The World Gastroenterology Organisation
The WGO Foundation
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Did You Know . . .

- Many common digestive disorders and diseases – such as digestive cancers, viral hepatitis, diarrhea, and many more – are **preventable and treatable**?

- **Each YEAR**, digestive and liver cancers cause 2,600,000 deaths with another 3,000,000 new cases diagnosed?

- **Every DAY,** 4,500 children under the age of five die from diarrhea – more than malaria or HIV/ AIDS?

- Worldwide, nearly 600,000,000 people are chronically infected with viral hepatitis resulting in an estimated **1,000,000 deaths annually**?

- Despite rating in the top ten causes of mortality, digestive disorders rank low in both public awareness and healthcare priority in many countries?

- **The World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) has a portfolio of training and educational programs designed to address these challenges on a global scale**?
R&D Funding vs. Burden of Disease

- There are many global health care issues that need time, money, and attention, but treating gastrointestinal diseases provides a greater opportunity to have an immediate impact on quality of life.

- Digestive disorders have not received a proportionate share of funding or garnered the same level of awareness as other diseases.

![Diagram showing R&D funding vs. disease burden.](attachment:diagram.png)
About WGO and the WGO Foundation

As the only global society for gastroenterology professionals, WGO has been bringing together the world’s leading minds in its field for over 75 years.

**WGO FOCUS:** To improve the standards of training, education, and practice of gastroenterology worldwide especially in developing, low-resource countries.

WGO is a federation of more than 100 member societies, representing over 50,000 practitioners around the world.

To deliver its mission, WGO has partnered with local and national health agencies and leaders in industry.

Established in 2007, the WGO Foundation has sought to secure support for WGO Programs as its philanthropic arm.
Transformation of our Mission

- Over the past 10 years, WGO has shifted its focus to the needs of developing, low-resource countries.
- There have been many recent breakthroughs in the causes, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of digestive and liver diseases.
- Unfortunately, the related benefits from their discovery have not been felt equally, especially in nations facing the greatest need, due to limited resources and infrastructure.
- WGO strives to provide the resources, training, education, and advocacy required to address these challenges.
WGO has a unique portfolio of programs designed to address challenges faced by low-resource countries and create sustainable, long-term change including:

- Training Centers
- Train the Trainers
- Global Guidelines
- Education
- Outreach Programs
- Public Awareness & Advocacy

Each program plays an essential role in delivering on the mission of assisting low-resource countries to improve their level of training and education.
WGO Training Centers

- Twenty-three (23) locations around the world have provided training and educational programs to nearly 3,400 professionals since 2001.

- Disseminate locally relevant knowledge and develop appropriate skills among medical practitioners and healthcare workers to:
  - Optimize standards of patient care while ensuring a focus on regionally-relevant digestive disorders; and
  - Attempt to reduce the exodus of highly skilled practitioners from low-resource countries by providing training close to home.
WGO Training Center Locations
Training Center Spotlight: Rabat, Morocco

- WGO Rabat Training Center (WGO-RTC) is one of the oldest training centers in the world committed to promoting the highest standards in hepatology-gastroenterology, hand on training and education.

- It is an International Center open to All French speaking Gastroenterologists mainly from Africa who wish to improve their theoretical and practical knowledge.

- Since its establishment in January 2003, the WGO-RTC provides training sessions ranging from ten-day annual courses to internships of 5 years.

- The priority is on practical training, with ultrasound and endoscopy techniques, for both diagnostic and therapeutic purposes. The various tutorials available provide the opportunity to have a personalized educational programme.

Dr. Alassan, one of two physicians from Benin, West Africa that trained at WGO-RTC, used an endoscope with a patient simulator. She became the first female gastroenterologist in her country.
WGO Outreach Program

Connects manufacturers with public hospitals or clinics in low-resource areas to introduce, upgrade, or restore endoscopic services to areas in need.

- Equipment considered obsolete in some nations often has remaining usable life and, once refurbished, can be put to good use in other parts of the world.

Helps ensure WGO Training Centers and the home health care institutions of trainees are properly equipped.
Outreach Program Spotlight: Burkina Faso

- Burkina Faso in West Africa is among the poorest countries in the world with an annual per capita income of less than $300.

- Its citizens are faced with high rates of liver, stomach, and esophageal cancers.

- Professor Bougouma (inset) and his colleagues used their donated equipment to establish an endoscopy clinic at their hospital in the capital of Burkina Faso.

- In the first three (3) years after the donation of equipment, over 3,600 procedures were performed that were not possible before.
WGO Train the Trainers

- Continuing education for trainers plays a key role in the development of future gastroenterological practitioners.

- Unfortunately, few medical professionals, if any, have received formal instruction or training as educators.

- The **WGO Train the Trainers** program attempts to correct this deficit by bringing together trainers and leaders in education from around the world.

- The program consists of interactive sessions dedicated to the development of teaching and training skills.

*An educator receives training during a Train the Trainers course in Colombia.*
Impact of Train the Trainers

Six-month follow-up surveys were conducted from two recent training sessions with participants indicating how they applied their new skills.

![Bar chart showing the percentage of participants who applied their new skills in different areas.

- Altered Everyday Teaching Style: 100%
- Applied Techniques Taught at TTT: 87%
- Changed Evaluation Methods: 95%
- Prepared to Conduct Their Own Course: 77%]
WGO Global Guidelines and Cascades

- A collection of over 20 practice guidelines written by teams that have non-Western experts to ensure global application.

- These are published in 6 languages: English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Mandarin and Russian.

- Utilize cascades which provide various diagnosis and evidence-based treatment options that are scalable to a variety of conditions.

- Cascades make the WGO Guidelines unique by offering multiple ways to achieve the best possible outcome based on available local resources.
WGO’s Response to Liver Disease

In response to the global need for education, information, and treatment options, WGO:

- Trained over 100 physicians, from North Africa to the Middle East, how to band esophageal varices at the WGO Cairo Training Center.

- Offers Hepatitis B and C courses at the Karachi Training Center in Karachi, Pakistan.

- Launched its first Hepatology Training Center in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 2012; inaugurated a second Hepatology Training Center in New Delhi, India in 2015.

- Developed, with over 300 delegates from 45 countries, the Declaration of Rabat to address viral hepatitis and HCC on the African continent.

- Partnered with the Indian Society of Gastroenterology to lobby the government, which resulted in a changed policy and introduction of a universal childhood hepatitis B vaccination in 2012.

- Spearheaded a yearlong educational and advocacy program covering viral hepatitis B & C and HCC in 2013.
Liver cancer is the world’s second largest cause of cancer death, and its incidence in many parts of the world, including the West, is on the rise.

As opposed to most other cancers, the incidence of cancer to mortality ratio remains close to 1.

More than 80% of the cases occur in sub-Saharan Africa, S-E Asia and the eastern Mediterranean, where 45% of the world’s population resides & the primary etiology is hepatitis B virus infection.

The incidence of liver cancer in the U.S. and Europe is rising, due primarily to chronic hepatitis C, another viral infection of the liver that causes liver cancer.

In addition, increasing numbers of cases are appearing due to non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), related to the rapid rise in the numbers of patients with obesity and diabetes.


World Digestive Health Day

- Every 29th May, WGO organizes World Digestive Health Day (WDHD) with a worldwide public health, advocacy and awareness campaign coordinated with WGO Member Societies, WGO Training Centers and WGO Regional Affiliates.

- Each year, the campaign focuses on an important topic in the area of digestive health and disease to increase general awareness of prevention and treatment.

- Initially a one-day event, WDHD has evolved into a year-long activity serving as the primary topic in a series of symposia and programs.

- Topics have included optimal health and nutrition, Viral Hepatitis, IBS, IBD, Enteric Infections, Common GI Symptoms in the Community, Liver Cancer, and Gut Microbes.
World Digestive Health Day 2018

Viral Hepatitis, B and C: Lifting the Global Burden
Co-Chairs: Yun-Fan Liaw (Taiwan) and Brian McMahon (U.S.A.)

http://www.worldgastroenterology.org/wgo-foundation/wdhd
Vision for the Future

- WGO seeks to create a **Global Education & Training Network** leveraging the strength of the existing WGO programs.

- This network will expand each program’s impact and reach to maximize resources and training efficiency.

- The long-term outcomes of this initiative include:
  - Increased access to high-quality patient care; and
  - Retention of top healthcare providers locally.
WGO – Serving the World

As the global guardians of digestive health, WGO is uniquely positioned to be a catalyst for change.

- **Unparalleled Reach** – More than 100 national member societies representing over 50,000 practitioners worldwide.

- **Proven Track Record** – Experience in convening leaders from practice and education for the World Congress of Gastroenterology.

- **The Logical Choice** – WGO is the only place to go to deliver programs on a global scale because of our exquisite focus and ability to make an impact.

“The World Gastroenterology Organisation plays a complementary role to ours. While the Chilean Society of Gastroenterology, which I preside, focuses on local professional matters, the WGO assists in the identification of regional and global trends in digestive care. Because of that, the WGO finds itself in a unique position to bring together practitioners from around the world to focus on matters that affect us all and society-at-large.”

Dr. Fernando Fluxa
Past-President, Chilean Society of Gastroenterology
Contact Us!

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