

WORLD DIGESTIVE HEALTH DAY 2007

Hotel, the CROWN, Bhubaneswar

29th May 2007

The World Digestive Health Day [WDHD] 2007 was observed on 29th May 2007 at Hotel the CROWN at **Bhubaneswar, Orissa in India**. This was organized by Dr. S.P. Singh on behalf of the **Kalinga Gastroenterology Foundation [KGF]** and the **Gastroenterology Department of S.C.B. Medical College, Cuttack**. The program included a CME program on “HEPATITIS” the focus of this year’s WDHD, and the formal observation of WDHD.

HEPATITIS SYMPOSIUM

This CME program was attended by gastroenterologists, physicians and gastrointestinal surgeons from coastal Orissa. The CME Faculty consisted of Dr. Gourdas Choudhuri, Head of Gastroenterology Department at SGPPI, Lucknow, who is also the Secretary of the Indian Society of Gastroenterology [ISG], Dr. AV Siva Prasad, senior gastroenterologist from Vishakhapatnam, and Dr. Haribhakti Seba Das from S.C.B. Medical College, Cuttack. The topics for CME included:

- Interpretation of Hepatitis B serology,
- Management of Hepatitis B,
- Management of incidentally detected Hepatitis B carriers, and
- Hepatitis B in pregnancy.

Following the lecturers there was a question answer session on Hepatitis B management. This CME program was chaired by Dr. B.K. Satapathy retired professor of gastroenterology and Dr. Bijay Kumar Mishra.

WORLD DIGESTIVE HEALTH DAY [WDHD] CEREMONY

The CME was followed by **World Digestive Health Day [WDHD]** ceremony. The proceedings was inaugurated by lighting of the lamp by Prof. Gourdas Choudhuri as the Secretary of the Indian Society of Gastroenterology. In his inaugural address Prof. SP Singh, the Convenor of the Meet spoke about the importance of observing the World Digestive Health Day to promote digestive health. He spoke about the history of formation of the OMGE, and enlightened the audience about the history of O.M.G.E./W.G.O., and how this day everyone was commemorating the anniversary of the creation of the World Gastroenterology Organisation O.M.G.E. on May 29th, 1958. Dr. Gourdas Choudhuri too spoke about the importance of O.M.G.E./W.G.O., and the yeoman service the world body was providing in the field of gastroenterology service, training and research, and stressed the need for observing this day to promote digestive health. Subsequently the official website of Kalinga Gastroenterology Foundation was formally inaugurated by the ISG Secretary, Prof Gourdas Choudhuri.

LAUNCH OF DIGESTIVE DISEASES WEBSITE FOR HEALTH EDUCATION IN ORIYA & OTHER REGIONAL INDIAN LANGUAGES

Prof. SP Singh spoke how for a long time, the Foundation [KGF] felt the need of a website catering to people of this region who wanted to obtain information about gastrointestinal and liver diseases on the net. Although there are a large number of websites for patients and laymen to get information on different diseases in English language, there are none for the Oriya readers. Hence it was decided to launch this website/portal for patients and the general public who are at greater ease in Oriya. The special features of this website were highlighted by Prof. S.P. Singh. These included FAQs on issues related to gastrointestinal and liver diseases in regional Indian languages like Oriya, Bengali and Urdu. Only a few important problems like Hepatitis B, Gastric Diseases and Endoscopy have been covered at the moment; however very soon there will be information on other diseases too. The website also provided information on the gastroenterologists and major gastroenterology centers in Orissa. Besides; the website also provided the addresses of major Gastroenterology centers in India. Further patients or information seekers could also send in their queries relating to gastrointestinal and liver diseases on the website with their email addresses, and the foundation would try to give them the information sought by them and guide them in their problem. Besides, the website also provides information on different activities of the Foundation. The Foundation also provides a link on this website to the Foundation publication: **HEPATITIS B ANNUAL**. www.hepatitisbannual.org Prof. Singh expressed the hope that with the feedback from the visitors to the website the Foundation shall be able to improve over time and shall be able to satisfy the needs of our website visitors seeking gastroenterology related information/advice.

BIRTH OF ORISSA STATE CHAPTER OF THE INDIAN SOCIETY OF GASTROENTEROLOGY [ISG]

Another special feature of the Meeting was the launch of the Orissa state chapter of the Indian Society of Gastroenterology [ISG]. The society was declared to have functioned from this day with a provisional executive which included Prof. S.P. Singh as Honorary Secretary, Prof Mihir Mohapatra as President, and Dr C.R. Panda as Vice President. The intimation of the formation of the Orissa state chapter of ISG was officially communicated to Prof. Gourdas Choudhuri as the Secretary of the Indian Society of Gastroenterology. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to all, including Dr Reddy's the sponsors of the meeting and the members of the electronic and print media who were present in large numbers.