Emily Couric Memorial Lecturer

The Emily Couric Memorial Lecture was developed by the ACG, the Virginia Gastroenterogical Society (VGS) and the Old Dominion Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates (ODSGNA) to honor Virginia State Senator Emily Couric, who lost her battle with pancreatic cancer in October of 2001. Senator Couric was a strong advocate for healthcare issues, particularly in her instrumental work to pass the nation's first legislation mandating health insurance coverage for colorectal cancer screening. The Emily Couric Lecturer is someone prominent in the field of GI cancer related topics. This individual is nominated by the President following consultation with the VGS and the appointment is subject to approval by the Board of Trustees.

2010 Lecturer
David A. Johnson, MD, FACG

Colon Cancer Screening: Evolution to Eradication...

Dr. David A. Johnson is Professor of Medicine and Chief of Gastroenterology at Eastern Virginia School of Medicine. He has published extensively in the internal medicine and gastroenterology literature contributing over 350 articles, chapters, and abstracts in peer-reviewed journals. He has been extensively involved in committees of the national GI societies, is Past President of the American College of Gastroenterology, and remains on the Executive Committee for the ACG Board of Trustees as well as the ACG Research Institute. He is past co-editor of *Reviews in Gastroenterological Disorders* and is the current co-editor of the ACG Education Universe, co-editor of *Journal of Medicine*, section editor for *Medscape Gastroenterology*, as well as the esophageal section editor for *Journal Watch Gastroenterology* (*New England Journal of Medicine*). He is on numerous editorial boards and reviews for 21 medical journals, including all of the gastroenterology journals and a number of prestigious internal medicine journals such as *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *Archives of Internal Medicine*, *The American Journal of Medicine*, and *The Lancet*. He has also recently co-authored the ACC/ACG/AHA consensus document on NSAID and antiplatelet issues for cardiology and gastroenterology.

Dr. Johnson is a member and reviewer of the National Institutes of Health study section for esophageal and gastric diseases and has served in consultant testimony to the FDA. Additionally, he is a member of the Multi-Society GI Task Force for CRC as well as the CDC Task Force for quality colonoscopy and the executive committee of the ACG/ASGE Quality Benchmarking Group. He is also on the executive committee for the Gastrointestinal Political Action Committee (GIPAC). He has been and remains a consultant for Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and is one of the GI advisors for the National Quality Forum

(NQF) and American Quality Alliance (AQA). He is co-editor of the American College of Physicians book, *Dyspepsia,* and editor of the 2005 and forthcoming 2010 *Gastroenterology Clinics of North America* issue on obesity related issues for the gastroenterologist.

Dr. Johnson's primary research interests are esophageal reflux disease and colon cancer screening. He was the physician who worked with Senator Emily Couric to put through the historic first legislation to mandate colon cancer screening with colonoscopy as the preferred standard. This initiative, first in Virginia, has set the model for other states that have followed. He remains a GI advisor for the Entertainment Industry Foundation (EIF) for CRC screening and the coordinating advisor for their annual EIF report card on state legislation for CRC screening. Additionally, he is a co-author of the recently released 2008 ACS/Multi-Society Task Force guidelines for colon cancer screening as well as the 2000 and 2009 American College of Gastroenterology colon cancer screening guidelines.

Dr. Johnson has served as a primary advisor for national Medicare GI issues on endoscopy (CMS advisory committee 1995-8) and was co-founder and co-chair of the national Gastroenterology Medicare advisors 1991-2000. He also serves as chair of the Virginia Anthem GI advisory committee (2004-present) as well as an advisor to Humana, WellPoint, and United Healthcare for national GI policy decisions. He is a regular consultant to the major news media including *USA Today*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, CNN, CBS, and NBC, and has had several invited television interviews including the *The Today Show* and *Good Morning America*.

The College is proud to honor Dr. David A. Johnson as the 2010 Emily Couric Memorial Lecturer for his extensive work and advocacy within the area of GI cancers, and his dedication to the field of gastroenterology through education, research, and clinical practice.