ORLANDO – MAY 19, 2013 – The American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) will honor important contributions to the field of endoscopy during the ninth annual ASGE Crystal Awards on Sunday, May 19, 2013. Hosted by ASGE and the ASGE Foundation, this year’s event will begin at 6:30 p.m. at SeaWorld in Orlando, Fla.

Held in conjunction with Digestive Disease Week (DDW®), the ASGE Crystal Awards symbolize the finest in leadership, research and scientific pursuit. The event will recognize the 2013 award and grant recipients who have shared their expertise and strengthened the specialty and the Society. Newly designated ASGE Fellows and facilities participating in the ASGE Endoscopy Unit Recognition Program will also be recognized at this event. Proceeds from the event will benefit the ASGE Foundation in support of GI endoscopy-related research, physician education and training, and public outreach initiatives.

The event will feature dinner and award presentations to honorees by ASGE President Thomas M. Deas Jr., MD, MMM, FASGE, ASGE Foundation Chair, Robert A. Ganz, MD, FASGE, ASGE leaders and Master of Ceremonies and ASGE Past President David L. Carr-Locke, MD, FASGE.

To make a tax-deductible contribution to the ASGE Foundation, stop by the ASGE Store now located in the ASGE Learning Center in hall A2 at DDW® or visit www.asge.org or call (630) 573-0600 or (800) 343-ASGE (2743).

**Award Recipients**

**Rudolf V. Schindler Award**
**Douglas K. Rex, MD, FASGE, Indiana University Medical Center, Indianapolis, Indiana**
ASGE’s highest honor, this award is given to a member whose accomplishments in endoscopic research, teaching and/or service to ASGE exemplifies the standards and traditions of Rudolf V. Schindler, MD, founder of the American Gastroscopic Club, the forerunner of ASGE.

**Distinguished Service Award**
**John J. Vargo II, MD, MPH, FASGE, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio**
This award is granted to an individual who has made long-term contributions to GI endoscopy in the areas of equipment research and development, as well as an individual who has been a strong supporter of the educational and research mission of the society.
Distinguished Educator Award

Grace H. Elta, MD, FASGE, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Physician as educator is the focus of this award, recognizing contributions to the education of fellows through endoscopy seminars, participation in national postgraduate courses and published scholarly reviews or educational materials, including videos.

Distinguished Endoscopic Research Mentoring Award

Richard C. K. Wong, MD, FASGE, University Hospitals Case Medical Center, Cleveland, Ohio

This award recognizes outstanding career achievement by an ASGE member in the mentoring of faculty or gastroenterology trainees in clinical or lab-related endoscopic research. This distinguished honor recognizes mentors who have devoted substantial time and effort to develop and nurture the next generation of endoscopic investigators.

Master Endoscopist Awards

These awards recognize physicians who spend the majority of their time in patient care and are recognized regionally or nationally for their expertise and longitudinal contributions to the practice of gastrointestinal endoscopy.

Kenneth F. Binmoeller, MD, California Pacific Medical Center, San Francisco, California
Robert H. Hawes, MD, FASGE, Florida Hospital Orlando, Orlando, Florida

International Service Award

Haruhiko Inoue, MD, FASGE, Showa University Northern Yokohama Hospital, Digestive Disease Center, Yokohama, Japan

This award was created to recognize outstanding service by an international member who has made long-term contributions to GI endoscopy, as well as an individual who has been a strong supporter of the educational and research mission of the society.

President’s Awards

Awarded at the discretion of the ASGE President, the President’s Award distinguishes those individuals who make exceptional contributions to the Society and its mission. Whether through organized volunteer opportunities or singular initiatives supporting the goals of ASGE, honorees are recognized for this assistance by the President.

Edward S. Bentley, MD, Santa Barbara Gastrointestinal Consultants Medical Group, Santa Barbara, California
Nicholas J. Nickl, MD, University Hospital Chandler Medical Center, Lexington, Kentucky

Congressional Service Award

U.S. Representative Charles W. Dent, (R-PA-15)

Endoscopic Research Awards (ERA)

After undergoing a rigorous peer-review process, ERA grants are awarded to physicians who received the highest scores for projects in basic and clinical endoscopic technology research, fostering research in GI endoscopy both within and outside of academic centers. These awards are supported by the ASGE Foundation and The Fujinon Fund.

Alan Barkun, MD, CM, MSc, FASGE, McGill University Health Center, Montreal, Canada
Lawrence Miller, MD, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan
Russell White, MD, Tenwek Hospital, Bomet, Kenya
**Quality Endoscopic Research Award**
This award recognizes measurements or improvements in quality of care and/or efficiency in gastrointestinal endoscopy. It also fosters research relating to measuring quality in gastrointestinal endoscopy both within and outside of academic centers. These awards are supported by the ASGE Foundation and the ASGE Foundation Fujinon Fund through a grant from the Endoscopy Division of FUJIFILM Medical Systems USA, Inc.

**Swati Patel, MD, University of Colorado, Aurora, Colorado**

**Olympus Corporation of the Americas Endoscopic Research Career Development Award**
This award provides salary and/or research and educational support necessary for the investigator to enhance his/her career development in endoscopic research. It is intended for faculty (existing or incoming) who have demonstrated promise and have some record of accomplishment in research.

**Timothy Imler, MD, Indiana University Medical Center, Indianapolis, Indiana**

**Cook Medical Don Wilson Awards**
The Don Wilson Award provides advanced fellows or junior faculty with the opportunity to train outside of their home country with a premier GI endoscopist or group to advance their training. The award was named to honor Dr. Don Wilson, who was a strong advocate and supporter of international education and training in GI endoscopy. The awards are underwritten by a grant from Cook Medical.

**Amit Bhatt, MD, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio**
**Susana Gonzalez, MD, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, New York**
**Helmut Neumann, MD, Erlangen University Medical Center, Erlangen, Germany**

**Cook Medical Marsha Dreyer Awards**
Marsha Dreyer was passionately committed to the support of continuing education opportunities for GI professionals around the globe. In a fitting tribute to her, Cook Medical has established the Marsha Dreyer Award developed to provide up to four scholarships for international physicians to attend DDW® annually. These awards are underwritten by a grant from Cook Medical.

**Peter Basford, MBBS, Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust, Portsmouth, United Kingdom**
**Hyuk Soon Choi, MD, Institute of Digestive Disease and Nutrition, Korea University College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea**
**Farzan Fahrtash-Bahin, MBBS, Westmead Hospital, Westmead, Australia**
**Gheorghe Hundorfean, MD, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Erlangen, Germany**
**John Karstensen, MD, Copenhagen University Hospital Herlev, Herlev, Denmark**

**Diversity Awards**
The Diversity Award is granted to physicians who submitted outstanding abstracts for DDW®, promoting gender– and minority–related healthcare research. The Diversity Awards are supported by the ASGE Foundation Fujinon Fund through a grant from the Endoscopy Division of FUJIFILM Medical Systems USA, Inc.

**Ethnicity**
**Shashideep Singhal, MD, The Brooklyn Hospital Center, Brooklyn, New York**

**Gender**
**Sameer Islam, MD, Mayo Clinic, Scottsdale, Arizona**
Endoscopic Audiovisual Awards
The Audiovisual Awards recognize outstanding educational productions related to GI endoscopy techniques. The videos demonstrate accepted techniques or show difficult cases, complications or innovations within the field of endoscopy and are showcased at the ASGE Learning Center at DDW®.

Endoscopic Audiovisual Award Winner
Roy M. Soetikno, MD, FASGE, VA Palo Alto, Palo Alto, California

Endoscopic Audiovisual Award Honorable Mentions
Tonya R. Kaltenbach, MD, FASGE, VA Palo Alto, Palo Alto, California
Shou Jiang Tang, MD, University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, Mississippi

PENTAX Advanced Fellows Video Editing Awards
Produced by GI fellows, these compelling videos are recognized for their unique and outstanding efforts in addressing issues in GI endoscopy. These awards are supported by a grant from PENTAX Medical Company.

Emmanuel C. Gorospe, MD, MPH, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota
Navin Paul, MD, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, California
Wajeeh Salah, MD, University Hospitals Case Medical Center/Case Western Reserve University, Euclid, Ohio

ASGE Outstanding Manuscript Award
The ASGE Outstanding Manuscript Award recognizes an exceptional manuscript written by a fellow and published in GIE: Gastrointestinal Endoscopy.

Mitchal A. Schreiner, MD, MPH, Southwest Gastroenterology Associates, P.C., Albuquerque, New Mexico

ASGE Community Outreach Award
This ASGE Community Outreach Award for Trainees recognizes Trainees for doing good works in their community related to digestive health. The 2013 award is presented for raising awareness about colon cancer screening and prevention through the creation of a short patient education video.

Victoria Gomez, MD, Mayo Clinic Florida, Jacksonville, Florida

NYSGE Florence Lefcourt Award
This award supports collaborative educational outreach projects in the greater New York area. This award is funded by the New York Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (NYSGE) Endowment Fund and administered by the ASGE Foundation. The award is named to honor Florence Lefcourt, NYSGE’s Executive Director, who has served the Society since 1976 and remains a tireless and devoted leader in the GI endoscopy community.

Mark B. Pochapin, MD, FASGE, NYU Langone Medical Center, New York, New York

2013 Endowed Lectures
The 2013 endowed lectures are sponsored by the ASGE Foundation.

Annual Postgraduate Course - Monday, May 20

Basil I. Hirschowitz, MD Endowed Lecture
Richard A. Kozarek, MD, FASGE, Virginia Mason Medical Center, Seattle, Washington
ASGE/AGA Presidential Plenary Session - Saturday, May 18

J. Edward Berk, MD, DSc, FASGE Endowed Lecture
Prateek Sharma, MD, University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, Missouri

Jack A. Vennes, MD and Stephen E. Silvis, MD Endowed Lecture
Michael B. Wallace, MD, MPH, FASGE, Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, Florida

ASGE Ambassador Program

ASGE Ambassadors-Brazil
Qiang Cai, MD, PhD, FASGE, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia
Ricardo A. Dib, MD, Hospital Ipiranga, São Paulo, Brazil
Angelo P. Ferrari Jr., MD, PhD, Hospital Albert Einstein, São Paulo, Brazil
Ian Gan, MD, Virginia Mason Medical Center, Seattle, Washington
Thiago Festa Secchi, MD, Hospital Ipiranga, São Paulo, Brazil

ASGE Ambassador-Solomon Islands
Stuart R. Gordon, MD, FASGE, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, New Hampshire

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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.

About Digestive Disease Week (DDW®)
Digestive Disease Week® (DDW®) is the largest international gathering of physicians, researchers and academics in the fields of gastroenterology, hepatology, endoscopy and gastrointestinal surgery. Jointly sponsored by the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD), the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) Institute, the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) and the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract (SSAT), DDW takes place May 18 – 21, 2013, at the Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, FL. The meeting showcases more than 5,000 abstracts and hundreds of lectures on the latest advances in GI research, medicine and technology. More information can be found at www.ddw.org.