number of awards.

UEG Week Vienna 2018 Awards Research Prize

The UEG Research Prize winner 2018 was Cisca Wijmenga for her outstanding work “A coeliac mucosal barrier-on-chip model to investigate its role in initiation of coeliac disease.” Cisca Wijmenga’s research focuses on the understanding of genetic variation and how this leads to phenotypic variation, with a particular focus on the relationship with autoimmune diseases. Her work is interdisciplinary, including genetics, epidemiology, immunology computational biology and bioinformatics. She currently holds the position of Lodewijk Sandkuijl Endowed Chair and Professor of Human Genetics at the University Medical Centre Groningen, the Netherlands.

Lifetime Achievement Award

The UEG Lifetime Achievement Award winner 2018 is Professor Colm O’Morain. Colm O’Morain was a Consultant Gastroenterologist and Professor of Medicine at the Faculty of Health Sciences in Trinity College, Dublin and Tallaght University Hospital, Dublin. As Dean of the Faculty and during his academic career, he has been a key opinion leader in multiple major fields of gastroenterology. Advocacy work by UEG in Brussels was initiated under Colm O’Morain’s chairmanship of the UEG Public Affairs Committee and he was instrumental in advocating for colorectal cancer screening on both a national and pan-European level.

Top Abstract Prize Awardees

Marinus Kempeneers, Kevin Perez, Jony van Hilst, Jan Hendrik Niess, Nicolien Schepers
€ 10,000 go to each of these top 5 abstracts submitted to UEG Week 2018. The top 5 abstracts from 2018 were selected for their scientific excellence from a record 3,170 submissions to UEG Week 2018.

Journal Best Paper Award

The UEG Journal Best Paper Award went to Joaquín Cubiella, as the first author of the winning article titled “Correlation between adenoma detection rate in colonoscopy – and fecal immunochemical testing – based colorectal cancer screening programs”.

UEG Rising Stars

Jesús M. Bañales, Adam Donald Farmer, Ricard Farré, Alexander

Kleger, James C. Lee, Rodrigo Liberal, Ilse Rooman, Stan van de Graaf. Every year the National Societies Committee and the UEG Scientific Committee jointly select emerging clinical scientists as Rising Stars.

Congress recordings - UEG Week 24/7

The congress experience continues. UEG Week 24/7 features all core scientific lectures from UEG Week Vienna 2018: ueg.eu/week/24-7

Share with us the future of digestive health and visit UEG Week in Barcelona, October 19 – 23, 2019! Register at: ueg.eu/week



UEGW Rising Stars

UNITED EUROPEAN
GASTROENTEROLOGY
ueg week

driving scientific advancements in digestive health

October 19-23, 2019
Venue: Fira Gran Via, Barcelona

UEG President Professor Paul Fockens discusses why he is looking forward to UEG Week 2019

“ UEG Week is the largest and most prestigious gastroenterology meeting of its kind, with more than 12,500 delegates from over 110 countries worldwide. The UEG Scientific Committee is developing a state-of-the-art scientific programme, featuring the latest advancements and most exciting research in digestive health. An inclusive offering is provided for all attendees, whatever their level of expertise, featuring a broad variety of symposia and session types that includes live endoscopies, video case sessions and interactive formats allowing delegates the opportunity to passionately debate with fellow attendees. The two-day Postgraduate Teaching Programme will provide profound updates





on a wide range of gastrointestinal and hepatology topics that suit both gastroenterologists in training as well as established physicians and general practitioners. The programme focuses on the relevance for the clinical day-to-day business and enables participants to get perfectly prepared for their professional career. 2019 marks year 3 of our rolling 3-year curriculum. I am anticipating a very exciting week of scientific advances and updates from leading digestive health experts and thoroughly look forward to welcoming new and returning delegates to UEG Week Barcelona 2019.

To find out more, visit www.ueg.eu/week

” **2019**

17th Egyptian Digestive Disease Week 2019



Serag Zakaria, MD

Secretary General of the Egyptian Society for the Study of Endoscopy and Hepatogastroenterology

Prominent names in endoscopy, hepatology and gastroenterology from Arab countries, Africa, Europe and the Americas all collaborated for an exceptional and special event.



The organizing committee of the Egyptian Society for the Study of Endoscopy and Hepatogastroenterology (ESEGH) was honored to welcome all participants, faculty and speakers to its annual conference, Egyptian Digestive Disease Week 2019. This meeting was held from 26th to 30th of March, 2019 at Nile Ritz Carlton in Cairo, Egypt.

Prominent names in endoscopy, hepatology and gastroenterology from Arab countries, Africa, Europe and the Americas all collaborated for an exceptional and special event. The conference was a platform for core topics on gastroenterology, hepatology, endoscopy and related fields, including medications, research, innovations in surgical techniques,



Presentation from the Scientific Program at EDDW 2019

procedures and technologies, as well as optimal and cost effective paradigms for patient care.

The scientific program was comprised of keynote presentations, plenary talks, video presentations, symposia, workshops and round table discussions to stimulate participants into vigorous and robust discussions with the panels of experts.

We in particular would like to thank Dr. Ghada Waly, Minister of Social Solidarity of the Egyptian Government, as well as our honorary Presidents of EDDW 2019 for their involvement: Professors Naima Amrani (Morocco) -- representing the World Gastroenterology Organisation, Reda El Wakeel (Egypt), Alastair Forbes (UK), Madiha Khattab (Egypt), Jean-François Rey (France) -- representing the World Endoscopy Organization, and Ziad Sharaiha (Jordan).



Jean-François Rey – President of the World Endoscopy Organization speaks at EDDW 2019



Scholars from Nigeria at the WGO booth



WGO welcomes leadership of AMAGE to our booth!



Opening Ceremony

Prof. Eamonn Quigley, WGO Past President, awarded St. Patrick's Day Medal



Ireland's Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Richard Bruton, presented on 12 March 2019 Science Foundation Ireland's (SFI) prestigious St. Patrick's Day Science Medal to Prof. Eamonn Quigley, Chief of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, at Houston Methodist Hospital and Weill Cornell Medical College; and to Michael Mahoney, CEO and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Boston Scientific, for their significant contributions to academia, research and industry. Prof. Quigley is a Past President of the World Gastroenterology Organisation from 2005-2009.

Now in its sixth year, the SFI St. Patrick's Day Science Medal also recognizes Prof. Quigley and Mr. Mahoney's significant roles in supporting and engaging with the research ecosystem in Ireland. The medal is awarded annually to US-based scientists, engineers or technology leaders with strong Irish connections.



Prof. Eamonn Quigley awarded St. Patrick's Day Medal

This is the fourth consecutive year that the medal will be awarded to two recipients, with an eminent recipient chosen by an independent selection committee, from academia and another from industry.

Congratulating the recipients at a presentation event at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, Minister Bruton said: *"I am very pleased to present the SFI St. Patrick's Day Science Medal on behalf of the Government of Ireland and Science Foundation Ireland, to both Prof. Quigley and Mr Mahoney. Both have demonstrated outstanding leadership in their respective fields and have made extremely positive societal impacts in the United States and Ireland. The recognition of US-based scientists, engineers and technology leaders with an Irish connection further highlights the continued strength and durability of US-Ireland relations that exist across a broad range of sectors. The SFI St. Patrick's Day Science Medal is an opportunity to celebrate the fantastic research and collaboration that our two countries are achieving together."*

Prof. Quigley, a native of West Cork, Ireland, is a leading international expert in the field of gastroenterology. His career has spanned over thirty years, working on both sides of the Atlantic. A graduate of University College Cork (UCC), and following clinical training in Glasgow, he spent two years as a Research Fellow at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. In 1986, he joined the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, where he was Chief of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. Prof Quigley returned to Cork in 1998, where he served as Dean of the Medical School at UCC for seven years and was a Principal

Investigator at the APC Microbiome SFI Research Centre from its inception. He took up his current post in Houston, Texas in 2013 where he holds the David M Underwood Chair of Medicine in Digestive Disorders.

In addition to President of WGO, over the course of his career, Prof. Quigley has held influential positions of leadership and influence including with the American College of Gastroenterology as President and Editor-in-Chief of the American Journal of Gastroenterology. His research relationships with global companies have directly benefited Irish research through their partnership in the establishment of the SFI Research Centre APC Microbiome Ireland.

Upon receiving the award, Prof. Quigley said: *"I am greatly honored to receive the SFI St. Patrick's Day Science Medal, which recognises my work in gastroenterology. Working between Ireland and the United States has given me a valuable international perspective that I have brought to my research, clinical practice and teaching. It is important that we recognise, and continue to nurture, the innovative and transformational research taking place between both countries, benefiting our collective societies. I hope this important link between our scientific communities continues to grow in the coming years."*

The SFI St. Patrick's Day Science Medal is an opportunity to celebrate the fantastic research and collaboration that our two countries are achieving together.

About the SFI St. Patrick's Science Day Medal

The SFI St. Patrick's Day Science Medal was commissioned by Science Foundation Ireland in consultation with the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland. Jeweller Martina Hamilton, based in County Sligo, was selected to create the medal. Previous winners of the medal include:

2018 – Prof. Margaret Murnane, University of Colorado (Academic Medal)

2018 – David McCourt, Founder and CEO of Granahan McCourt Capital (Industry Medal)

2017 – Prof. Adrian Raftery, University of Washington (Academic Medal)

2017 – Dr. T. Pearse Lyons, Founder and President of Alltech (Industry Medal)

2016 – Dr. Craig Barrett, ex Intel (Industry Medal)

2016 – Prof. Séamus Davis, Cornell University (Academic Medal)

2015 – Prof. Katherine Fitzgerald, University of Massachusetts

2014 – Dr. Garret FitzGerald, University of Pennsylvania

About Science Foundation Ireland

Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) is the national foundation for investment in scientific and engineering research. SFI funds oriented basic and applied research in the areas of science, technology, engineering,

and mathematics (STEM) which promotes and assists the development and competitiveness of industry, enterprise and employment in Ireland. The Foundation also promotes and supports the study of and engagement with STEM and promotes an awareness and understanding of the value of STEM to society and, in particular, to the growth of the economy. See www.sfi.ie for more information.

Updated Endoscope Disinfection and New Pancreas Cystic Lesions Guidelines are Published



Anton LeMair, MD

WGO Guidelines Project
Amsterdam, Netherlands

“The most important step in endoscope reprocessing is scrupulous manual cleaning prior to disinfection. Disinfection will fail if cleaning has been inadequate.”

WGO has announced the release of the updated “Endoscope disinfection -- a guide to resource-sensitive reprocessing” Guideline as well as the new Pancreas Cystic Lesions Guideline.

Endoscope Disinfection Guideline

The Endoscope Disinfection Guideline is chaired by Dr. Tony Speer of the Royal Melbourne Hospital in Australia. Dr. Speer stated that, “This updated guideline addresses the recent outbreaks of multidrug-resistant organisms after endoscopy and proposes measures to reduce the risks of these outbreaks occurring.” He also noted that the update states upfront that “The most important step in endoscope reprocessing is scrupulous manual cleaning prior to disinfection. Disinfection will fail if cleaning has been inadequate.”

“It is increasingly recognized that biofilms on endoscopes compromise cleaning and disinfection. The conditions reported as causes of outbreaks facilitate biofilm formation and growth, and include inadequate cleaning and drying, occult endoscope defects, including channel damage, and breaches of reprocessing protocols.”

“Biofilm prevention and control are core problems in reprocessing that are addressed in these guidelines. Recommendations have been made to improve cleaning, drying, occult defects, and breaches of protocols.”

“The science of reprocessing is evolving. New research, including basic and clinical research, and randomized trials, undertaken in response to the publications of outbreaks of CPE, is now being published, and these guidelines will be updated as new relevant information becomes available.”

“These and other recent guidelines recommend hospitals to appoint a multidisciplinary committee with a diversity of interests and expertise to assess new information as it is published, and develop, implement, and, most importantly, regularly update reprocessing guidelines that are appropriate to the hospital’s resources and patient mix. Effective reprocessing is key to patient safety in endoscopy.”

The Guideline is intended for use by health providers and professionals who are involved in the use, cleaning, and maintenance of endoscopes, and it aims to support national societies, official bodies, and individual endos-

copy departments in developing local standards and protocols for reprocessing endoscopes.

The Guideline was created with the global view of many Guideline Review Team members, which in addition to Dr. Speer include: Michelle Alfa (Canada), Alistair Cowen (Australia), Dianne Jones (Australia), Karen Vickery (Australia), Helen Griffiths (United Kingdom), Douglas Nelson (USA), Roque Sáenz (Chile) and Anton LeMair (Netherlands). The guideline can be accessed at <http://www.worldgastroenterology.org/guidelines/global-guidelines/endoscope-disinfection>.

Pancreas Cystic Lesions Guideline

This Guideline is chaired by Prof. Juan Malagelada of the University Hospital Vall D’Hebron in Barcelona, Spain and Dr. Nalini Guda of GI Associates in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA. Prof. Malagelada states that, “This guideline aims at providing physicians worldwide with a reasonable, up-to-date approach in the management of pancreatic cystic lesions. Since pertinent diagnostic and therapeutic resources are not uniformly available in different areas of the world, these guidelines are meant to be used as appropriate keeping in mind the local resources and patient preferences.”

“This guideline aims at providing physicians worldwide with a reasonable, up-to-date approach in the management of pancreatic cystic lesions

“Pancreatic cystic lesions” is a conventional term that refers to a well-defined lesion of the pancreas that contains fluid. Most small lesions are detected incidentally when scanning is performed for evaluation of a non-pancreas related indication or symptoms. The etiology of pancreatic cysts is variable; they may be inflammatory, post-traumatic, or have no known etiology. While most small lesions are benign, some lesions can lead to malignancy and hence the need for further workup, surveillance and management decisions. It is, thus, necessary to obtain a good history and assess the nature of the lesion by appropriate investigations as needed to assess the risk for malignant progression. Since potentially malignant lesions cannot be distinguished reliably from benign lesions on clinical and morphological features alone, further evaluation and/or surveillance may be necessary.

Dr. Guda notes that the key points and main practice statements of the Guideline are as follows:

- Careful patient history and physical evaluation are necessary;
- At initial cyst fluid aspiration: perform CEA, amylase & cytology;
- Cysts should be assessed to determine the risk for malignancy or complications;
- Molecular testing is not routinely done because of limited data and the expense, but it does hold promise for the future;
- A thorough discussion with the patient regarding the diagnosis, current dilemmas in diagnosis and treatment, economic and emotional burden of investigations should be had prior to initiation of any surveillance strategy.

The Guideline was created with the global view of many Guideline Review Team members, which in addition to Prof. Malagelada and Dr. Guda, include: Khean-Lee Goh (Malaysia), Thilo Hackert (Germany), Peter Layer (Germany), Xavier Molero (Spain), Stephen Pandol (USA), Masao Tanaka (Japan), Muhammed Umar (Pakistan) and Anton LeMair (Netherlands). The guideline can be accessed at http://www.worldgastroenterology.org/guidelines/global-guidelines/pancreas_cystic_lesions.

With this new Guideline WGO now 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 at least once each year to discuss updating and creating new guidelines and consists of 30-plus members from around the globe representing various resource, cultural, and clinical situations.

New Guidelines Translations Available!

The new Diet and the Gut Guideline is now available in Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish translations. They can be found on the WGO website at <http://www.worldgastroenterology.org/guidelines/global-guidelines/diet-and-the-gut>.

The updated Management of Strongyloidiasis Guideline is now also published in French.

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

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, Diet and the Gut, GERD, HCC, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, IBD, IBS, NASH and NAFL, and Management of Strongyloidiasis.



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

Trilogia Vol. 2 - Curso de Posgrado

When: June 28, 2019 - June 29, 2019
Location: Hotel Grand Fiesta Americana, Querétaro, Mexico
Organizer: Asociación Mexicana de Gastroenterología
Website: <http://gastro.org.mx/trilogia-vol-2>

ESMO 21st World Congress on Gastrointestinal Cancer

When: July 3, 2019 - July 6, 2019
Location: Barcelona, Spain
Organizer: European Society for Medical Oncology
Website: <https://www.worldgicancer.com>

Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference

When: July 9, 2019 - July 12, 2019
Location: Ife Ife, Nigeria
Organizer: Society for Gastroenterology and Hepatology in Nigeria (SOGHIN)
Email: soghinsecretary@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.soghin.org.ng>

Singapore GIHep 2019

When: July 11, 2019 - July 14, 2019
Location: Grand Hyatt, Singapore
Organizer: Gastroenterological Society of Singapore
Website: <https://gastro.org.sg/event/gihep-2019>
WGO-Endorsed Event

International Association of Pancreatology Congress 2019 (IAP) / ASSA SAGES 2019 Congress

When: August 16, 2019 - August 20, 2019
Location: Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town, South Africa
Organizers: South African Gastroenterology Society (SAGES), International Association of Pancreatology (IAP) and other South African medical/surgical societies
Website: www.iap2019.co.za

GUT 2019

When: August 16, 2019 - August 18, 2019
Location: Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Organizer: Malaysian Society of Gastroenterology & Hepatology
Website: <http://www.msgh.org.my>

XXVII Congreso Centroamericano y del Caribe de Gastroenterología y Endoscopía Digestiva

When: August 29, 2019 - August 30, 2019
Location: Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Organizer: Asociación Hondureña de Gastroenterología
Website: <http://www.asociacionde-gastroenterologiadehonduras.org/programa.php>

18th International Celiac Disease Symposium 2019 (ICDS 2019)

When: September 5, 2019 - September 7, 2019
Location: Paris Marriott Rive Gauche Hotel & Conference Center, Paris, France
Organizer: International Society for the Study of Celiac Disease and Société Nationale Française De Gastroentérologie
Email: contact@icds2019-paris.com
Website: <http://icds2019-paris.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!

Congreso de las Asociaciones Colombianas del Aparato Digestivo

When: September 5, 2019 - September 8, 2019

Location: Centro de Convenciones, Cartagena, Colombia

Organizers: Asociacion Colombiana de Gastroenterologia, Asociacion Colombiana de Endoscopia Digestivo, Asociacion Colombiana de Hepatologia and Asociacion Colombiana de Coloproctologia

Website: <https://gastrocol.com/educacion/acadi-2019>

Australian Gastroenterology Week (AGW) 2019

When: September 8, 2019 - September 10, 2019

Location: Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide, Australia

Organizer: Gastroenterological Society of Australia

Website: <http://agw2019.org.au>

Gastro 2019

When: September 11, 2019 - September 13, 2019

Location: Hotel InterContinental, Mendoza, Argentina

Organizers: Federación Argentina de Gastroenterología (FAGE) and Federación Argentina de Asociaciones de Endoscopia Digestive

Website: <http://www.fage.org.ar>

Annual Meeting SGG-SGVC-SASL-GESKES

When: September 12, 2019 - September 13, 2019

Location: CongressCentre Kursaal, Interlaken, Switzerland

Organizer: Swiss Society of Gastroenterology

Website: www.sgg-sgvc-congress.ch

EUS ENDO 2019 - International Live Course

When: September 19, 2019 - September 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, 2019 - September 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, 2019 - September 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, 2019 - September 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, 2019 - September 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, 2019 - October 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, 2019 - October 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, 2019 - October 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, 2019 - October 25, 2019

Location: Palacio de Convenciones, Havana, Cuba

Organizer: Sociedad Cubana De Gastroenterologia

Website: <http://www.gastrocuba2019.com>

XXVII Congreso Dominicano de Gastroenterología**When:** October 24, 2019 - October 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, 2019 - October 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, 2019 - November 8, 2019**Location:** Tehran, Iran**Organizer:** Iranian Association of Gastroenterology and Hepatology**Website:** <http://iaighcongress.org>**2nd European Lifestyle Medicine Congress****When:** November 8, 2019 - November 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, 2019 - November 12, 2019**Location:** Hynes Convention Center, Boston, Massachusetts, USA**Organizer:** AASLD**Website:** <https://www.aasld.org/event/liver-meeting>**Semana Nacional de Gastroenterología 2019****When:** November 16, 2019 - November 20, 2019**Location:** Cancún ICC International Convention Center, Cancún, Quintana Roo, Mexico**Organizer:** Asociación Mexicana de Gastroenterología**Website:** <http://www.gastro.org.mx>**JDDW 2019 - Japan Digestive Disease Week 2019****When:** November 21, 2019 - November 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, 2019 - November 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, 2019 - November 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, 2019 - November 28, 2019**Location:** Antofagasta, Chile**Organizer:** Sociedad Chilena de Gastroenterología**Website:** www.sociedadgastro.cl**European Colorectal Congress****When:** December 1, 2019 - December 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, 2019 - December 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, 2019 - December 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, 2020 - 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, 2020 - March 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, 2020 - March 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>**International Symposium on Viral Hepatitis and Liver Disease (ISVHLD)****When:** June 18, 2020 - June 21, 2020**Location:** Taipei International Convention Center, Taipei, Taiwan**Organizers:** 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, 2020 - September 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, 2020 - October 14, 2020**Location:** RAI, Amsterdam, Netherlands**Organizer:** United European Gastroenterology**Website:** <https://www.ueg.eu>**Panamerican Digestive Disease Week 2020****When:** November 4, 2020 - November 7, 2020**Location:** Punta del Este, Uruguay**Organizer:** OPGE**Website:** www.sped2020.uy**JDDW 2020 - Japan Digestive Disease Week 2020****When:** November 5, 2020 - November 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, 2021 - November 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, 2022 - October 30, 2022**Location:** Fukuoka, Japan**Organizer:** Organization of JDDW**Website:** <http://www.jddw.jp/english/index.html>