ASGE ANNOUNCES NEW COURSES FOR 2015

Multiple course offerings to be held at ASGE’s state-of-the-art training facility

DOWNERS GROVE, Ill. – Dec. 15, 2014 – The new year will see new course offerings, as well as the return of popular programs, from the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE). Many of ASGE’s courses will be held at the Society’s state-of-the-art training center and world headquarters: The ASGE Institute for Training and Technology (IT&T) in Chicago’s Downers Grove suburb. ASGE is introducing the following new courses for 2015.

Therapeutic EUS for Advanced Practicing Endosonographers will be held April 10-11 at ASGE’s IT&T in Downers Grove, Ill. This two-day course has been developed to provide a comprehensive overview of therapeutic endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) that will take practicing endosonographers from a diagnostic to an advanced therapeutic application of EUS. The course includes concise reviews supported by case discussions, lively debates and hands-on training using XLumena equipment to maximize the realism of imagery, while focusing on new and evolving advanced therapeutic applications of EUS – all under the direction of renowned experts. Attendees will be exposed to everything regarding equipment, technical aspects, diagnostic utility, therapeutic uses, and the general role of EUS in the care of patients with gastrointestinal and non-gastrointestinal disorders.

Putting It All Together: Suturing and Tissue Apposition will be held June 12-13 at ASGE’s IT&T. Endoscopic suturing is a major technological innovation in the field of advanced endoscopy, with applications that range from closure of various defects to endoscopic bariatric primary and revisional procedures. This course is designed to provide proficiency in endoluminal suturing through intensive training on device set-up, handling and suture deployment. Participants will engage in a thorough hands-on experience with expert teachers and didactic review of clinical applications.

Endoscopic Challenges in IBD will be held November 6-7 at ASGE’s IT&T. This state-of-the-art didactic course will target gastroenterologists who treat IBD patients. Directed and taught by the most esteemed faculty in the realm of IBD, this program will include intensive, up-to-the-minute data regarding cutting-edge use of the latest endoscopic technologies and techniques in diagnosing and treating IBD and early malignancy in IBD.
**Popular programs return in 2015**

**STAR Certificate Programs**
Skills, Training, Assessment and Reinforcement (STAR) Certificate Programs will continue and grow in 2015. These programs are designed to provide standardized, assessment-based training in specific techniques for which there is no other formal pathway of training for practicing endoscopists. Based on the response in 2014, the Endoscopic Mucosal Resection (EMR) STAR Programs will continue with modules in Lower GI EMR held February 7-8 and Upper GI EMR held August 22-23. In addition, a new module in Barrett’s Ablation has been added for March 21-22.

*Improving Quality and Safety in Your Endoscopy Unit* will be offered Feb. 20 in San Francisco, Calif., May 15 in Baltimore, Md., Sept. 18 in San Antonio, Texas, and Dec. 10 in Downers Grove, Ill. Designed for physician and non-physician staff, this popular course includes topics such as defining and measuring quality in endoscopy, recommendations for improving the quality in endoscopy units and a review of ASGE and Centers for Disease Control quality- and reprocessing-related guidelines.

**Practice Management Course Series:** ASGE is continuing a new series of courses focused on practice-related topics. *GI Practice Management 101,* to be held February 20 in San Francisco, Calif., will provide office management staff with the essentials needed to effectively and efficiently manage a GI unit. *GI Update and ICD-10 Bootcamp,* to be held April 24 at the ASGE IT&T, will update practices on current coding changes involving gastroenterology and help practices with the mandatory transition to ICD-10. Additional iterations of these offerings will be provided throughout the year.

*ASGE-JGES Masters' Course in ESD* will be held in partnership with the Japan Gastroenterological Endoscopy Society February 27-March 1. Representing the largest team of outstanding masters in ESD ever assembled in this country, this two-day course has been developed to provide a comprehensive experience in ESD that will take the advanced endoscopist from theory to the hands-on practice of ESD, discussing and demonstrating the fine points of the technique.

*Advanced Colonoscopy Techniques* will be held March 27-28 at ASGE’s IT&T. This course is designed to help participants improve colonoscopy performance providing a faculty of globally-recognized educators and expert colonoscopists. Didactic presentations, video demonstrations and practical hands-on training sessions at the state-of-the-art ASGE Institute for Training and Technology will allow participants to achieve safer, higher-quality and more efficient colonoscopy, advancing their skills in cecal intubation, mucosal inspection, adenoma detection, use of chromoendoscopy, polypectomy, mucosal defect closure, control of bleeding, as well as prevention and management of adverse events.

*Digestive Disease Week® (DDW)* will be held May 16-19 in Washington, DC, and will continue to offer diverse opportunities for learning, including video forums, hands-on courses and ASGE’s premiere Annual Postgraduate Course, *Best Endoscopic Practices 2015: Understanding the Evidence and Enhancing Your Skills,* led by course directors Brenna W. Casey, MD, FASGE, Grace H. Elta, MD, FASGE and Brian C. Jacobson, MD, MPH, FASGE, which will be held on May 18. Register for DDW activities prior to April 1 to receive the early-bird discount. Registration opens Jan. 7 (Jan. 14 for nonmembers) at www.ddw.org.

*GI Outlook 2015: The Practice Management Conference* will be held Aug. 7-9 in Chicago, Ill. Co-sponsored with the American Gastroenterological Association, this premiere course is designed for GI physicians and practice administrators looking for practical advice and how-tos for managing solo and small- or large-group GI practices.
**EndoFest®,** ASGE’s signature event, will be held Sept. 25-27 at the Fairmont Hotel Chicago in Chicago. EndoFest offers a full weekend of hands-on and case-based training in “everything endoscopy” and a high level of interaction with world-class faculty in a small-group format. Don’t miss the course that offers the most personalized, diverse training in one weekend that GI endoscopists can find.

To learn more about the new IT&T and for ASGE’s complete course offerings and the latest information on registration, visit [www.asge.org](http://www.asge.org).

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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 13,000 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](http://www.asge.org) and [www.screen4coloncancer.org](http://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.