World Digestive Health Day - May 29 2006

Dear Members,

May 29, 2006 is World Digestive Health Day and the focus this year is Helicobacter pylori infection, the most important risk factor for non-cardia gastric cancer. On this occasion, we urge the medical community to improve their screening and treatment programs and to educate their staff and colleagues.

In order to help doctors worldwide detect and treat Helicobacter pylori, a special WGO-OMGE team of experts is currently writing a Guideline on Helicobacter pylori Infection which will be available free on the website in five languages in June 2006.

On behalf of the entire WGO-OMGE Executive, I urge everyone to take a moment out of their busy practices on May 29 to honour the scientific work of Marshall and Warren by focussing on the education and screening of this important infection.

Henry Cohen
Secretary-General, WGO-OMGE

Helicobacter pylori in developing countries

In developing countries, Helicobacter pylori is a public health issue. The high prevalence of the infection requires the development of public health interventions. Vaccination with an effective vaccine is probably the only strategy that will make a decisive difference in prevalence and incidence worldwide. The World Gastroenterology Organisation plans to address these issues with the release of a guideline on Helicobacter pylori with specific relevance to developing countries.
**Highlights of the *Helicobacter pylori* Infection Guideline:**

- Quadruple vs triple therapy
- Patient Compliance
- Differences in 14, 10, 7 day therapy

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**Helicobacter pylori infection rates**

| Adults in Developed Countries: 58 % | Adults in Developing Countries: 74% |

*Parkin DM, 2006*

*Helicobacter Pylori infects more than half the world's population.*

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The complete guideline will be available online in June 2006 at:
» [www.worldgastroenterology.org](http://www.worldgastroenterology.org)

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**International Digestive Cancer Alliance (IDCA) combats *Helicobacter pylori* in China**

Gastric cancer is the second most frequent cause of a death from cancer worldwide. A protective effect of *Helicobacter pylori* eradication on gastric cancer is suggested but statistically not established. Therefore, the IDCA is in the process of initiating a large population-based intervention trial to prevent gastric cancer by eradication of *Helicobacter pylori* in the high-risk population of Linqu County, a rural area of Shandong Province, PR China. In this country, a high prevalence of *Helicobacter pylori* (70% among adults) and an exceptionally high prevalence of gastric cancer have been observed. We expect this new study to finally provide a definitive answer to the question of whether *Helicobacter pylori* eradication prevents gastric cancer. This new study will be a collaborative investigation between the Beijing University School of Oncology and the International Digestive Cancer Alliance.

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This e-newsletter promotes the activities of the WGO-OMGE.

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