

By: Ellist L. Muñiz

### The scoop of the month of April The latest updates

WGO has twenty-three training centers globally. Soon we will have twenty-four, training centers, once Brasilia Brazil join the WGO family in July 2023. Each training center is managed by Directors and Co-Directors. WGO along with Dr. Luis Carlos Sabbagh, Chairperson of the Training Centers (TC) would like to ensure each TC has the information and tools they need to perform their roles.

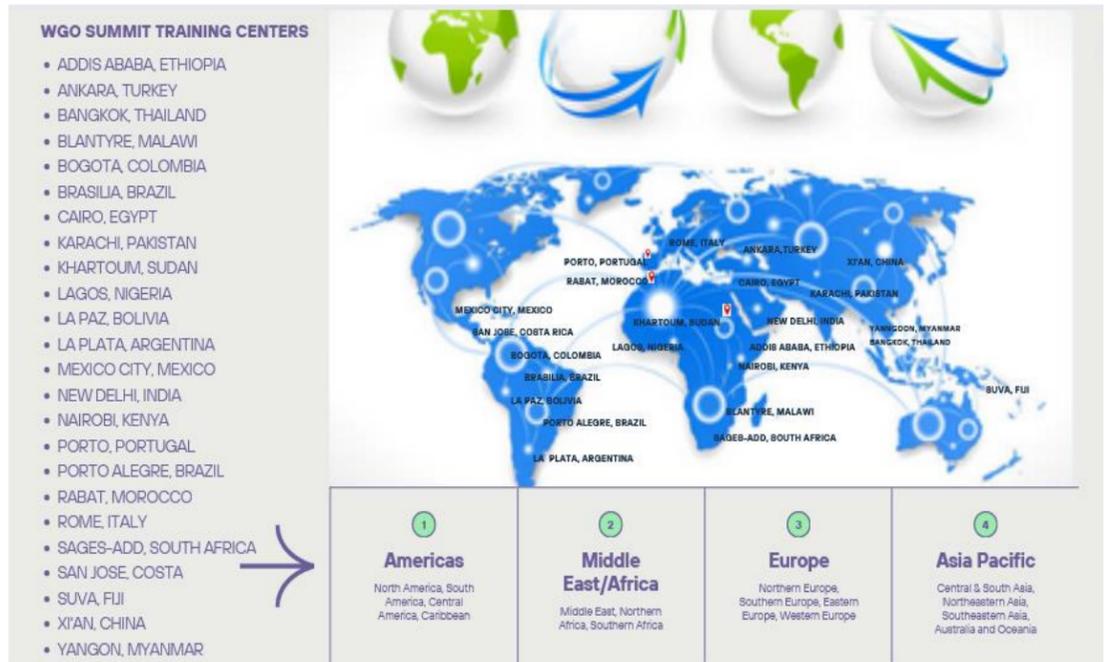
Luis C. Sabbagh, Chairperson, is meeting with the Directors and Co-Directors to identify:

- What has been done in the TC?
- What are the plans within the TC?
- How WGO can best support the TC?
- What types of programs or initiatives would the TC like to see WGO develop and / or present?

Once Dr. Sabbagh concludes his meetings with all the Directors / Co-Directors of each TC he will evaluate the information, prioritize, and follow up as required.



Huge thank you to all Directors / Co-Directors who met with Dr. Sabbagh and share their insights, thoughts, accomplishments, trainings process, and opportunities.



Training Centers: From Ethiopia to Yangon Myanmar. Americas, Middle East / Africa, Europe and Asia Pacific.

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### The latest breaking news

#### The latest updates from our training centers

During the month of April 2023 Dr. Luis C. Sabbagh has met with Prof. Ibrahim Mostafa, Cairo TC, Prof. Elly O. Ogutu, Nairobi TC, Dr. Abdelmounem E. Abdo, Khartoum TC, Prof. Amine Benkabbou, Morocco TC, Prof. Cristiano Spada, Rome TC, Dr. Mario Reis Alvares-da-Silva, Porto Alegre TC, Prof. Mashiko Setshedi, Sages-ADD TC and Karin Fenton administrator of Sages-ADD TC, Prof. Mai Ling Perman, Fiji TC, Dr. Shiv Sarin / Dr. Manoj Kumar Sharma, New Delhi TC, Dr. Miguel A. Ramirez Luna / Dr. Enrique Coss, Mexico City TC, Dr. Herbert Burgos, San Jose TC, Dr. Miguel Villa-Gomez, La Paz TC, and Prof. Nonthalee Pausawasdi, Bangkok TC.

The meetings were very productive, successful, and informational. Each TC is looking forward to continuing to conduct short / long term courses and training fellows from within their countries and or international. The TC has successfully performed their roles. **Congratulations!**

**Cairo TC** has been established since 2004. The center's mission was to provide patients from Africa with better standard of medical care, to improve their quality of life and their vision to establish training for doctors from African countries. Milestones were presented and are linked into the WGO website. The center is currently conducting 2-3 training yearly and has scheduled training for May, June, and December 2023.

**Khartoum TC** was established in 2015. The country is going through a critical situation due to a war, however Sudan is looking towards a bright future for the country. The center has conducted short courses, six months to one year of training. The center train international physicians, within Africa countries at no charge.

**Nairobi TC** was established in 2016. The center has conducted two years fellowship training, three to four trainings per year,

Fiji Training Center  
Main Theme is Skills Transfer

Prof. Mai Ling Perman

*"Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime".*

Fiji Training Center  
Motor Skills

Prof. Mai Ling Perman

*"Practice does not make perfect. Only perfect practice makes perfect"*

Heart Breaking  
Sudan

Dr. Abdelmounem E. Abdo

*We extend our deepest condolences to the families who lost their loved ones.*

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## The latest breaking news of the day

### The latest update from our Training Centers

and workshops with a duration of three to five days. Furthermore, the training center has conducted online training related to HIV, which has been very popular.

**Rabat TC** was established in 2001. The center's main activity is conducting two weeks intensive courses per year, this include and not limited to perform by Europe, Africa, and USA. In addition, the center has conducted yearly workshops including endoscopic, ultrasound, advance, drainage, and other courses. Participants are from all over Africa. Throughout the year, Rabat TC has conducted training to international physicians.

**Rome TC** was established in 2003. Rome is entirely devoted to the teaching of digestive endoscopy. In 2022, Rome TC has conducted 18 international courses, advance endoscopy, bleeding, ERCP, Endoscopy in general and other services. The training center is currently providing training to two long-term fellows: one from Chile and one from Japan. In addition, training is performed for young and older

fellows. The center train international physicians. The requirements are by country. Professor Cristiano Spada shared the training requirements and forms.

**Suva TC** has been established since 2008. The collaboration has been between Fiji National University and ANZGITA. They have been the pioneers and champions of WGO Suva TC. The center has an educational and service part. Over the years Suva TC brings doctors and nurses from other countries for Endoscopy training. Over the years Fiji TC brings doctors and nurses from other countries for Endoscopy training. In the past Fiji TC did not had gastroenterologists, or gastroenterology department, no specific data on the prevalence of diseases, PUD common, Carcinoma esophagus, stomach, colon or liver, inflammatory bowel diseases, hepatobiliary diseases, or no screening program / care. The Endoscopy room was small, and as years passed, it improved to a larger size. Since WGO endorsement, has been a great improvement.

**South Africa TC** was established in 2000. The center started in the north of the country. There are 8 medical schools and 7 accredited TCs', gastroenterology, medical, pediatric, and surgical gastroenterology. Africa trains 3 to 4 fellows which includes hepatology within the 6 training courses. Lots of trainees are from the continents such as: Nigeria, Kenya, etc., and within South Africa area. *Their biggest reward* is training lots of gastroenterologists. They get lots of requests, more than what they can offer. During pre-COVID had lots of ad hoc virtual meetings. COVID forced them to have other ways of training. The training center currently has a formal training program, with all the fellows within the country. Each center has its own strengths. To standardize the teaching and training, the virtual training has forced them to come up with a curriculum. The participants receive a certificate form the College of South Africa if they pass the exam. Gastroenterology Foundation of South Africa is a non-profit organization, where the director raises money for education and activities.

Dr. Shiv Kumar Sarin - Director and Professor Manoj Kumar Sharma - Co-Director

### New Delhi Training Center

#### The latest updates

**New Delhi TC** was established on April 26, 2015. The Director thank WGO for meeting with them. The center's mission is to induct and train the new generation of hepatologists, provide continuous teaching, hands on training, and focus on the development of academic physicians in hepatology who will excel and become leaders in the field.

Institute of Liver & Biliary Sciences (ILBS) provides training to postgraduate medical students. The students have been trained through the Post-Doctoral Certificate Course (PDCC) 1 year program. The New Delhi TC has done short and long training in hepatology, duration of 4 to 12 weeks. In addition, the TC has done advanced hepatology training, course duration of 6 to 12 months. TC does project ECHO to medical and nursing colleges across 21 states of the country. The TC has a project called PRAKASH (Programmed Approach to Knowledge and Sensitization on Hepatitis); which is divided into two parts: Hepatitis Induction Program (HIP) and Hepatitis Update Program (HUP). The TC has successfully trained 12,000 HCWs across 31 states and UTs of the country. TC has a viral hepatitis diagnostic laboratory support program where nurses and doctors are trained in this matter.

There is an empathy campaign program, awareness against hepatitis, which engages the community. ILBS collaborated with Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation, Ministry of External Affairs, to develop online training programs for various countries.

Dr. Sedat Boyacioglu

### Ankara Training Center

#### The latest updates

**Ankara TC** was established in 2015. The original plan was to have three partners WGO, AGA and TSG. It was decided to have a long-term fellowship program with a 12-month duration training with full scholarship with both basic clinical and endoscopic training. AGA will recruit 6 members of the AGA Academy of Educators as online mentors for the Ankara trainees. AGA will send an electronic copy of the Digestive Disease Self Education Program (DDSEP) book to each trainee. AGA Academy of Educators mentors will develop a timeline for assignments from DDSEP and routine communications with their trainees. One of the trainees that was trained within the center is currently working in the USA as a gastroenterologist, *a great achievement*.

Training was affected by an earthquake in Turkey where 10 million people were affected, and some lost their lives. Society decided to gear their support towards those affected by the earthquake. Ankara TC was asked to stop the training in 2023. The training will begin in September 2023. Hands on short-term courses with pigs will occur. International training will transpire. *Our sympathy to those who lost their loved ones*.

Prof. Nonthalee Pausawasdi

## Bangkok Training Center

### The latest updates

**Bangkok TC** was established in 2006. Prof. Pausawasdi who is the Director of the TC and President of GI Endoscopy Society of Thailand, Bangkok TC indicated the center is currently training local GI fellow, surgical fellows, and surgical residents who are surgical endoscopist.

In addition, the center trains international trainees and most of them come through WGO. The center train basic therapeutic EGD / Colonoscopy, advanced procedures such as: ESD, EMR, POEM, and Balloon assisted enteroscopy. Diagnostic and therapeutic EUS / ERCP, the center does not train therapeutic EUS because it is a more advanced procedure and might be complicated to train international trainees. However, the center train therapeutic EUS to all local advanced GI fellows.

The center has 32 faculties, 36 nursing staff, they do complex and basic procedures, perform over 1.5K cases per year, and has nine rooms for advanced procedures. The center is collaborating with the Gastroenterological Association of Thailand (GAT).

The center has rotated their training by bringing trainers from different centers from Bangkok, South, North, and Northeastern area. The center has trained **60 International** trainees and over 100 - 200 local trainees in terms of basic and advanced procedures. Within 2020 - 2023 the center has continued to accept local trainees. Due to COVID the center was not accepting international trainees. As of July 2023, the center is bringing back international trainees. Currently in the process of accepting the candidates that have applied for this year's training. The center has done endoscopy sleeve, the center has become mentors for other areas. The center is currently conducting endoscopy sleeve training for the local trainees. The center has conducted small workshops.

Miguel A. Ramirez Luna - Director  
Enrique Coss - Co-Director

## Mexico City Training Center

### The latest updates

Mexico City TC was established 2008. The Director's expertise is in endoscopy, advanced procedures, and endoscopic ultrasound. Co-Director's expertise is in gastrointestinal motility. The center trains many individuals with limited space. The institute is a center that trains national and international fellows for university courses. The center currently has 3 fellows in motility for 3-4 months. It is complicated to have an additional fellow, due to the number of procedures, number of patients and the area that is being shared. The center has had 3-4 trainees. During pandemic the center was not able to have the fellows for training purposes. The Director expects to be updated with the role's expectations and confirms the center trains on motility, endoscopy, video capsule endoscopy, ultrasound endoscopy, and ECHO endoscopy. The center has performed 1200K endoscopies and 600 ultrasounds. The center would like to create a live demonstration and broadcast it to US and Europe.

Dr. Miguel Villa-Gomez (La Paz TC), Dr. Herbert Burgos (San Jose TC), Dr. Mario Reis Alvares-da-Silva (Porto Alegre) and Dr. Amir Sultan (Addis Ababa TC)

## The latest breaking news of the day

### The latest updates from La Paz, San Jose, Porto Alegre, and Addis Ababa TC

**La Paz TC**, in 2019 there was a change of Directors. During the pandemic no training was performed, activities were suspended. Since 2021, the center has conducted training related to advanced therapeutic endoscopy to foreign and national trainees. The center currently has 4 fellows that are doing hands-on training. Two other fellows are in training not funded by WGO. The last two years, the center has conducted advanced gastroenterology and endoscopy courses, which the center has done version #17. The course has been very successful, there were 250 participants, which 40 of them received grants from all Latin America. The course is done in two phases: 1). conversational, discuss cases and observe live cases. 2). More interactive, working with the community and providing services to those patients that are less fortunate. In May 2023 the center will conduct a second course. Within the next semester of 2023 a doctor from Mexico and Argentina will be training at the center.

**San Jose TC** was established in 2010. In 2023, the center has scheduled 8 courses. The center continues with the international courses. Courses are scheduled as follows: February 20-24, April 24 - 28, June 12 - 16, July 17-21, August 21-25, September 18 - 22, and November 13-17. This week the center has trainees from Ecuador, Dominican Republic, and Mexico. There are courses with live cases and lectures, groups of 6-7 doctors, and 298 doctors have received the course. The center has assisted the trainees with their stay, which will allow the trainees to continue with the training. The institution is a private institution, which the center does not have much funding.

**Porto Alegre TC** was established in 2012. In 2022 Porto Alegre Training Center have achieved its 10th year's anniversary. The Training Center divide the training in two parts such as: In-patient and Out-patient trainings. During the morning the trainees go to the In-patient training such as: consultation, liver transplant, clinical rounds, intensive care, and liver discussion. During the afternoon the trainees attend the out-patient clinics, this includes liver disease, hepatology, pre-transplant patients, gastroenterology, and research. Training Center offers several short courses such as: Hepatology C and Hepatology carcinoma. Furthermore, once a year the training center promotes courses such as: dry dripping liver. Dr. Carolina Olano and other from Uruguay has participated. Other courses have been developed with the intention of closing the year successfully.

**Addis Ababa TC** was established in 2015. Since 2020, there was a civil war and has affected all their activities. The past seven years they have performed training in gastroenterology to their fellows. Two to three trainees on a yearly basis in two cycles. In 2022, two trainees completed their training.

The TC used to have one-or-two-day training for advanced fellows such as demonstration models, animal model, and ERCP, it has been limited training over the last year due to circumstances in the country.

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## The latest breaking news of the day

### The latest update from Lagos, La Plata, Porto, and Bogotá Training Centers

**Lagos TC** was established in 2015. Dr. Ganiyat Oyeleke, Director, took over from Prof. Funmi Lesi in 2018. In the first quarter of 2022, the center has provided training such as diagnostic upper and lower GI endoscopy. There were 25 participants and 15 resource people, during the hands-on gastroscopy and colonoscopy. *A live and virtual endoscopy disinfection training was conducted by Karl Storz.* A one-day-webinar was performed on Colorectal cancer in Africa in collaboration with Massachusetts General Hospital, Pan African Organization for Health Education & Research and WGO Lagos center. During the training there were 120 participants from within and outside Africa. In the second quarter of 2022, a training was conducted on Train-the-Trainers workshop on therapeutic endoscopy / basic skills in endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP). The training was well attended with resource people from the USA, South Africa, UK, and Lebanon who were physically present and several others who presented their topics virtually. A total of 75 trainees attended the program. The training was supported by WGO, MGH, ERBE, AMBU, SOGHIN, LUTH, Karl Storz, Olympus and JNCI. In the fourth quarter of 2022 a live hands-on endoscopy training was performed with doctors and nurses. A total of 10 trainees and 1-resources person attended.

In the first quarter of 2023, an annual CRC in Africa webinar was held in collaboration with MGH, LUTH, WGO, LTC, and SOGHIN. In the second quarter of 2023 CRC workshop took place and the plan was to involve pathologists, oncologists, and radiologists. Hands-on training on colonoscopy, laparoscopy, and surgical sessions. The centers need additional help in terms of training. A Koken model or similar for endoscopy (colonoscopy and gastroscopy) training, teaching tuck steering and tip control, reinforcing consistent languages (tip-up, tip-down), and enable how tasks are deconstructed to facilitate learning. *The trainees had the pleasure of using the model when Prof. Sandie Thomson brought it twice in June 2022 and April 2023.*

Appreciation to WGO, Training Center staff, LUTH, trainers, resource people, and collaborators such as MGH, SOGHIN, Karl Storz, ERBE, AMBU, and JNCI (Olympus).

**La Plata TC** was established in 2007. The center conducts training related to gastroenterology, colonoscopy, hepatology, endoscopy, and motility.

**Porto TC** was established in 2015. The center targets the underserved areas. The center is known and is distinguished by their flexibility. The center has provided preceptorship, hands-on preceptorship, and hands-on training courses. The center can provide 1 week, 1 month and or 1 year's training, basic training. The center provides training based on the trainees' specific needs. The center does not have the same curriculum at the same time. The center does not charge any training fee. Prof. Guilherme Macedo, Director, recommends creating a train-the-trainer's program locally. In addition, Prof. Macedo, indicate the centers should have regular courses, not only related to endoscopy. Furthermore, he doesn't believe WGO has enough to support each training center and addressed the centers should not rely on WGO's funding's. It is important to have a WGO logo, which means it is an extremely valuable organization. Prof. Macedo indicated we will have a platform called Academy / virtual library, a warehouse with many tools that will assist every center with questions and answers.

**Bogotá TC** was established in 2008. The center offers two years of training in Gastroenterology and four years of surgery. The center currently has international trainees. The TC worked with the Clínica Reina Sofía, as they involved other doctors. An increase of procedures, patients, and possibilities with the universities has occurred. There are three hospitals working within the same system: *Clínica Reina Sofía, Clínica Universitaria* of Colombia, and the new *Clinic 125*. These three clinics are united with the TC.

In the second semester of 2022, a new unit was developed of endoscopy advanced and basic at the Clinic 125. At the clinic 2K procedures are performed every month. The unit in the University Clinic of Colombia do 2K procedure per month, as well. The unit in Reina Sofia Clinic is only for in-patient not out-patient / ambulatory.

In January 2023, the TC celebrated the 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its advanced endoscopy. Professors and Gastroenterologist from different countries / states from USA, Europe (France / Holland), Latin America (from Argentina to Mexico) participated and attended the 29<sup>th</sup> year course. Local Gastroenterologists, united with the associations, Colombian Association of Gastroenterology and Colombian Association of Endoscopy attended the 29<sup>th</sup> year event.

In January 2023 the 29<sup>th</sup> year anniversary course was celebrated in the city of Barranquilla. Two years out of the 29 years of courses have been done outside Bogotá. There were more than 450 Gastroenterologists, 50 fellows from Colombia and 300 nurses specialized in endoscopic. During the 29<sup>th</sup> year of course, all the Universities from Colombia and professors unites and participates with the course said Dr. Sabbagh. At the event there were professors from Spain, Latin America, from Argentina through Mexico.

The TC is currently developing the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary course, which will take place on Feb 1, 2, & 3, 2024. USA and Latin American professors have confirmed their participation. Dr. Sabbagh expects WGO to participate and join him to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the course.

The Bogota TC receives gastroenterologist trainees. Fellow endoscopic from all Latin America, 4 per year duration of 6 months. The colonoscopy advanced training is for 3 months, with Latin American. Bogota TC accepts 2 trainees per year. The TC has 24 meetings per year with all fellow gastroenterologists and foreign residents. The training for surgeon gastroenterology or internist graduates is a 2-year duration training with digestive endoscopic. The TC currently has 9 fellows. The TC receives fellows from the Gastro Pontificio University Javeriana of Colombia. The TC has a foundation of Science University of Health, which the TC receives trainees from to train them.

The TC has an impressive number of young gastroenterologists. In pathology, it is not their forte, but it has rotations by pathology center, physiology rotations, manometry, which is part of the curriculum and units. The portfolio is very large, the TC receives trainees from Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela. The trainees are required to have 2 or 3 years of practice to do endosonographic. TC has one trainee from Chile, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay and 5 from Argentina.

