World Gastroenterology Organisation

ADVOCATE

TRAIN

INFORM

EDUCATE


www.worldgastroenterology.org
Who We Are

Since 1958, the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) has grown to a global federation of over 100 Member Societies, representing more than 50,000 gastroenterologists, hepatologists, GI surgeons, and other health care professionals worldwide. This reflects the true global nature of WGO and its aim to represent and support gastroenterology and related disciplines worldwide.

Mission:

To promote, to the general public and healthcare professional 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 education and training.

Vision:

- Increase global public awareness of gastrointestinal and liver disorders
- Provide independent and high quality educational opportunities to medical, nursing and other healthcare professionals in gastrointestinal and liver disorders throughout the world, regardless of location
- Promote international collaboration in digestive health education, training and research
- Support healthcare professionals who care for those with gastrointestinal and liver disorders throughout the world

WGO Foundation

The WGO Foundation (WGOF) 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.

What Benefits do WGO Programs Provide?

- Physicians and Other Healthcare Professionals
  - WGO programs provide accessible, locally appropriate and independent education, and relevant skills training and supports specialists and professionals through inclusion and participation in the WGO global network
- Patients and the General Public
  - WGO programs support the development and retention of trained and skilled digestive health specialists benefiting patients with digestive ailments in previously unserved or underserved areas
• All Communities
  – WGO programs help to close the information gap between ‘haves’ and ‘have nots’ especially in communities of developing and low-resource countries by lessening the exodus of healthcare workers
  – WGO programs serve to enhance quality of life worldwide by supporting efforts to increase awareness of digestive health, promote recognition of the earliest signs of digestive disease and appropriate response, and encourage active participation in preventive health measures

Membership
Being a part of WGO makes WGO Member Societies, and by extension, their members, and WGO individual members, active participants in the global gastroenterology community. As a member of WGO you are providing an opportunity to expand the knowledge and training of your colleagues worldwide and increase our collective ability to truly be Global Guardians of Digestive Health. Gastroenterology, hepatology, endoscopy and other related-discipline societies as well as healthcare professionals from all over the globe are welcome and encouraged to apply for membership within WGO.

The dues our members contribute each year are channeled into training, education, and advocacy in regions with lesser resources, while serving as well to strengthen these aspects in developed regions. The high level of commitment from the WGO leadership, all of whom are volunteers, and staff to participate in the governance, training, and development of education and other resources available to our members, along with a strong belief in our mission, makes the WGO an organization of which you can be proud.

If you have any questions about the benefits of being a member of WGO or about the membership application process, please visit www.worldgastroenterology.org/membership or email us at membership@worldgastroenterology.org.
**Train**

WGO has several training programs and initiatives working together to promote the highest standards in training for and in the practice of gastroenterology, hepatology, and related fields. WGO seeks to circulate locally relevant knowledge and develop the skills of medical practitioners, health care workers, and educators through the following programs:

- Training Centers
- Scholar and Trainee Funding Program
- Train the Trainers

**Training Centers**

WGO Training Centers focus primarily on developing and low-resource countries, and aim to meet the increasing demand for digestive disorder prevention and treatment worldwide by developing the skills of local medical practitioners.

**Scholar and Trainee Funding Program**

The WGO Training Center mission is to establish and nurture core training centers for primary and advanced gastroenterology and liver training in locations of need, thereby improving the standard of training at a grass roots level while ensuring a focus on regionally-relevant diseases. One of the ways identified to support WGO in this mission is the direct establishment of the Scholar and Trainee Funding Program at the WGO Training Centers. The WGO Scholar and Trainee Funding Program offers financial support to allow a trainee the greater means to attend longer training at a WGO Training Center, increasing the learning opportunities and outcomes for GI and liver education in low resource regions.

**Train the Trainers**

Train the Trainers is a highly successful program designed to disseminate teaching skills to those gastroenterologists, hepatologists, and other practitioners who hold training positions in their own countries.
**Educate**

WGO has transformed itself into an organization that provides training and education to all parts of the globe with a special focus on the developing world. Thinking on an international scale, WGO is creating a global education network through its members.

Working together, this WGO global education network is increasing worldwide gastroenterology, hepatology, and related discipline knowledge through the following programs:

- Global Guidelines and Cascades
- Educational Programs
- Clinical Research Tools
- Train the Trainers
- Training Centers
- Scholar and Trainee Funding Program

**World Congress of Gastroenterology (WCOG) and WGO International Conferences**

Since 1958, the World Congress of Gastroenterology (WCOG) brings the best and most innovative together in the field of digestive health. Held every two years, the location of the WCOG always rotates between member societies. In addition to the World Congress of Gastroenterology, there has been increasing interest shown by WGO Member Societies to secure the endorsement and support of WGO for International Conferences, smaller meetings with a regional focus, including both broadly themed meetings and congresses and also monothematic workshop offerings. In order to meet this growing need, WGO is collaborating with its Member Societies and regional associations to host joint meetings in-between World Congresses.
Advocate

Globally, digestive and liver disorders rank disproportionately low in public awareness and health care priority. WGO strives to enhance understanding of digestive and liver disorders among practitioners, allied health professionals, governmental and non-governmental organizations and the public through programs, events, tools and resources provided through advocacy campaigns. **World Digestive Health Day (WDHD)**, celebrated annually on 29th May and perpetuated throughout the year, is WGO’s most recognized advocacy and awareness campaign. Each annual campaign focuses on a particular digestive or liver disorder and aims to put into perspective several aspects related to the focus including prevention, prevalence, diagnosis, management and treatment. The success of the campaign derives from global participation of WGO Member Societies, Regional Affiliates, Individual Members, Training Centers, and other partners worldwide.

**Level Of Reach & Participation**

- **Americas** 31%
- **Asia Pacific** 30%
- **Europe** 24%
- **Africa/Middle East** 15%
- **Professional development for physicians and healthcare professionals** 23%
- **Media collaboration** 23%
- **Events by Category 2005-2017**
  - **Events by Region 2005-2017**
    - **Americas** 31%
    - **Asia Pacific** 30%
    - **Europe** 24%
    - **Africa/Middle East** 15%
- **General public awareness campaign or distribution of WGO tools** 20%
- **Publications** 14%
- **Other 20%**

**Fun Facts**

- **Growth**
  - Since 2005, 70 countries have participated in WDHD, organizing over 325 events worldwide.
- **Outreach**
  - Over 75 media outlets, including networks such as CNN, have reported on WDHD.
- **Events**
  - Participation continues to grow in Africa and the Middle East with countries such as Nigeria and Iran hosting WDHD events.
- **Guidelines**
  - WGO Global Guidelines and Cascades are developed as a tool and resource in support of the annual WDHD focus.
Inform

WGO keeps you up to date on the latest news and events in the world of gastroenterology, hepatology, endoscopy and other related disciplines on a global scale. Stay informed with:

- Ask a Librarian
- Virtual Room of Gastroenterology
- Global Guidelines and Cascades
- e-WGN, WGO’s quarterly e-Newsletter and WGO’s monthly e-Alert
- The Journal of Clinical Gastroenterology, the official journal of the WGO and the publication platform for WGO’s Global Guidelines and Cascades in the English language, as well as WGO society news and WGO review articles
- WGO’s website, with “Current News” feed and “Meeting and Events Calendar”
- WGO Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter accounts