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LEADING GASTROINTESTINAL SOCIETY NAMES
THOMAS M. DEAS JR., MD, PRESIDENT

OAK BROOK, Ill. – June 12, 2012 – The American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) announces the appointment of Thomas M. Deas Jr., MD, MMM, FASGE, of Gastroenterology Associates of North Texas (GANT), Fort Worth, Texas, to president.

Dr. Deas assumed his duties in May during Digestive Disease Week® in San Diego. His term will continue through May 2013. Since becoming an ASGE member in 1988, he has served on a number of Society committees and the board of directors. Prior to his appointment as president, Dr. Deas served as president-elect, treasurer and as the chair of the Practice Management Committee and chair for ASGE's Budget and Finance Committee.

“It is a great honor to serve as ASGE's president. In the coming year, I want our membership to gain a deeper appreciation of ASGE's value. If endoscopy is your practice, ASGE truly is your partner in advancing patient care and digestive health by promoting excellence in gastrointestinal endoscopy,” said Dr. Deas. “One of my top priorities as president will be to encourage implementation of information technology (IT) solutions among the ASGE membership. I have a strong interest in IT as a means to improve patient care. IT tools that provide vital clinical information at the point of care or provide decision support tools and reminders and registries to improve population management are essential to improving the quality of care and reducing the burgeoning cost of care. I am convinced that IT solutions have the same potential as endoscopic technologies to improve patient care in the years ahead.”

In addition to a focus on IT, his other priorities as president include the completion of the building of the new ASGE Institute for Training and Technology (IT&T) on time and on budget; to continue collaboration with the sister GI societies; and to expand the ASGE Ambassador Program which provides endoscopic training to underserved regions of the world.

Dr. Deas is board-certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in both internal medicine (1981) and gastroenterology (1989). He is a native of Homer, Louisiana, and began his medical practice in Fort Worth after serving 20 years in the U.S. Air Force, retiring as a colonel in 1991. He holds a B.S. in chemistry from Baylor University, graduating cum laude (1970) followed by a M.S. in chemistry from Baylor (1971). While on USAF active duty he received his undergraduate medical degree from Louisiana State University School of Medicine in Shreveport graduating with honors (1978). Postgraduate medical training at Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center in San Antonio included an internal medicine residency (1978-81), chief of residents (1982), and gastroenterology fellowship (1986-88). Since arriving in Fort Worth, he has also completed a Masters in Medical Management from UT Dallas School of Business. Dr.

Deas currently practices gastroenterology with Gastroenterology Associates of North Texas, a 17-physician single-specialty gastroenterology group in Fort Worth, Texas.

Dr. Deas serves as the medical director of the Fort Worth Endoscopy Center and the Southwest Fort Worth Endoscopy Center, which were developed to provide a high quality, safe, and convenient endoscopic environment for patients. He has served on the North Texas Specialty Physicians (NTSP) Board since 1998, as medical director, and as president from 2001-2007 during the early development of Sandlot, LLC a subsidiary of NTSP created to implement electronic medical records and SandlotConnect health information exchange (HIE). He has served on the Sandlot Board until recently when he became Sandlot's chief medical officer. He is currently president of Care N Care a Medicare Advantage PPO, wholly-owned by NTSP.

He is a fellow of the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy and American College of Gastroenterology (ACG).

Dr. Deas is a frequent speaker at national meetings and has published articles on practice efficiency, endoscopy center management, development of quality improvement programs and the role of health information technology in improving healthcare delivery.

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About the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

Since its founding in 1941, the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) has been dedicated to advancing patient care and digestive health by promoting excellence and innovation in gastrointestinal endoscopy. ASGE, with more than 12,000 members worldwide, promotes the highest standards for endoscopic training and practice, fosters endoscopic research, recognizes distinguished contributions to endoscopy, and is the foremost resource for endoscopic education. Visit www.asge.org and www.screen4coloncancer.org for more information and to find a qualified doctor in your area.

About Endoscopy

Endoscopy is performed by specially-trained physicians called endoscopists using the most current technology to diagnose and treat diseases of the gastrointestinal tract. Using flexible, thin tubes called endoscopes, endoscopists are able to access the human digestive tract without incisions via natural orifices. Endoscopes are designed with high-intensity lighting and fitted with precision devices that allow viewing and treatment of the gastrointestinal system.