The World Gastroenterology Organisation and The WGO Foundation
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As the only global society for gastroenterology professionals, WGO has been bringing together the world’s leading minds in its field for over 60 years to promote international collaboration in digestive health education, training and research.

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

WGO is a federation of more than 110 member societies, representing over 50,000 practitioners around the world.

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

The WGO Foundation seeks to secure support for WGO programs and World Digestive Health Day (WDHD) as its philanthropic arm.
WGO Mission and Vision

• MISSION - To promote, to the general public and healthcare professionals alike, an awareness of the worldwide prevalence and optimal care of gastrointestinal and liver disorders, and to improve care of these disorders, through the provision of high quality, accessible and independent educational and training.

• VISION - To provide equal access to high quality patient care for digestive disorders on a global scale.
The WGO Foundation Mission

• The WGO Foundation is dedicated to raising funds to develop and sustain WGO global education, training, and advocacy programs in developing and low resource countries throughout the world.
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.
R & D Funding vs. Burden of Disease

**Funding ($ Million)**
- HIV/AIDS: 1,083
- Malaria: 468
- Tuberculosis: 410
- Kinetoplastids: 123
- Diarrheal Diseases: 723
- Dengue: 82
- Parasitic Worms: 120
- Bacterial Pneumonia and Meningitis: 1,046
- Leprosy: 1.94
- Trachoma: 13.33

**Disease Burden (x100,000 disability adjusted life years)**
- HIV/AIDS: 576
- Malaria: 40.7
- Tuberculosis: 340
- Kinetoplastids: 114
- Dengue: 5.6
- Parasitic Worms: 33
- Bacterial Pneumonia and Meningitis: 339
- Leprosy: 1.7
- Trachoma: 1.7

Science, February 6, 2009, Vol. 323 pg. 700
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**?
Training & Education Programs

• 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.
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, hands-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

- Helps to ensure that WGO Training Centers are equipped for primary and/or advanced GI training

- Equips home institutions of WGO trainees to be able to use the skills they have acquired through their training

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

• Over 1,000 participants from more than 90 countries have completed TTT, which has been organized in English, Spanish, and French!
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.
**WGO Global Guidelines and Cascades**

- A collection of 25 practice guidelines written by teams that include non-Western experts to ensure global application.

- Each 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, infrastructure, and expertise.
WGO Global Guidelines and Cascades

- Acute Diarrhea
- Acute Viral Hepatitis
- Asymptomatic Gallstone Disease
- Celiac Disease
- Colorectal Cancer Screening
- Constipation
- Diet and the Gut (NEW)
- Diverticular Disease
- Dysphagia
- Endoscope Disinfection
- Esophageal Varices
- Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD)
- *Helicobacter pylori* in Developing Countries
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis C
- Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC)
- Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)
- Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS)
- NAFLD-NASH
- Needstick Injury
- Obesity
- Probiotics-Prebiotics
- Radiation Protection in the Endoscopy Suite
- Strongyloidesis (NEWLY UPDATED)
World Digestive Health Day

• Every 29th May, The WGO Foundation 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 now a year-long activity serves as the primary topic in a series of symposia and programs.
World Digestive Health Day

Recent Campaigns
- 2018: Viral Hepatitis, B and C
- 2017: IBD
- 2016: Diet & The Gut
- 2015: Heartburn
- 2014: Gut Microbes
- 2013: Liver Cancer
- 2012: Common GI Symptoms in the Community
World Digestive Health Day 2019

Chair: Prof. Kentaro Sugano (Japan)
www.worldgastroenterology.org/wgo-foundation/wdhd

Early Diagnosis and Treatment of GI Cancer
WGO Events: Gastro 2018

Global Perspectives in Gastroenterology

- A platform for global exchange of thoughts and expertise in the City of Angels, Bangkok
- An event for networking among the digestive disease practitioners
- A place to find out the latest state of the art technology and best practices
- An occasion to meet new friends and rekindle old friendship

GASTRO 2018
5-8 December, Bangkok
WGO-GAT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
www.gastro2018bangkok.com
WGO Events: World Congress

World Congress of Gastroenterology
21-25 September 2019
Istanbul Congress Center, Istanbul
Serving the World

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

- **Unparalleled Reach** – More than 110 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
Vision for the Future

- WGO seeks to be the **Global Education & Training Network** leveraging the strengths of existing WGO programs and initiatives.

- The long-term outcomes:
  - Increased access to high-quality patient care; and
  - Retention of top healthcare providers locally.
Contact Us!

Marissa Lopez, CAE
Executive Director
mlopez@worldgastroenterology.org

Robert Kopchinski
Assistant Director of Development
rkopchinski@worldgastroenterology.org

The WGO Foundation
555 East Wells Street, Suite 1100
Milwaukee, WI 53202, U.S.A.

Phone: +1-414-918-9798
Fax: +1-414-276-3349
www.worldgastroenterology.org
www.wgofoundation.org

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