



■ WGO prepares to celebrate its 50th Anniversary



These have been exciting times for the World Gastroenterology Organisation and we are delighted by the ever-increasing recognition of, and demand for, our programmes. Over the past few years, we have presented ourselves under the hyphenated acronym of

WGO-OMGE; which has been a source of confusion for some. Therefore, pending approval by our Governing Council and General Assembly, we will from here forward be known exclusively as WGO, the organisation for world gastroenterology. As we believe that an integrated approach to digestive diseases is essential in order to foster our specialty for the future, we will endeavour to cover all aspects of our discipline i.e. gastroenterology, endoscopy, hepatology, digestive surgery and digestive cancer.

Over the past 18 months, WGO and OMED have discussed the possibility of a merger. Having considered various scenarios, we have concluded that both organisations should remain independent. WGO will therefore continue to focus on its core education and training activities, as listed below, while remaining true to its mission of serving and fostering gastroenterology training, with particular emphasis on the emerging world.

WGO's Core Priorities:

- Train the Trainers
- Training Centers
- World Gastroenterology News (WGN)
- Guidelines
- Digestive Cancer
- World Digestive Health Day

To ensure an integrated and inclusive approach, we are pleased, therefore, to announce that Dr. Richard Kozarek has been nominated as Co-Coordinator of Endoscopy for WGO for the abovementioned programmes.

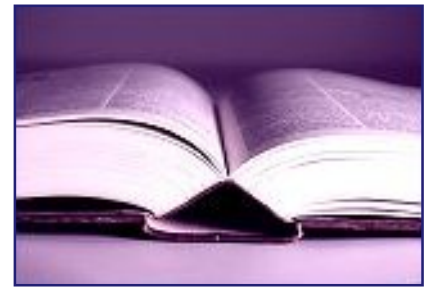
As we move towards our 50th Anniversary in May 2008, we look forward to cementing our relationship with our regional and national partners in fulfilling our global aims for world gastroenterology. We will also continue to work closely together with our member societies, committee members and corporate partners.

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■ Global Guidelines for the World? WGO publishes findings of consensus conference in *The Lancet*

During the 2005 World Congress of Gastroenterology in Montreal, WGO hosted a unique consensus conference: "Can Guidelines Span the Globe?" The aim of the conference was to address the global applicability of guidelines in areas of varying resources. Experts from non GI, publishing and the bio-medical fields, along with health policy experts debated their opinions in our special symposium and addressed the limitations of evidence-based medicine, industry involvement, and impact on government policies.



A summary of this conference was published in the December 9, 2006 edition of *The Lancet* and can be viewed here

» [WGO guidelines](#)

The full results are being presented for publication. For a comprehensive overview of all WGO guidelines, the related graded evidence and the language translations please refer to the WGO website:

» [WGO website](#)

■ The 30th Pan-American Conference in Cancun, Mexico – another milestone for AIGE

The WGO extends its heartfelt congratulations to the organisers and hosts of the recent AIGE bi-annual conference in Cancun. 3000 participants from several countries were treated to a series of top-class lectures addressing regionally relevant topics such as nutrition, surgery, endoscopy and hepatology. WGO was particularly proud to support the WGO Keynote lecture "Solving the Mysteries of Bile with the Hope of Improving Patient Care" which was given by Professor Alan Hoffman and drew a full audience in the main plenary room.

The next AIGE conference will be held in Chile Santiago from 12 – 15 November 2008.

■ World Digestive Health Day: Viral Hepatitis



A total of 400 million people are chronically infected with hepatitis B, and about half that number are chronically infected with hepatitis C. Together, these diseases are among the second or third major causes of cancer in the world. The World Gastroenterology Organisation has set up a working group, headed by Dr. D. LaBrecque (University of Iowa, USA; Treasurer WGO) and Dr. Henry Cohen (Montevideo Medical School, Uruguay; Secretary General WGO) to coordinate activities on viral hepatitis for World Digestive Health Day 2007.

WGO's WDHD Toolkit:

- White Paper on Viral Hepatitis throughout the world
- Hepatitis B guideline, written by a team of international experts
- Hepatitis Newspaper at DDW-written accounts from hepatitis experts across the world, about hepatitis in their country, current resources and the future outlook

These tools will be available on the WGO website in May 2007:

» [WGO website](#)

WGO encourages you to work with your member society to organise an event on WDHD-May 29 in your community. We will publish a report on these events, along with photographs in July 2007, and in World Gastroenterology News 2-2007.

It remains for us to wish all our members around the world who are celebrating the festive season a happy and peaceful time. We look back on a successful and productive year and forward towards a year filled with further exciting developments in the improvement of standards in GI training around the world. Thank you for all your support.

This e-newsletter promotes the activities of the WGO.

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