



American College of Gastroenterology



EDUCATION, PUBLICATIONS, RESEARCH,
AND PUBLIC POLICY



Digestive Disease Specialists
Committed to Quality in Patient Care.



“ACG promotes my interests,
those of the practicing gastroenterologist.

ACG provides me with the knowledge
to improve patient care, tools to manage
my practice, and representation among
policy makers.”

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Digestive
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Education, Publications, Research and Public Policy

The American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) is a recognized leader in educating GI professionals and the general public about digestive disorders. Our mission: promote the highest standards in medical education and meet the individual and collective needs of clinical GI practitioners.

The College:

Provides continuing medical education for clinicians through scientific meetings and publications;

- Represents the GI clinician on national health care policy, ensuring the best interests of clinical medicine and patient care;
- Encourages and provides support for clinical research in gastroenterologic disorders; and
- Provides educational resources for patients with gastrointestinal disorders and their families, and serves as a liaison with patient advocacy organizations for those with gastrointestinal and hepatic disorders.



Education

ACG provides a wide range of educational programs focusing on clinically-oriented topics for the GI professional. From national and regional meetings, to the Annual Postgraduate Course and *Self-Assessment Test*, and other CME-accredited courses, ACG educational offerings are timely, relevant and give you information you can apply to your practice.

ACG Regional Courses

Presentations geared to daily clinical practice, qualifications and experience of the speakers, and panel discussions are the reasons why GI clinicians attend ACG's regional meetings year after year. Held in locations close to where members work and live, ACG offers solely sponsored programs as well as jointly sponsored programs in conjunction with state societies.

EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS

“As always,
it was a wonderful course.
The speakers were excellent and clinically oriented.
The topics were relevant and well chosen. Without question,
the best CME activity that I do is the ACG Post-Grad Course.”

Live Educational Programs

The ACG Annual Scientific Meeting and Postgraduate Course

The Premier GI Clinical Meeting and Postgraduate Course

Excellent faculty and a clinical focus make the ACG Annual Scientific Meeting and Postgraduate Course the premier GI clinical event. Network with your peers, share experiences from your practice, and get access to experts for in-depth discussions on a broad range of cutting edge topics.

The educational program is designed with the busy GI physician in mind. Customize your educational program and join colleagues for one day to attend one or more Friday courses, two days for the Postgraduate Course, three days for the Annual Scientific Meeting, or a combination of the three.

When you attend ACG's Annual Scientific Meeting and Postgraduate Course, you will find:

Numerous plenary sessions and poster sessions that showcase research and provide you ways to enhance patient care and improve efficiency in your practice

Networking events to connect with old colleagues and make new contacts

Cutting-edge research presented by colleagues from the U.S. and abroad

An exhibit hall showcasing the latest advances in technology and therapeutics

Optional Learning Luncheons and Breakfast Sessions which allow you the opportunity to explore, in greater detail, key topic areas presented by nationally recognized experts





The three-day Annual Scientific Meeting is free for ACG members, and members receive discount registration rates on the Postgraduate Course and Friday courses.

ACG Hands-on Workshop Center

New in 2010, the College launched a Hands-on Workshop Center giving all Annual Meeting attendees an opportunity to watch and learn from leading experts and gain hands-on experience under the guidance of the experts. The Workshop Center is free to all meeting attendees and is located on the Exhibit Hall floor.

Optional Friday Courses

ACG offers other courses at the ACG Annual Scientific Meeting and Postgraduate Course, including What's New in GI Pharmacology, Recertification Preparation and Update, Practice Management Course, and alternating courses in GI Pathology & Imaging or GI Pathophysiology: Clinical Applications in Practice, plus focused sessions for Physician Assistants, and Nurse Practitioners.

Best Practices Course

Held biennially in partnership with ASGE, the ACG Board of Governors and the ASGE develop a comprehensive weekend program that attracts a national audience.

EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS

Members receive
10 hours of
online CME
for free, via
ACG's Education
Universe.

ACG's Web-based Learning

ACG Education Universe

The ACG Education Universe is an online, self-directed CME program that provides a way for all gastroenterologists to access outstanding tools in preparing for the GI boards, recertification, or obtaining necessary CME credits outside of the ACG meetings. Since 2010, ACG members receive annually 10 hours of online CME, for free, via ACG's Education Universe. Specific instructions on how to obtain the free CME is provided on the ACG website.

Users can choose what they want to learn about, the format of the information – video presentations, Journal articles, abstracts – and how much time they want to devote to learning at any given point. There are hundreds of video presentations from ACG's national and regional meetings that members can choose from. The Education Universe also tracks how much CME users earn and can print CME certificates directly from the site once they complete the activity.

To learn more about the ACG Education Universe, visit www.acgcmeuniverse.org.



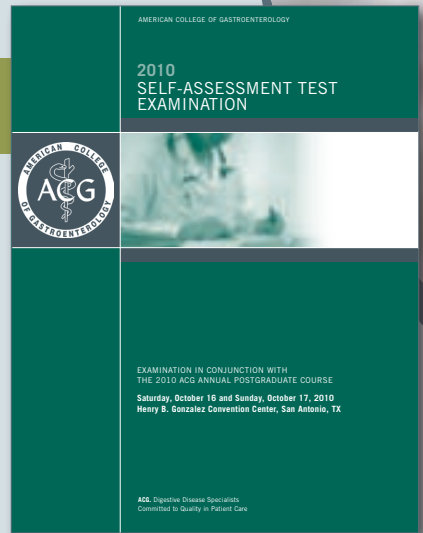


ACG Education Universe — GI Training Pathway

In July 2009, ACG launched the GI Training Pathway, a unique educational tool with a large library of video presentations, articles and abstracts from ACG meetings and Journal that GI training programs can use to enhance and expand the knowledge level of GI fellows. One of two learning pathways of the ACG Education Universe, the GI Training Pathway content includes educational material covering each key knowledge area of the Gastroenterology Core Curriculum. Since its launch, nearly 100 of the GI training programs in the U.S. have signed up to offer the GI Training Pathway service.

The GI Training Pathway gives Program Directors the ability to assign customized sets of content to fellows to advance knowledge and skills as needed for their specific training program. This content includes presentations delivered by renowned experts in the subspecialty fields of gastroenterology and hepatology. Test questions related to each core curriculum topic, complete with an explanation of the answer and applicable references, accompany the “homework” assignments. The progress of trainees, both in terms of completing assignments and accurately answering relevant test questions, can be monitored by the training directors. Training program faculty and trainees alike use it regularly.

EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS



Self-Assessment Test

Produced yearly in conjunction with the Postgraduate Course, the Self-Assessment Test is one of the main teaching tools of the College. This detailed examination is carefully prepared by the Educational Affairs Self-Assessment Test Subcommittee, with input gathered from the majority of Postgraduate Course faculty members. Approximately 300 questions in a single best answer or true/false format, many of which include photographs and illustrations, are written every year along with detailed answers and annotated references. The tests provide a valuable review both for graduating fellows taking their GI Board as well as established practitioners looking for a broad clinical update or preparing for recertification.

Available in print and online.



Self-Assessment Program-Maintenance of Certification (SAP-MOC)

ACG's Self-Assessment Program-Maintenance of Certification is an ABIM approved program for credit in the ABIM Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program. ABIM diplomates enrolled in the MOC program who successfully complete each program will be awarded 20 self-evaluation of medical knowledge points by ABIM. ACG's web-based modules represent a comprehensive educational program dedicated to providing clinical updates in specific topic areas in Gastroenterology. Each module is comprised of 50 case-based, multiple-choice questions. Upon completion, users are able to access detailed explanations and linked references to other education resources and can earn up to 4 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* for each module.

Members interested in ACG'S SAP-MOC must first be enrolled in the ABIM-MOC program before it can be purchased or the test exam completed. You can verify your enrollment or enroll in the ABIM-MOC Program online at the ABIM Web site.



Publications

ACG's publications bring you the latest findings in clinical research and keep you up-to-date on what the College is doing to promote and advance the GI profession.



The American Journal of Gastroenterology

The official peer-reviewed journal of ACG, *The American Journal of Gastroenterology*, also known as *The Red Journal*, publishes scientific papers relevant to the practice of clinical gastroenterology. It features original research, review articles and consensus papers related to new drugs and therapeutic modalities.

Throughout the year, you'll also find practice guidelines on gastrointestinal diseases that have been developed and reviewed under the auspices of the ACG Practice Parameters Committee. The ACG Editorial Board encourages submissions of original manuscripts, review articles and letters to the editor from members and non-members.

All members receive *The American Journal of Gastroenterology* in print, online or both.



PUBLICATIONS

ACG Update

Want to know what ACG is doing to promote, educate and advocate for the GI profession? Read the *ACG Update*, a bi-monthly newsletter highlighting activities, meetings and events sponsored by the College. It

also serves as a forum for ACG Members and Fellows

to exchange information regarding practice management issues. To view current and past issues of the *ACG Update*, visit the website at www.acg.gi.org.



ACG Guidelines

An important educational tool and major focus for ACG

A tremendous amount of time and talent from an impressive pool of GI experts is devoted to the development of new ACG guidelines on gastrointestinal and liver diseases. The College's twin objectives for its guidelines are that they reflect the current state-of-the-art scientific work and be based on the principles of evidence-based medicine. The College places equal priority on continuing to update and refresh older guidelines as new information becomes available. ACG's CME offerings frequently feature references to ACG guidelines or form the scientific foundation for specific CME programs.



INTRODUCTION
Alcoholic liver disease (ALD) is a chronic disease that results in different clinical presentations that include cirrhosis. It is the leading cause of liver cancer and the second leading cause of liver-related mortality in the United States. The health-related quality of life of patients with ALD is significantly impaired. The burden of ALD is increasing worldwide, and the number of patients with ALD is expected to increase in the future. The purpose of this guideline is to provide a systematic review of the evidence on the diagnosis, management, and prognosis of ALD. The guideline is intended to assist clinicians in the management of patients with ALD. The guideline is based on a systematic review of the literature. The guideline is intended to assist clinicians in the management of patients with ALD. The guideline is based on a systematic review of the literature.



ACG SmartBrief

Emailed twice weekly to ACG members, the *ACG SmartBrief* provides summaries of the latest news in gastroenterology. You'll find news coverage of Clinical Updates, Legal & Regulatory, Practice News, Business & Market Trends, Patient Perspectives, and more. If you are an ACG member and are not currently receiving *ACG SmartBrief*, update your member record by adding your email address information.

Digestive Health SmartBrief

Share the latest news in gastroenterology and hepatology with your patients by signing up to offer the *Digestive Health SmartBrief* (DHSB). As an ACG member, you can offer this valuable e-newsletter to your patients and customize the DHSB to include your name or office name and address. The DHSB is emailed twice a week to any consumer interested in GI health. Article summaries focus on Guide to Healthy Living, Diagnosis and Treatment, Clinical Trial Monitor, Policy Watch and information about ACG's patient education resources.



PUBLICATIONS

Annual Publications

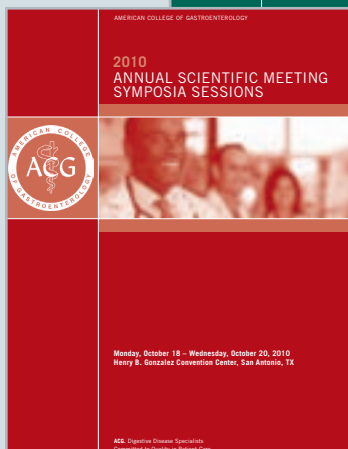
If you missed the ACG Annual Scientific Meeting and Postgraduate Course, you can still benefit by purchasing one of the many resources produced for the meeting. Updated annually, these resources provide a comprehensive review of many subjects for the GI physician.

The annual publications are:

- Annual Postgraduate Course Syllabus
- Annual Meeting Symposia Sessions Syllabus
- Annual Meeting Breakfast Sessions Syllabus
- Self-Assessment Test (also available online)
- Practice Management Course Syllabus
- What's New in GI Pharmacology Course Syllabus

In addition, the College produces publications for biennial courses Pathology & Imaging in GI Diseases Course and GI Pathophysiology Course.

These resources are available for sale immediately following the Annual Meeting for a nominal price. To view the Table of Contents for each, visit the online store at www.acg.gi.org.





RESEARCH



“The College represents excellence in clinical gastroenterology. Supporting the College’s goals in clinical research and education promotes the highest standards of care for all of our patients.”

The ACG Institute for Clinical Research & Education

As an active and effective sponsor of educational programs for consumers and physicians alike, the ACG Institute for Clinical Research & Education has funded more than \$12 million in clinical research grants to more than 500 investigators since its inception. In supporting young investigators, the Institute is not only investing in research but also in the careers of those individuals whose work in academic and clinical settings will define the specialty of gastroenterology in the years to come.

Each fall, the Institute opens the grant application process for the Clinical Achievement Awards and the Junior Faculty Development Awards. New in 2011 is the Smaller Programs Clinical Research Award. The goal of this new award is to stimulate pilot research at smaller clinical GI training programs, thereby encouraging junior faculty to pursue a research career and to remain in academics at these institutions. Information regarding the grant application process may be found online at www.acg.gi.org.

Beyond research, the ACG Institute is also an undisputed educational leader supporting initiatives that educate consumers about colorectal cancer screening and serious GI disorders and providing state-of-the-art educational tools for physicians to enhance their practice. Recent educational programs and materials for practitioners have included, Obesity: Do You Know Your GI Risks?, IBS Educational Tools, the Hepatitis C Treatment Resource Kit, and colorectal cancer screening resources. The IBS Educational Tools were developed in conjunction with ACG’s participation in World Digestive Health Day with the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO).



PUBLIC POLICY

Public Policy

On the national level, the College continues to represent the interests of clinical gastroenterologists, and the patients they serve, before the United States Congress and key federal agencies, such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Food and Drug Administration, and the Centers for Disease Control.

The challenges never cease, however, nor do the threats to patient access to quality care and adequate physician reimbursement. Consequently, ACG persists in its efforts to eliminate the site-of-service differential for endoscopic procedures, push for reform of medical liability laws, and in general, monitor efforts by the federal government to further increase the scope of its influence upon the medical profession.

Stay informed on important legislative developments with ACG's *This Week*. We report periodically on the federal and state legislative and regulatory issues that impact your practice. ACG encourages all of its members to become actively involved in effecting positive change on legislative matters by contacting Members of Congress on issues of key importance to gastroenterologists.

Contact your Members of Congress at <http://capwiz.com/acg/dbq/officials/>.

ACG GI Circle



ACG is on the cutting edge of professional networking with our online interactive community, the ACG GI Circle. The ACG GI Circle offers much more than other networking sites. Launched at the ACG 2009 Annual Scientific Meeting and Postgraduate Course, the ACG GI Circle lets members:

- Engage with experts on clinical challenges and the latest science in an open dialogue.
- Connect with colleagues and find friends to discuss new research and clinical updates presented at ACG meetings or top-of-mind issues like health care policy and practice management.
- Stay current with College news and happenings.

Login to find, connect, communicate and collaborate with colleagues in your community, on the state level, across the U.S., and around the world. Visit www.acg-gi-circle.within3.com.



GIQuIC — GI Quality Improvement Consortium Ltd.

For decades, organized medicine has attempted to measure quality of patient care and clinical outcomes.

Clinical gastroenterology has been at the forefront of these efforts in terms of developing new therapies and treatments for digestive diseases. A particular challenge for gastroenterology has been how to appropriately measure quality of diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopy services. The American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) and the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) have worked together for more than a decade on finding ways to establish scientifically sound standards for training, credentialing and quality measurement. Colonoscopy is the first endoscopic procedure to be measured with implementation of additional procedures in the coming years.

The GIQuIC is a nonprofit organization established by the ACG and ASGE. To learn more about GIQuIC, visit www.GIQuIC.org.

ACG Website

Get the latest information on what is happening at ACG from the ACG website, www.acg.gi.org. Designed to serve the needs of members and patients, you'll find up-to-date patient education materials on a range of digestive health topics. Members receive full access to the website and can learn of important legislative and regulatory issues that may have an impact on GI practice. Members can also access the website to pay member dues, register for a meeting or submit an abstract.



Resources for GI Fellows

The College is committed to serving the specific needs of GI fellows. Fellows receive a print copy as well as online access to *The American Journal of Gastroenterology*. In addition to the web-based learning library, the GI Training Pathway, that is accessed by Program Directors and GI fellows, the College has developed trainee-specific events including the GI Jeopardy competition and the Trainees Forum. The GI Jeopardy competition opens each summer and programs compete online for a chance to be one of the five team finalists that competes live at the ACG Annual Scientific Meeting and Postgraduate Course. The Trainees Forum is a free program open to all GI fellows attending the ACG Annual Scientific Meeting and gives fellows the opportunity to hear from experienced gastroenterologists from private practice and academia, as well as recent graduates, who provide insights into the process of finding a job and balancing work and life issues.

The College also offers several trainee-specific meetings throughout the year. To learn more about all the activities ACG offers for fellows, visit the Trainees' Section of the ACG website at www.acg.gi.org/physicians/trainees.asp.

Mentoring Program

ACG's Mentoring Program provides second and third year fellows-in-training access to faculty from diverse practice models, academic departments, and geographic regions. The Mentoring Program is designed to foster casual dialogue between mentors and trainees, while affording trainees the opportunity to gain valuable guidance and career advice from faculty not accessible to them in their training program.

Fellows-in-training have the opportunity to review the profiles of mentors and submit their top three requests for mentors. Mentors will be assigned no more than four fellows per academic year.

Membership

Membership in the American College of Gastroenterology is multi-disciplinary, including gastroenterologists, surgeons, radiologists, hepatologists, pediatricians, pathologists, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses and others with a shared interest in the care of patients with digestive diseases. Qualifications for each of the seven membership categories are:

Allied Health Member

- Must be employed by an ACG Member.
- Must possess one of the following certifications: RN, NP, CRNP, ANP, APN, LPN or PA.

Resident/Trainee Member

- Graduation from a recognized medical school with the degree of Doctor of Medicine or Doctor of Osteopathy.
- Residents shall be enrolled in approved training programs which include some exposure to gastroenterology, GI endoscopy, hepatology or gastrointestinal surgery.
- Fellows shall be enrolled in an approved gastroenterology fellowship program.

Member

- Graduation from a recognized medical school with the degree of Doctor of Medicine or Doctor of Osteopathy.
- Applicants who are not physicians must possess a graduate degree in a field of specialization related to basic sciences.
- Graduate degree shall have been received at least four years prior to application.
- Application supported by a Member or Fellow of the College.

International Member

Qualified individuals (MD, DO, MB, PhD) residing outside of the United States and Canada, who meet the qualifications set forth above in the Member category.



Fellow (FACG)

Fellowship is an honor bestowed by the American College of Gastroenterology in recognition of significant professional achievement and superior competence within the field of gastroenterology, pediatric gastroenterology, gastrointestinal surgery, gastrointestinal radiology or gastrointestinal pathology. Criteria for an ACG Member to Advance to Fellowship are:

- Proposal and endorsement by two Fellows of the College.
- Current uninterrupted membership or international member in the College for a period of no less than three years.
- Minimum of 3 CME programs sponsored by the ACG within the last six years.
- Evidence of involvement in ACG activities such as Committees, Courses, Annual Meeting attendance, etc.
- Certified by a specialty board recognized by the Council on Graduate Medical Education.
- Demonstrated scholarly activities.

Master (MACG)

This is a rare honor conferred upon physicians by the Awards Committee and the Board of Trustees who have demonstrated distinguished service to the College and to the field of clinical GI patient care and education.

Senior Member or Fellow

- Members or Fellows who have attained the age of 65 years or have retired from active practice.
- Senior Members and Fellows are not eligible to vote or to hold elective office.

ACG Board of Governors

The organizational structure of the College is designed to facilitate participation by and input from the membership through ACG's Board of Governors, who are elected locally and represent their state or region, four Canadian regions, and other nations. The Governors' recommendations guide the elected officers and Board of Trustees, who are responsible for the activities of the College.

Leadership

There is no single formula for advancing to leadership within the College. The work of the Committees and the essential role of the Governors are two important paths, but many leaders contribute to the educational programs, publications, patient and physician education initiatives, and national affairs activities of ACG. Anyone interested in learning more about these or any other activity of the College should contact the ACG Governor in their state/region or the ACG Headquarters Office.

Committees in Action

ACG has a total of 22 standing committees that play a key role in organizing and executing the activities of the College, including:

Educational Affairs

Responsible for developing the ACG Annual Scientific Meeting and Postgraduate Course, and approving regional meetings.

National Affairs

Represents the gastrointestinal specialist before the federal, state and local governments and their agencies.

Patient Care

Educates the College's members in all matters related to patient education and the practice of gastroenterology.

The College is also served by the following committees: Archives, Awards, Constitution & Bylaws, Credentials, FDA Related Matters, Finance & Budget, International Relations, Membership, Minority Affairs & Cultural Diversity, Nominating, Pediatric Gastroenterology, Practice Management, Practice Parameters, Professional Issues, Public Relations, Publications, Research, Training, and Women in Gastroenterology.

To learn more about the
American College of Gastroenterology,
visit the ACG website at
www.acg.gi.org.

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