

WGO 2019 Annual Report

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Mission / Vision

Mission of the WGO

To promote, to the general public and healthcare professional alike, an awareness of the world-wide 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.

WGO Vision

Gastrointestinal and liver disorders are preeminent among healthcare issues globally, a significant burden to national healthcare budgets and the single greatest cause of cancer death. While an increasing awareness of causative factors, coupled with dramatic advances in diagnostic and therapeutic approaches have led to improvements in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of gastrointestinal and liver disorders, these benefits have not been transmitted equally across the world and, especially, to those in greatest need.

As the global representative for gastroenterology and hepatology, the role of WGO is to:

- 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

Message from the President



A View of 2019

Since its establishment in 1958, the World of Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) has disseminated medical education to gastroenterologists, hepatologists, endoscopists, and other related disciplines across the entire world.

Over the past twenty years, the WGO has developed new education programs that uniquely fulfill a niche that is not offered by any national or regional societies. These include the Train the Trainer workshops that are run in conjunction

with our member societies; the creation of 23 Training Centers, many in collaboration with the WGO member societies, enabling gastroenterologists, hepatologists and related disciplines to become specialists in their part of the world; the unique Global Guidelines that incorporate cascades and are translated into five major languages, thereby ensuring that the best clinical practice can be delivered in both developed and developing countries; and the organization of the annual World Digestive Health Day (WDHD) campaign that highlights important Gl issues to the public at large. We must also recognize our other programs and committees that are leading the charge in research, education, and training: Clinical Research Committee; Scientific Programs Committee; Publications Committee; e-WGN Editorial Board; Endoscopy Interest Group, Hepatology Interest Group; and WGO Foundation.

Look Back at 2019

As we look back on a historical record setting year, we are proud of the work that has been achieved as WGO continues to extend its education and training across the global community. During 2019, the WGO set several records, which demonstrates our progress. For the first time, the World Congress of Gastroenterology (WCOG) moved to a two-year cycle and was held in Istanbul, Turkey in partnership with the Turkish Society of Gastroenterology (TSG). The congress had an exceptional scientific program and over 1,000 abstracts were submitted. For the first time, WGO awarded 72 travel grants to recipients from both WGO Training Centers and member societies across all four regions. It was also during the World Congress that the first woman was appointed President of the WGO. Additionally, I have the privilege to be the first person from Africa to serve as President.

In 2019 WGO's membership increased gaining two new societies, The Azerbaijan Association for Surgeons and Gastroenterologists and the Egyptian Association for Research and Training in Hepatogastroenterology (EARTH), bringing our total to 115 member societies.

Additionally, in collaboration with the Romanian Society of Gastroenterology & Hepatology, WGO co-organized the 28th Train the Trainers Workshop in Bucharest, Romania. This course had 49 in attendance, bringing our total to over 1100 participants from 100 different countries since 2001. This is a testament to WGO's commitment to focus on the improvement and accessibility of education and training.

In this report, you will find additional benchmarks and activities highlighting WGO's programs and

initiatives from 2019, and I am especially proud that we had nearly 200 volunteers serve as members on WGO's committees and interest groups. Thank you to our members and volunteers for your continued support and dedication to WGO! You will also find on **pages 4 and 5** the Governing Council members appointed for the 2019 – 2021 term. I encourage you to please reach out to them and share your ideas.

Looking Forward

WGO continues to be a global leader and together we will continue to make an impact on Gl health. During the next two years we will work towards three main objectives: to attract more young physicians, to encourage females to serve on WGO committees to have more impact in the global community, and to increase efforts toward growing our membership in Africa as well as in all parts of the world. With your commitment, support, and confidence we will help raise our position as the global federation of national societies dedicated to digestive health.

While we are operating in times of uncertainty due to this pandemic, as a federation, it is through the work and alliance with our societies and members that we will come out stronger and overcome this. We continue to offer our solidarity and moral support to all of our colleagues and friends, especially those working as first responders combating this pandemic.

Together we will prevail.

We hope to see you soon at our upcoming Gastro 2020 Prague, organized jointly by the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) and the Czech Society of Gastroenterology (ČGS), to be held on December 3-5, 2020 in Prague. For more information, please visit https://www.gastro2020prague.org/

With regards,

Professor Naima Lahbabi-Amrani WGO President



Governing Council

Executive Committee

President

Prof. Naima Lahbabi-Amrani



Morocco
Professor of Medicine,
Faculty of Medicine
Mohammed V
University
Rabat

President-Elect and Chair of the WGO Foundation

Prof. Guilherme Macedo



Portugal Centro Hospitalar São João Porto

Secretary General
Prof. Geoffrey Metz



Australia
Epworth Hospital
Richmond, VIC

Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee

Dr. Mark Topazian



USA

Past President and Chair of Nominations

Prof. Cihan Yurdaydin



Turkey
Koc University Medical
School
Dept. of Gastroenterology and Hepatology
Istanbul

Council of Chairs

The WGO Council of Chairs is comprised of the Executive Committee, the Chairs of the following WGO Committees and Interest Groups, and the Councilors at Large.

Chair, Clinical Research Committee

Prof. Desmond Leddin



Canada Victoria General Hospital Halifax, Nova Scotia

Chair, Endoscopy, Other Procedures and Outreach Interest Group

Dr. Andrew Veitch



United Kingdom
New Cross Hospital
Department of
Gastroenterology
Wolverhampton

Chair, Guidelines Committee

Prof. David Armstrong



Canada
McMaster University
Department of
Medicine
Hamilton, Ontario

Chair, Hepatology Interest Group

Prof. Saeed Hamid



Pakistan
Aga Khan
University Hospital,
Department of
Medicine
Karachi

Chair, Scientific Programs Committee

Prof. Carolina Olano



Uruguay Associate Professor - Universidad de La República Montevideo

Chair, Training Centers Committee

Prof. Finlay Macrae



Australia
The Royal
Melbourne Hospital,
Head, Colorectal
Medicine and
Genetics
Melbourne, Victoria

Chair, Train the Trainers Committee

Prof. Jean-Christophe Saurin



France
Hôpital Edouard
Herriot, HépatoGastroentérologie
Lyon Cedex 03
Councilors at Large

Governing Council, continued

Councilors at Large

Chair, Publications Committee

Prof. Alejandro Piscoya



Peru Hospital Guillermo Kaelin de La Fuente Lima

Promotion of Education in Asia-Pacific Region

Prof. Kaichun Wu



China
Xijing Hospital of
Digestive Diseases
Xi'an, Shaanxi
Regional Association
Chairs/Presidents

Regional Association Chairs/Presidents

Pan-American Gastroenterological Association (OPGE)

Prof. Eduardo Gutierrez Galiana



Uruguay Clinica Platinum Montevideo

Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology (APAGE)

Prof. Daiming Fan



China
Xijing Hospital of
Digestive Diseases
Fourth Military
Medical University
Xi'an

African Middle East Association of Gastroenterology (AMAGE)

Prof. Reda Elwakil



Egypt
Emeritus Professor of
Tropical Medicine
Ain Shams University
Cairo

United European Gastroenterology (UEG)

Prof. Axel Dignass



Germany Agaplesion Markus Hospital Frankfurt

WGO Secretariat Staff



Marissa Lopez, CAE

Executive Director

Ashley Huren-Johnson, MBA

Communications and Development Manager

Jim Melberg

Program Manager, Membership, Guidelines and Publications

Krystal Livingston

Education and Meetings Manager

Robert Kopchinski

Assistant Director of Development

WGO Executive Secretariat

555 East Wells Street, Suite 1100 Milwaukee, WI 53202-3823 USA

Phone: +1 414 918-9798 • Fax: +1 414 276-3349 E-mail: info@worldgastroenterology.org









WGO Volunteers

The leadership of the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) consists of the following bodies, each contributing to the activities of the organization:

- Governing Council
- Clinical Research Committee
- Endoscopy, Other Procedures and Outreach Interest Group
- e-WGN Editorial Board
- Finance Committee
- Global Guidelines Committee
- Hepatology Interest Group
- Nominations Committee
- Publications Committee
- Scientific Programs Committee
- Training Centers Committee
- Train the Trainers Committee





Thank you to all of committee volunteers for your commitment and dedication to WGO!

Membership

The World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) is a global federation of 115 Member Societies representing over 50,000 individual gastroenterologists, hepatologists, endoscopists, GI surgeons, and other health care professionals. WGO programs and activities are dedicated to serving the needs of its members and promoting digestive health worldwide, especially in developing and emerging societies.



WGO Member Societies by Region

Africa/Middle East - 33

Americas - 24

Asia Pacific - 21

Europe - 37

Welcome our New 2019 WGO Member Societies!



Azerbaijan Gastroenterologists and Hepatologists Society

Egyptian Association for Research and Training in Hepatogastroenterology (EARTH)



Programs / Services

Training

Education and Training represents a core primary program for the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO). Since 1998, the WGO has provided training and education to the global gastroenterology community reaching over 2,500 trainees through its 23 Training Centers and over 1,100 participants from 100 countries through its Train the Trainers courses.

Training Centers

2019 Grants Program

Total number of trainees who were awarded grants to attend a training course at a WGO Training Center in 2019



Training Centers

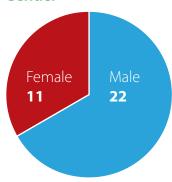
Training Centers awarded Educational Activity funds



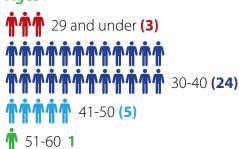
2019 Grants Program Recipients

33 Trainees*

Gender







Number training outside their country of residence





My training in a WGO center was an invaluable experience I was lucky to have. It helped to materialize my dream of becoming a gastroenterologist. Thank you WGO, Thank you SAGES-ADD, Thank you Baragwanath Hospital.

After training I will critically appraise and adapt the different GI/ hepatology guidelines to my clinical practice, and train registrars in upper and lower endoscopy.

I was a self-sponsored GI fellow, with limited resources during my training period. The WGO grant enabled me to attend local conferences and purchase some study material. I was fortunate to have received this grant. Thank you very much. I hope other GI fellows will benefit from this grant too.

^{*36} were awarded grants, however, only 33 accepted their awards.

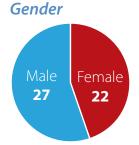
Programs / Services, continued

Train the Trainers

In collaboration with the Romanian Society of Gastroenterology & Hepatology (SRGH), the 28th Train the Trainers course was held in Bucharest, Romania from 1-4 April 2019.







Ages of Participants†† 29 and under (2) †††††††††††††††††† 30-40 (21) ††††††††††††††††† 41-50 (20) ††††††† 51-60 (6)

I'm really glad to participate in the TTT workshop. It's a rare opportunity to know different educational culture between western countries and Asia.





The workshop was very useful to me personally because I am a young lecturer at the beginning of my career. I loved the fact that we were all involved in different activities.

ERCP Course

In collaboration with the British Society of Gastroenterology (BSG), WGO co-led a two day ERCP Trainers workshop from 4-5 July 2019 in London, U.K. Four representatives from three WGO Training Centers (Bangkok, Nairobi and Porto) and two additional participants that BSG invited participated in the course that provided attendees practiced didactic, simulator, and clinical ERCP instruction, under the guidance of BSG staff. The course also provided a comprehensive approach to best practices in providing trainee feedback and structuring an ERCP training program.



Programs / Services, continued

Education

WGO Global Guidelines and Cascades

The WGO Guidelines Library contains 26 practice guidelines that are globally applicable by the nature of their cascades, which identify other ways of achieving the best possible outcome by taking the available resources into account. While each guideline includes references to other relevant guidelines, WGO is the only organization who has adopted a global focus. In addition, each guideline review team includes non-Western experts with direct knowledge of conditions in their regions.



A Resource Sensitive Solution

Updated and/or Newly Published Guidelines in 2019

- Endoscope Disinfection (Update)
- Pancreatic Cystic Lesions (New)

Most Popular Titles in 2019

Probiotics and prebioticsAcute diarrhea

IBD

IBS

Languages Available

- English
- French
- Mandarin
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Spanish



Outreach / Advocacy

World Digestive Health Day (WDHD) 2019

Every 29th May, the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO), in collaboration with the WGO Foundation (WGOF), celebrates World Digestive Health Day (WDHD) and initiates a yearlong, worldwide, public health campaign through 115 WGO

Member Societies which reach over 50,000 individuals worldwide, WGO Training Centers, Regional Affiliate Associations and other WGO global partners. Each year focuses upon a particular digestive disease and/or disorder in order to increase general public awareness of prevention, prevalence, diagnosis, management and treatment of the disease and/or disorder.

Early Diagnosis and Treatment of GI Cancer

World Digestive Health Day

Over 100,

Countries!

The theme for World Digestive Health Day 2019 was "Early Diagnosis and Treatment of GI Cancer"

Website Stats

The WGO website received 2,029 sessions on 29 May 2019 (World Digestive Health Day), which was the highest ever for a single day!





- Americas 30%
- Asia Pacific 31%
- Europe **24%**
- Africa/Middle East 15%



- Professional development for physicians and healthcare professionals 26%
- Media collaboration 22%
- General public awareness campaign or distribution of WGO tools 20%
- Publications 16%
- Other 16%

Countries that participated

Argentina • Australia • Brazil • Cuba • India • Iran • Italy • Latvia Myanmar • Nepal • Nigeria • Pakistan • Poland • Spain • Ukraine United States • Uruguay • Venezuela

2019 WDHD Events Around the Globe

Press Conference

Argentina

Presentational on the prevention of gastrointestinal

cancer Brazil

Scientific session dedicated to

WDHD Cuba

Lectures to physicians and surgeons India

Free medical consultation

camp **India**

Public education program with educational brochures India Presentation on Digestive

Oncology Latvia

Public talk and health

education Myanmar

Seminar on screening and early diagnosis of GI cancers

Pakistan

Workshop on evidence based cancer therapies **Poland** Informational blog **United**

Scientific multidisciplinary activity **Uruguay** Inter-hospital meeting on the treatment of gastrointestinal cancer Venezuela

States

Congress and Meetings

World Congress of Gastroenterology 2019 Istanbul

The World Congress of Gastroenterology 2019, was held in partnership with the Turkish Society of Gastroenterology, 21-24 September 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey. The congress had an exceptional scientific program and over 1,000 abstracts were submitted. For the first time, WGO awarded 72 travel grants to recipients from both WGO Training Centers and member societies across all four regions.

The WCOG has historically been held every four years, starting with the first World Congress in Washington, DC, USA in 1958. The World Congress rotates between four regions: the Americas, Europe, Africa/ Middle East, and Asia Pacific.



Total number of Abstracts
1.016

Number of Abstracts by Region Africa/Middle East - **525** Americas - **69** Asia Pacific - **248** Europe - **174** Travel Grants (dollars awarded and/or grants awarded)

\$56,749.79/ 72 grants awarded (**40** from WGO Training Centers and **32** from member societies)

Attendance 2,500 (estimated) representing **95**Countries













Reach / Engagement

Website





Did you know...

Almost half of the visitors came from Latin America, Asia and Africa

Circulation/Reach

e-WGN

The official newsletter of WGO, the electronic World Gastroenterology News (e-WGN), is available in an online format. It is distributed three times per year and is accessible free of charge as an easily printable PDF.



WORLD GASTROENTEROLOGY NEWS

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5,558 followers on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram combined, a 69% increase from 2018.

Instagram launched in September 2019.

Awards

The World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) presents a number of awards in conjunction with each World Congress of Gastroenterology and at the meetings of the WGO Regional Affiliate Associations. These include:

Masters of WGO

The Master of the WGO Award is the highest honor the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) can bestow on a member and is granted only to those individuals who have provided outstanding dedication to the mission of the WGO and achieved distinction in such areas as scholarly research, teaching, and service to WGO and the community at large.

The 2019 Masters of the WGO were recognized at an awards ceremony that took place during the World Congress of Gastroenterology 2019, in Istanbul, Turkey, on 23 September 2019.



The Bockus Medal and Lecture

A medal, known as the Henry L. Bockus Medal, is awarded at each World Congress to a gastroenterologist who has made a distinguished contribution to the clinical practice, science and/or teaching of gastroenterology.



2019 RecipientRichard Kozarek (USA)
Lecture: The Evolution of Therapeutic
Endoscopy: Where Have We Been? Where
Are We Going?

The Brohée Medal and Lecture

A Brohée Lecture is delivered during each World Congress of Gastroenterology to commemorate Georges Brohée, the founder of the first International



Association of Gastroenterology. The Brohée Lecturer is chosen by the WGO Governing Council from either the host country or the respective region. A Medal is presented to the nominated lecturer during the World Congress by the Belgian Society of Gastroenterology.



2019 Recipient
Michael Fried (Switzerland)
Lecture: Evidence Based Medicine: How
Good is the Evidence?

Awards, continued

The WGO Distinguished Global Lecture

The World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) believes that it is important to continuously expand the ways in which WGO supports its Member Societies and Regional Affiliate Associations and their activities. With this goal in mind, WGO has established the "WGO Distinguished Global Lecture" as one means by which WGO can even more effectively demonstrate its commitment to participating in and supporting the major annual or biannual meetings of the Regional Affiliate Associations. The central aim of the WGO Distinguished Global Lecture is to contribute from a global perspective to the education and training being offered on a regional basis by the four WGO Regional Affiliate Associations:



African Middle East Association of Gastroenterology (AMAGE)

Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology (APAGE)





Pan-American Gastroenterological Association (OPGE)

United European Gastroenterology (UEG)



2019 Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology (APAGE) Recipient

D Nageshwar Reddy (India) Lecture: "Metabolic endoscopy- Is it only about obesity?" at Asian Pacific Digestive Week 2019 in Kolkata, India.



Sponsors and Partners

The World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) is grateful to industry, foundations, and the individuals that supported our mission and therefore helping us to make a positive impact in the world in 2019. With the funds received we were able to assist Training Centers with their educational activities, support the attendance of trainees at the Training Centers, support the participation of key faculty for Train the Trainers and provide travel grants to 72 individuals who would otherwise not have been able to attend the 2019 World Congress of Gastroenterology.